

SHARP

THE BEST NEW RESTAURANTS IN **CANADA**

Five new eateries—from casual dining to haute cuisine, from Vancouver to Halifax—that changed the culinary landscape this year.

BY JOHN MARTIN MACDONALD

L'ABATTOIR

While the name may conjure up images of blue steaks and hooked livestock, über-trendy Gastown's newest hotspot is a perfectly balanced card for those who revel in the culinary bounty that BC has to offer. Exposed brick, hand-hewn beams and lofty windows transform this former jail (Vancouver's first) into a space that is anything but repressive. Start with a half-dozen of the hearty Pacific oysters en escabeche or Dungeness crab brioche and wash it down with one of head barman Shaun Layton's superb cocktails (like the Slaughterhouse—cognac, bitters, chartreuse mist). Although most mains are chosen from the ocean rather than the farm, the flank steak with sweetbreads will remind the diner that this historic butchering locale was called Blood Alley for a reason.

»» 217 Carral St., Vancouver »» www.labattoir.ca

