



FOOD

THE CHICKEN HAS LANDED

The group behind Momofuku brings Fuku Fried Chicken to Santa Monica

BY MICHELE STUEVEN

Fried chicken chain Fuku has come to Santa Monica with the opening of its first brick-and-mortar location in California. It comes from the same team behind David Chang's famous Momofuku restaurants, offered in a fast-food setting. First opening September 25, Fuku is located in SocialEats, the new micro food hall inside The Gallery at Santa Monica on the Promenade (1315 Third Street Promenade). This is where the old Promenade food court used to be. Fuku's menu features all-natural and free-range chicken sandwiches, sides, slushies and desserts.

Fuku originally started as a fried chicken joint in 2015 in New York's East Village. It now has three storefront locations in New York and one in Boston, as well as Fuku concession locations at sports venues and arenas nationwide, including at the LA Coliseum. The menu at Fuku Santa Monica features the spicy fried chicken sandwich, a habanero-brined chicken thigh with pickles and butter on a potato roll, and Fuku Fingers, buttermilk-coated crispy chicken breast tenders. Both are offered on their own or as part of a meal with pickles,

a drink and choice of a side including Fuku's waffle fries with sweet jalapeno seasoning, or seasonal selections such as green beans with chili, garlic and scallion.

Fuku has also debuted a secret menu item exclusive to Santa Monica: the Rippin' Hot Cold Fried Chicken. This battered, fried and chilled thigh and drumstick are seasoned with a hot and aromatic spice blend and then served on a Martin's potato roll along with a side of pickles and cooling ranch. The cold fried chicken will have limited availability and is only available upon request. Many thrillseekers braved this dish at the opening party so be warned: It is no joke and is extremely, extremely spicy! There is also a Griddled Cheese available off menu

Fuku says that they stand for simple, delicious and thoughtful food from both Asian and American influences. Their newest addition to their family that we're lucky enough to have right here in Santa Monica definitely fits the bill and is a great addition to the growing brand.

For more information, go to eatfuku.com.