

VILLAIN DRINK, DINE & MUSIC & SAINT

The Good, The Bad and The Music!

New Music Venue by the RW Restaurant Group Brings Rock 'n' Roll
to Downtown Bethesda, MD

On the surface, **Villain & Saint** – a Haight-Ashbury-inspired rock 'n' roll music hall, which opened in downtown **Bethesda, Maryland** on **April 16, 2015** – might represent the polar-opposite vision of veteran DC chef **Robert Wiedmaier's** flagship Marcel's, the ultimate in fine-dining refinement, yet there is so much more than meets the eye and palate with Robert. Over the years, many have become aware of Robert's enthusiasm for motorcycles; but his true identity is exposed here at V&S as he pays homage to the freewheeling lifestyle of the rock 'n' roll era, with a preferred repertoire ranging from Blues and Jazz, to Indie Rock, Sixties and Heavy Metal. It was lucky he found partners for the RW Restaurant Group—chef Brian McBride, Frank Shull and Joe Lively—who all share that same passion.

As the name suggests, Villain & Saint is a cultural gathering spot that accommodates rockers of all stripes: young and old, with a taste for the conventional or radical, looking for frivolity or hard-core. V&S is destined to become an essential depot in the rock 'n' roll circuit for aspiring artists, a coveted outlet for up-and-coming rock stars previewed by Robert with his booking agent, before hitting the center stage. It plays host, nightly at 9:00 [9:30 on Saturdays], to some of the best-known house bands performing regular gigs in the Washington, DC tri-state area. V&S emits a distinctly underground vibe that echoes the sanctuaries of sound where many legends got their start. But it's not a total stand-up scene: there's plenty of comfortable seating for getting your groove on! When bands are taking a break, expect to hear AC/DC, Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, Tom Petty and “*badass*” metal on the surround speakers.

Classic rockers dig the eye-popping interior recalling San Francisco's most famously psychedelic '60s neighborhood – right on Wisconsin Avenue in downtown Bethesda. Funky accents include lava lamps, a pressed tin ceiling and a mural dedicated to dearly departed music legends. **Chef Tom Meyer**, who made a name for himself at Palladin's Peche restaurant in Dupont Circle, serves up an eclectic bohemian menu that polarizes the “Villain” side of the menu with meaty favorites, and the “Saint” side with lighter, veg-heavy fare. And he isn't messing around, offering a standout selection of premium whiskies and bourbons, American beers, and a slew of signature cocktails. V&S is the ideal rock 'n' roll hangout for club dining and late nights of music and drinks, with the spotlight on the live talent performing nightly, Sunday jazz brunches, and television monitors on the patio bringing the live shows to the open air.

Already, Robert Wiedmaier thinks of V&S as upholding the tradition of providing a space for free thinkers, creative spirits, and unique performers. Bethesda now has its own music venue, reminiscent of those dark, basement music halls famously known in London or Chicago, but will be full of the raw, new age charm and relaxed comfort that invites you to settle in and listen awhile.

Villain & Saint brings in popular touring acts such as Steve Lauri of The Hollies, Lionize, Icewagon Flu, The Crawdaddies, Paul Pfau Band [as seen on “The Voice”] among others. Tickets can be purchased at the door in form of a cover charge, which is waived for those seated at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the show. As a nightly closing ritual, a light show will illuminate the scene in sync with Don McLean's "American Pie," in honor of Wiedmaier's mother, an original California girl. For upcoming performances, visit www.VillainandSaint.com.

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