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VENUE REVIEW



## OM Restaurant & Lounge

57 JFK St.  
 (@ Winthrop St.)  
 Cambridge  
 617.576.2800

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There's no place like OM. This new escape among the hustle and bustle of Harvard Square is a welcome respite and a relaxing journey through ancient Asia. Inspired by the heritage of owners Bik Yonjan and Solmon Chowdhury, OM begs you to breathe deeply and center yourself among stunning Tibetan and Nepalese treasures—authentic Buddhist sculptures and "thankas" paintings (hand-painted by Bik's father), wood-carved doors, and stone walls. The menu is an intriguing showcase of Modern American cuisine with a global edge (enter their signature "Steak and Eggs," a filet mignon with a truffled fried egg nestled on potato puree—anything but pedestrian). The sleek lower Zen Den teases lounge-goers with comfy couches, beautifully lit design, and a mesmerizing water wall. Beyond the typical beer and beverage, OM lavishes patrons with aromatherapy drinks infused with essential oils such as lavender, rose, and jasmine. Think of it as yoga for your taste buds.



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VENUE REVIEW



**Spire**

Nine Zero Hotel, 90 Tremont St.  
(@ Bosworth Ave.)  
Theater District  
617.772.0202

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Dare to dream...an elegant restaurant...gasp...in a hotel? Yep. Spire is fine dining at its finest. Other hotel haunts only a-spire (ahem) to be this good, with an ambiance fit for a queen (everything you see is for sale on [www.ninezero.com](http://www.ninezero.com)), a luxurious menu fit for a king, and a price tag that a pauper couldn't afford. The appetizer Spire Clam Bake should have its own kingdom—an amazing concoction of lobster, clams, corn, and chorizo--but the tasty seared Sonoma Foie Gras certainly competes for your loyalty. A gauzy linen drape to the kitchen gives just a hint of those preparing your feast—line-caught halibut, veal porterhouse, braised short ribs. If you can't decide, the five- or eight-course tasting dinner (with or without wine pairings) is a unique way to discover Chef Gabriel Frasca's talent—it's devised especially for you, using local in-season fare and forgoing any food aversions you have.



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**American**

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## VENUE REVIEW

**The Fireplace**

1634 Beacon St.  
 (@ Washington St.)  
 Brookline  
 617.975.1900

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Ah, New England...cozy fireplaces, hot toddies, and snowdrifts up to ya eahs. The Fireplace is Washington Square's answer to two of those northern mainstays (you guess which). With warm yellows, rich reds and golden wood, it's like walking into a hearth's glow (minus the ouch factor). White tablecloths meet brown-baggin'--it's elegant New England grill created from the freshest local farm offerings. Even the tasty Fall Mushroom Appetizer (sautéed with country ham, Madeira, and cream) is straight from a local forager. The classic Caesar salad is anything but classic, with unique white marinated anchovies and grilled garlic croutons. The popular hearty New England seafood chowder is some of the tastiest in Boston, with mussels, clams, whitefish, and crispy salmon roasted fresh each order. Top that off with Boston baked beans and brown bread, and you'll feel like a true New Englandah. Warning: Cuddling fireside with the cookie plate and buttered rum will diminish your "r" pronunciation.

**Categories****American**