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For Immediate Release

Kapnos Taverna Opens in Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport; HMSHost and Chef Mike Isabella Deliver Greek Small Plates with Big Flavor to Travelers of Terminal C

ARLINGTON, VA — Award-winning celebrity chef and restaurateur Mike Isabella's coastal-inspired Greek dishes are now available to travelers of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in Terminal C near Gate 37 where a new **Kapnos Taverna** opened this month through a partnership between global restaurateur [HMSHost](#), Mike Isabella Concepts, MarketPlace Development, and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. Kapnos Taverna will serve as destination for travels craving a taste of the Mediterranean before their travels.

The airport is the second location for Kapnos Taverna with the original location in Arlington, Va. near the Ballston metro station – just a short drive from the airport. Kapnos Taverna is the sister restaurant of Kapnos on 14th Street in Washington, D.C. and forthcoming Kapnos Kouzina concepts opening in Merrifield, Va. and Bethesda, Md. in 2016.

"We're ecstatic to be opening Kapnos Taverna in Reagan National Airport with Mike Isabella. He is a culinary icon and as a local D.C. metro area company it means a great deal to HMSHost to have such great partners in our hometown with MWA, MarketPlace Development, and Chef Isabella," said HMSHost Vice President of Business Development Bryan Loden. "Chef Isabella's exquisite menu will be enjoyed by travelers who are looking for something innovative and unique. His ability to fuse ethnic regional cuisines with his own creativity really resonates in the menu and will be an exciting experience for National Airport travelers."

"D.C. and Virginia residents have embraced our take on Greek cuisine and allowed us to expand and focus on different regional concepts," said Mike Isabella. "I think Washingtonians and visitors will love getting a taste of the Aegean while traveling through our nation's capital."

Kapnos Taverna looks toward the Aegean Sea with an expansive coastal Greek menu, including a gallery of mezze such as roasted spiced cauliflower, spicy olives and fried Greek potatoes. Guests can dress stone-baked flatbreads with classic tzatziki, hummus, or htipiti spreads and nosh on crispy squid, lamb chops, or a bifteki burger. The menu also spotlights breakfast and brunch with savory choices ranging from a Greek yogurt to baklava crusted French toast. A kids mezze section offers items like orzo pasta and crispy chicken.

Isabella's recipes are made with locally-sourced and seasonal ingredients. Of course, all of this Greek Island-inspired cuisine can be paired with refreshing seasonally crafted signature cocktails, a selection of international premium wines specially selected for Mediterranean cuisines, and a variety of beers including local craft brews.

"With the opening of Kapnos Taverna, Reagan National offers our passengers the first taste of traditional Greek cuisine. We welcome the joint venture operating the new restaurant - HMSHost and Morgan Group



**kapnos
TAVERNA**
BY MIKE ISABELLA

Ventures - two local partners, further connecting the airport to the communities we serve," said Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Vice President for Customer and Concessions Development Steven Baker.

"It is our pleasure to work with HMShost and Chef Mike Isabella," says Paul McGinn, President of MarketPlace Development, "The opening of Kapnos Taverna is a testament to successful collaboration in bringing a chef-driven concept and the culinary culture of D.C. to the travelers at Reagan National Airport."

Kapnos Taverna in Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport opened on October 10 and an official grand opening celebration will take place in the airport in December.

About HMShost

Global restaurateur [HMShost](http://www.HMShost.com) is a world leader in creating dining for travel venues. HMShost operates in more than 100 airports around the globe, including the 20 busiest airports in North America. The Company has annual sales in excess of \$2.7 billion and employs more than 33,000 sales associates worldwide. HMShost is a part of Autogrill Group, the world's leading provider of food & beverage services for people on the move. With sales of around €3.9 billion in 2014, the Group operates in 29 countries and employs some 54,000 people. It manages approximately 2,800 stores in over 1,000 locations worldwide. Visit www.HMShost.com for more information. We can also be found on Facebook at fb.com/HMShost and on Twitter at [@HMShost](https://twitter.com/HMShost).

About Chef Mike Isabella

Mike Isabella is the chef/owner of Graffiato, Kapnos and G in Washington, D.C., Kapnos Taverna and Pepita in Arlington, VA and a second location of Graffiato in Richmond, VA as well as the forthcoming Yona in Arlington. Before opening Graffiato, Chef Isabella was the executive chef of José Andrés' Zaytinya. Previously, Isabella worked under Marcus Samuelsson, Jose Garces and a host of other notable chefs and restaurateurs. Outside the kitchen, Isabella appeared on Season Six of *Top Chef*, and he was the runner-up on *Top Chef All-Stars*. Isabella serves as a recurring judge on FYI's "Man vs. Child: Chef Showdown." He is also the author of *Mike Isabella's Crazy Good Italian*.

About Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, established in 1987 by the governments of Virginia and the District of Columbia, manages and operates Ronald Reagan Washington National and Washington Dulles International airports, which together serve more than 40 million passengers a year. The Airports Authority also operates and maintains the Dulles Airport Access Road and the Dulles Toll Road and manages construction of the Silver Line project, a 23-mile extension of the Washington region's Metrorail system into Loudoun County, Va. No tax dollars are used to operate the toll road, which is funded by toll revenues, or the airports, which are funded through aircraft landing fees, rents and revenues from concessions. The Airports Authority generates more than 387,000 jobs in the National Capital Region.

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