

# Medical Center hotel adds six fast-casual restaurants



An exterior rendering of the Westin Houston Medical Center off Dryden. Pearl Hospitality expects to open the new hotel in early 2020.  
COURTESY PEARL HOSPITALITY



By [Laura Gillespie](#) – Reporter, Houston Business Journal  
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The upcoming Westin Houston Medical Center is about to introduce a slew of fast-casual restaurants to the Medical Center.

Roti Modern Mediterranean, Antone's Po' Boys, MOD Pizza, Poke in the Bowl, JuiceLand and **SusieCakes** are all set to open in the 24,000-square-foot ground floor of the hotel. A **Starbucks**, Chipotle, Cliff's Grill and The Halal Guys have already opened in the space. **A Salata is set to open June 3.**

This is the first Houston location for Chicago-based Roti Modern Mediterranean, which has locations across Illinois, D.C., Maryland, Minnesota, Virginia, New York City and Dallas. Roti Modern Mediterranean serves meals of chicken, steak, salmon, falafel or lamb as a rice plate, salad, pita sandwich or laffa – a type of flatbread – sandwich, along with Mediterranean accoutrements such as olives, hummus and couscous.

A majority of these tenants are set to open by the end of the year, though Roti won't open until the first or second quarter of 2020.

One 2,200-square-foot space in the hotel has yet to be leased. **Christie Amezquita**, partner with Shop Houston, the broker for Pearl Hospitality, who owns the hotel, says her team is looking for another food or beverage tenant for the space.

“(Pearl Hospitality) see a real need for restaurants in the Medical Center. If you look at all the institutions, they’re usually cafeterias ... they don’t have a lot of lease space for restaurants to come in to those buildings,” Amezquita said.

Amezquita said the restaurants’ target audiences are the entire Medical Center and surrounding communities – but the audience will typically be Medical Center workers during the day, and people from the surrounding community during the evening and weekends.

“We wanted people to be able to come down there and have something different and have a place to eat, so they don’t have to eat the same thing every single day,” Amezquita said.

**Debbie Adams**, principal with Edge Realty Partners, was the broker for Roti Modern Mediterranean. Emily Durham, partner and director of hospitality services with Waterman Steele, represented Antone’s and Salata. Chris Reyes, partner at Shop Houston, along with Tyler Trevino, also of Shop Houston, represented MOD Pizza, The Halal Guys and JuiceLand. Lunden McGill, broker with Baker Katz, represented Susie Cakes.

Pearl Hospitality is **renovating the original Medical Towers at 1709 Dryden into a 273-room luxury high-rise hotel**. It broke ground on the project last year. Pearl is best known for its \$80 million JW Marriott project downtown.

Besides the street-level restaurants, the hotel will have 10,000 square feet of meeting spaces, an 8,000-square-foot ballroom, a café, on-site restaurant and hotel bar.

Kansas City-based BRR Architecture served as the architect on the hotel, Houston-based Texas HRE Construction served as the contractor, Houston-based Collaborative Engineering Group was the engineer, Houston-based Henderson Rogers was the structural engineer, Virginia-based Baskervill was the interior design architect and Toronto-based MBCM Inc. was the design consultant.

The Westin Houston Medical Center is set to open next year.