Miami New Times

RESTAURANTS

Legendary Miami BBQ joint to close after 75 years

The landmark will officially close its iconic South Miami location to make room for a new development.

By Nicole Lopez-AlvarNovember 4, 2026



Miami landmark Shorty's Bar-B-Q will officially close its iconic South Miami location after 75 years to make room for a new development.
Photo by Natalia Molina

One year after New Times **broke the news of its impending demolition**, a legendary Miami barbecue restaurant has officially announced its last day. After 75 years of smoky ribs, communal picnic tables, and generations of family memories, **Shorty's Bar-B-Q has confirmed the final closing** date of its legendary Dadeland location at 9200 S. Dixie Hwy.

The beloved restaurant, a landmark along U.S. 1 since 1951, will serve its final meal on Sunday, Dec. 27, 2026, bringing an emotional close to one of South Florida's longest-running restaurant traditions.

Shorty's confirms its final day after 75 years

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In a heartfelt announcement shared with customers, Shorty's confirmed that its original location will close just days before the new year.

"Since 1951, Shorty's BBQ has been part of South Florida's story," **the restaurant wrote**. "For 75 years, generations of families have gathered around our tables to enjoy great BBQ, celebrate special moments, and create memories that last a lifetime."
The restaurant is encouraging Miamians to visit one last time before Dec. 27 and share their favorite memories and photographs.

But there's some good news: Shorty's isn't disappearing entirely. Its West Miami and Davie locations will remain open, continuing the barbecue tradition that made the original a South Florida institution.



In the announcement of the closure, Shorty's says it is ready to welcome its Dadeland patrons to its locations in West Miami and Davie, which will continue to serve the comforting food it has been known for.

Shorty's Bar-B-Q photo

Why is the original Shorty's closing?

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As **New Times reported in 2022**, developers Florida Value Partners and Atlantic Pacific Companies purchased the property housing Shorty's, along with an adjacent parcel, for $14.5 million in 2022.

At the time, Shorty's CEO Mark Vasturo reassured customers that the restaurant had a lease and would remain open. However, in September 2025, the restaurant exclusively confirmed to New Times that its flagship would eventually close and be demolished.

The **story sent shock waves through Miami**. It sparked an outpouring of nostalgia from longtime customers who couldn't imagine South Dixie Highway without its unmistakable log-cabin-style barbecue joint.

Now, what once seemed unthinkable is officially happening.



Shorty's has survived everything from fires to hurricanes, but it can't survive developers

Provided by Shorty's Bar-B-Q

Founded by E.L. "Shorty" Allen in 1951, the restaurant became famous for its hickory-smoked ribs, chicken, creamy coleslaw, and rustic dining room filled with communal wooden tables. The original building burned down and was rebuilt in 1971. **But Shorty's survived fires**, hurricanes, and decades of Miami's relentless transformation.

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It also earned ten New Times Best of Miami awards, including **Best Barbecue in 2019**. Ten is no small feat.

For generations of Miamians, Shorty's was more than a place to eat. It was where families gathered after Little League games and celebrated birthdays. It was even where locals introduced their children to the same barbecue they grew up eating.

And come Dec. 27, another irreplaceable piece of **old Miami will be gone**.

https://www.miaminewtimes.com/food-drink/legendary-miami-bbq-joint-shortys-bar-b-q-to-close-after-75-years-40595845/

**The story also appeared in Axios Miami's newsletter (Distribution: 90,000)

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