



Dear Friends:

As our special guest, we wanted to take a moment to welcome you to the great city of Chicago. This was my home for many years and is the current home to Speedfam Corporation. Chicago is also home to some of the most amazing foods in the country. We have compiled the attached list to help you decide what types of foods and restaurants you want to experience during your stay. From hot dogs stands, to burger joints, and pubs to high-end steakhouses, I believe we have something for everyone!

Enjoy – and let us know what you think!

Brian Frederick

SPEEDFAM RESTAURANT LIST 2020

Our appraisal of pricing is as follows: (Does not include beverages)

\$	Inexpensive	Less than \$35.00 per person
\$\$	Moderate	\$35-\$45.00 per person
\$\$\$	High	\$45-\$55.00 per person
\$\$\$\$	Expensive	\$55.00 + per person

Our appraisal of quality is as follows: (food quality, menu selection, service, ambiance, and value)

*** Good**

****Very good**

*****Excellent**

******Superlative**

We recommend reservations be made at most of the restaurants listed. Most Chicago restaurants accept American Express, Visa, and MasterCard.

Many new restaurants have opened on the fringes of the downtown area. There are also a number of drinking establishments and late-night coffee houses, all of which add up to an interesting evening.

Casual dress is accepted in most places. Some of the restaurants listed may require a jacket or jacket and tie. If in doubt, you should call and ask about the required attire. Also, many restaurants are closed on Sunday and/or Monday.



CHICAGO SPECIALTIES

Chicago is famous for a lot of things, one of those things being our food!! If you want to experience a taste of our great city – consider something on our Chicago Specialty list. Whether you decide on Pizza, Dogs or Steaks, you won't be disappointed!

PIZZA

Please note: Authentic Chicago style pizza is a dining experience, not a pop-in and grab a slice. Most of the pizza places listed will take a solid 45 minutes to prepare your pie – Trust us – It's well worth the wait!

[CHICAGO PIZZA & OVEN GRINDERS](#)

Lincoln Park

2121 N Clark St
773-248-2570

This cozy spot with an old- tavern atmosphere, serves up home-style pizzas and grinders (another name for subs). But don't overlook the specialty of the house, the Old World Pot-Pie Pizza: cheese, sauce and mushrooms layered on dough and topped with more dough. The pie is then baked and turned over at the table.

4.0★

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[LOU MALNATI'S](#)

River North

439 N. Wells Street
312-828-9800

Lou Malnati's deep-dish is the pinnacle of cheesy Chicago-style goodness. Everything else on the menu—including pastas and salads—is passable, but not worth passing on the 'za. Get the butter crust. And don't worry when you develop a Lou Malnati's addiction: They Fed-Ex pizza anywhere in the country.

4.0★

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[PEQUOD'S PIZZA](#)

Lincoln Park

2207 N. Clybourn Ave
773-905-5387

Pequod's named after the whaling ship from Moby Dick, is one of the best and my personal favorite. The blue vinyl awning, the lighted whale and neon beer signs point the way. Debates rage over whether the crispy thin crust or the deep dish is better. Our money is on the deep dish, baked in cast iron pans blackened by decades of seasoning, the overflowing cheese emerges from the oven as a halo of caramelized crust, lending a crispy nutty counterpoint to the pizza's gooey interior. If you like encased meats on your pie, the thick hunks of spiced sausage at Pequod's may be the best in town.

4.0 ★

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PIZZA - Continued

PIZZERIA UNO 

Near North Side

29 E. Ohio Street
312-321-1000

The Uno® story begins in Chicago in 1943 when Ike Sewell developed deep dish pizza and opened a new type of restaurant at the corner of Ohio & Wabash. It was here that Ike served a pizza unlike any that had been served before. Buttery 'out-of-this-world' crust that had a tall edge like a fruit pie. He created a recipe that combined authentic Italian spices and quality tomatoes with more cheese than people could believe and then baked it for nearly an hour. When people tasted it, they wanted more of the same and the lines have been forming ever since to get into the restaurant

3.5 ★

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PIZZERIA DUE 

Near North Side

619 N. Wabash Avenue
312-943-2400

Because Uno didn't have enough room to expand, Ike did another wonderful thing. He opened Pizzeria Due on the opposite street corner in the lower level of a beautiful, Victorian mansion. The rest is legend. Pizzeria Uno and Pizzeria Due have become the most celebrated Pizzerias in the world.

3.5★

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HOT DOGS – Don't ask for ketchup!!

PORTILLO'S 

River North

100 W. Ontario Street
312-587-8910

Find the hot dog line and step right up, order with confidence, keep your numbered ticket, and head off to the left where you'll wait for a little jingle calling your number over the loud speakers. Pro Tip – you can order beer at the bar adjacent to where you wait for your food. Hot dogs and Italian beefs are the gold standard, but don't overlook the burgers and chicken sandwiches if they grab your attention.

4.0★

\$

UB HOT DOGS 

The Loop

185 Franklin Street
312-251-7009

If you are looking for a place to mow down Chicago favorites, U.B. Dogs is a great place for the usual suspects, like the decked-out Chicago dog or the Italian beef, along with some well executed fries. Classic weekday-only hot dog stand offers delivery!

4.5 ★

\$

TACOS

[THE VELVET TACO](#)

Downtown

1110 N State St, Chicago,
773-278-7800

Great for the late-night munchies and some of the best Tacos anywhere. Not your Father taco place. Usually get crowded later in the evening. Modest accommodations.

4.5 ★★

\$

STEAKHOUSES

[ERIE CAFÉ](#)

River North

536 W. Erie
312-266-2300

Located on the river in a renovated Chicago brick building, the Erie Café's classic club-like atmosphere blends a cedar ceiling and exposed brick walls with new wood paneling, which is accented by original impressionist oil paintings. The steaks are presented tableside for your selection. Excellent beef tenderloin and other cuts of beef, veal chops and the rack of lamb are worth the price. There is a very nice bar area with excellent wines and a patio on the river.

3.5 ★

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[GENE & GEORGETTI](#)

River North

500 N. Franklin.
312-527-3718

This is an old-school steakhouse with an Italian flare, serving doorstop-weight prime steak and chops, as well as Chicken Vesuvio and Veal Parmigiana. Your server will not "excellent choice" after you order – of course it's an excellent choice; you're at Gene & Georgetti's !!

3.5 ★

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[GIBSONS STEAK HOUSE](#)

Near North Side

1028 N. Rush
312-266-8999

Gibson's is a must-visit Chicago dining destination for celebrities, tourists, and locals alike. The classic American steakhouse features USDA Gibson's Prime Angus beef, fresh fish, classic cocktails, an extensive wine list and uncompromising service.

In addition, **HUGOS FROG BAR** is attached and an excellent sea food experience!

4.0 ★

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STEAKHOUSES - continued
[LAWRY'S - The Prime Rib](#) 
Near North Side

100 E. Ontario
312-787-5000

This Chicago treasure serves Prime Ribs of Beef carved tableside from silver carts. The famous Spinning Bowl Salad, whipped cream horseradish, mashed potatoes, Yorkshire pudding and warm hospitality create an experience that has landed Lawry's on countless "10 Best" lists.

4.0 ★

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[DITKA'S](#) 
Near North Side

100 E. Chestnut (Tremont Hotel)
312-587-8989

Ditka's has a decidedly understated sports motif, white linen table clothes, hardwood floors, intimate leather booths & rich mahogany wood accents. Known for Chops & Steaks including the signature dish "Da Pork Chop" along with a wide variety of fresh, sustainable seafood and contemporary American classics. Service is approachable & friendly in a comfortable atmosphere. Don't be surprised to catch sight of Da Coach himself.

4.0 ★

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[MORTON'S STEAK HOUSE](#) 
Near North Side

1050 N. State (in Newberry Plaza)
312-266-4820

Nestled between the streets of State and Rush, this basement restaurant has entertained countless celebrities and Chicago's well-known. The rich wood and the grotto-like feel of the space can only be found at this original location. Morton's offers seamless service and unmatched entrees. This is the perfect location for those who want to enjoy the best of the best that Chicago dining has to offer

4.0 ★

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[THE CAPITAL GRILLE](#) 
Streeterville

633 N. St. Clair
312-337-9400

This upscale chain is a quintessential steakhouse pick, offering consistently delicious, classic dishes via attentive servers who make you feel important. The setting is classy but not stuffy; a memorable evening or afternoon of fine dining awaits at The Capital Grille. Located one block east of Michigan Avenue at the corner of Ontario

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AMERICAN TRADITIONAL**PITINO'S GRILL** **Irving Park**

3109 W. Irving Park Rd
773-654-3453

This family owned place has it all...delicious gourmet burgers, fried pickles, fresh salads, friendly service and everything is made fresh. The burgers are huge and have a ton of flavor. The atmosphere is warm and inviting, the prices very reasonable. Some say they have the best burger around!

5★

\$

SIGNATURE ROOM **Streeterville**

875 N. Michigan Avenue
312.787.9596

The restaurant Chicago looks up to! On the 95th floor of the John Hancock Building, you can't miss it. The Signature Room boasts very nice seasonal American cuisine. They prepare traditional appetizers and have several excellent beef dishes. We would advise arriving just prior to sunset for a very spectacular nightfall in Chicago. After dinner, go one floor higher for a nightcap. You can see the other half of the city.

3.5★

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THE FRANKLIN ROOM **River North**

675 N Franklin
312-445-4686

The Franklin Room celebrates the sense of connection that neighborhood taverns have cultivated in our city for centuries. The menu features comforting and flavorful turn of the century inspired American tavern fare.

4★

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AMERICAN CONTEMPORARY**NoMI KITCHEN** **Near North Side**

800 N. Michigan (Park Hyatt Hotel)

312-239-4030

NoMi Kitchen serves up casually elegant dining rooted in the simplicity of food. With a chic ambiance, open kitchen and stunning views of Michigan Avenue from seven floors above, experience artful cuisine at NoMI Kitchen.

4★**\$\$\$\$****RIBS/BARBECUE****CARSON'S** **Streeterville**

465 East Illinois Street

312-280-9200

Considered by some to be the best in Chicago. We agree that their sauce is excellent, but the ribs can be a bit chewy. Make sure you order baby-back ribs, not baby spare ribs. Pork tenderloins are a better bet. There is a nice traditional bar with good offerings. They are often crowded, but service is good.

3.5★**\$\$****FIREPLACE INN** **Old Town**

1448 N. Wells Street

312-664-5264

This family owned restaurant has been a friend of ours for many years. There is machine tool history here and they are always happy to see the IMTS come to town. The recently opened all-weather patio provides a more casual setting and extra room. The portions are generous and the sauce is excellent.

2.5★**\$\$****TWIN ANCHORS** **Lincoln Park**

1655 N. Sedgwick Street

312-266-1616

This local "tavern" and Chicago institution has been around for almost 60 years. It has long been a favorite of ours. It has a simpler fare. Order the ribs with the hotter sauce, which is mild by most standards. There is always a wait after 5:30pm.

4.5★**\$\$**

SEAFOOD

[CATCH 35](#)

The Loop

35 W. Wacker
312-346-3500

The food is imaginatively prepared with an Asian-accented seafood fare. The food is always plentiful and delicious, especially the crabs and crab claws.

4.0 ★

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[JOE'S SEAFOOD, PRIME STEAK & STONE CRAB](#)

Near North Side

60 E Grand Ave
312-379-5637

Big, loud and masculine, Joe's is a throwback to the days of the country-club restaurant--complete with a pompadour-coiffed, tuxedo-clad host. Joe's signature is its fresh, meaty stone crab claws; an assortment of other seafood and steak dishes fill out the menu. Just about everything on this menu is outstanding. Don't forget Joe's Key lime pie for dessert, a tart and tangy specialty of the house.

4.5 ★

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[McCORMICK & SCHMICK'S](#)

The Loop

1 E. Wacker Drive
312-923-7226

The seafood is flown in fresh daily. With dozens of preparations available on the dinner and lunch menu each day -- including fresh seafood, aged steaks, poultry, pastas and more -- every guest, even the non-seafood lover, is sure to find something to satisfy their palate.

3.5 ★

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[SHAW'S CRAB HOUSE](#)

Near North Side

21 E. Hubbard Street
312-527-2722

This large, noisy seafood emporium is very popular. The wide food menu is well done. The kitchen turns out a wide array of seasonal fish and shellfish. The clam chowder, chilled crab, sautéed sea scallops and broiled or grilled fish are the best bets. The "Blue Crab Lounge" next door has a nice raw bar.

4.0 ★

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BREWERY'S – And Champagne too!

[GOOSE ISLAND BREW PUB](#)

Lincoln Park

1800 N. Clybourn Avenue
312-915-0071

Goose Island is a boutique brewery serving several excellent appetizers and sandwiches. They always have several seasonal beers available on draft and bottles. Their beers and ales are well worth the trip to the brewery.

3.5 ★

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BREWERY'S – And Champagne too! - continued

HOPLEAF 

Uptown
5148 N. Clark
773-334-9851

Even though the weekend crowds pack the place, Hopleaf remains true to its design as a cool neighborhood joint with its laid-back vibe, tasteful decor, eclectic music, and a most pleasant outdoor beer garden. They offer over 260 craft brews and imports in bottles. Not only does Hopleaf offer a most impressive array of beer, but they also offer an excellent menu of Belgian food.

4.0 ★
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ROCK BOTTOM BREWERY 

Near North Side
1 W. Grand
312-755-9339

Bulls and Bears, craft beer and made-from-scratch food. Everything you love about Chi-town you'll find in double doses at Rock Bottom Chicago. Happy Hour is 3pm to 6pm weekdays, featuring the \$3.00 Pint of the Day and \$5/\$7 appetizers.

3.5 ★
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POPS FOR CHAMPAGNE 

Near North Side
601 North State Street at Ohio
312-266-7677

Pops for Champagne is the nation's most acclaimed champagne bar and one of Chicago's top night clubs. For more than 30 years, Pops has strived to present an unrivaled champagne list (now at nearly 250 selections), as well as a complete bar selection, live music, and a seasonal menu of champagne-friendly small plates and shareable items.

3.5 ★
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BLUES/JAZZ CLUBS

BLUE CHICAGO 

536 N. Clark
312-661-0100
21 & Older

BUDDY GUY'S LEGENDS 

700 S. Wabash
312-427-1190
21 & Older after 8pm

KINGSTON MINES 

2548 N. Halsted
773-477-4646
Under 21 w/Parent

JAZZ SHOWCASE 

806 S. Plymouth Ct
312-360-0234
Under 21 w/Parent


ETHNIC FOOD
ARMENIAN
SAYAT NOVA

River East

157 E. Ohio
312-644-9159

Sayat provides skillfully seasoned specialties and cozy, casaba-like setting just east of the Magnificent Mile. Share appetizers of baba ghanouj, hummus, or stuffed grape leaves. The dinner entrees include several tasty kebabs (try the shrimp and lamb duo), and lamb or chicken specials.

3.5 ★

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FOGO DE CHAO

River North

661 North LaSalle
312-932-9330

You can smell the meat as soon as you step inside this all-you-can-eat spot where corporate types get in touch with their inner carnivore. All-white tablecloths and exposed wood beams, the decor is comfortable and sophisticated, the crowd loud and lively. Fifteen prime cuts of meat are brought on skewers and cut at your table by specially trained gauchos, everyone fresh from the kitchen and delicious.

4.5 ★

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CAJUN-CREOLE
HEAVEN ON SEVEN

The Loop

111 N. Wabash 7th Floor
312-263-6443

This restaurant is festive and looks and feels like a carnival reminiscent of one on Bourbon Street. The food quality is very good, and the menu is extensive. Great gumbo!

3.5 ★

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WISHBONE

West Loop

1001 W. Washington
312.850.2663

This warehouse-rehab-district magnet exemplifies just what we like about the South from buttery corn muffins to sassy crayfish cakes, spicy gumbo, blackened catfish, and hoppin John. There are excellent side dishes and don't forget the key lime pie for dessert. There are good beers and wines.

3.5 ★

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CHINESE

[EMPEROR'S CHOICE](#)

Chinatown

2238 S. Wentworth Avenue
312-225-8800

As a longtime restaurant located right in the heart of Chinatown, they boast a traditional Cantonese menu with a combination of special creative seafood dishes. Guaranteed to be your authentic Chinese fix in Chicago

4.0 ★

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[CHENGDU IMPRESSION](#)

Lincoln Park

2545 N. Halsted Street
773-477-6256

Regional Chinese cuisine is featured at this joint, which combines the best of classic and contemporary techniques with original ingredients to create an authentic experience of Sichuan gastronomy.

4.0 ★

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FRENCH

[EVEREST](#)

The Loop

440 S. LaSalle
312-663-8920

From its location on the 40th floor of the Chicago Stock Exchange, Everest offers breathtaking views of Chicago on par with the exquisite wine and cuisine offered by Chef Joho. The menu features the finest seasonal fare and a superb wine collection. Guests may order Chef Joho's acclaimed seven-course degustation menu, the seven-course vegetarian degustation menu, or select from the three and four course pre fixe menus.

4.0 ★

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GERMAN

[BERGHOFF](#)

The Loop

17 W. Adams Street
312-427-3170

This is an old time Chicago favorite, serving German-American cuisine and culture since 1898. Their menu, though, has evolved to include newer, lighter and more contemporary dishes (including many that are gluten free), alongside the treasured old world favorites

3.5 ★

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[THE GLUNZ TAVERN](#)

Near North Side

1202 N. Wells
312-642-3001

Whether stopping in for a meal or looking to complement their preferred beverage with a satisfying snack, diners will enjoy a thoughtful selection of classic tavern favorites reminiscent of the early 20th century, modernized with high-quality ingredients and worldly inspirations.

4.0 ★

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GREEK

[GREEK ISLANDS](#)

Greektown

200 S. Halsted
312-782-9855

The Greek Islands is one of the few Greek restaurants in the city that combines excellent food and excellent music. Frequented by the Greek community in Chicago, the food is well prepared from an extensive menu. Entrees include all of the traditional Greek delicacies and many daily specials.

4.0 ★

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INDIAN

[GAYLORD INDIA](#)

Near North Side

100 E. Walton Street
312-664-1700

This Indian restaurant's setting is intimate, quiet and elegant, and offers an escape from the gauche. The food is authentic and flavorful. Menu hits are appealing to vegetarians and meat-lovers alike.

3.5 ★

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[TANDOOR CHAR HOUSE](#)

Lincoln Park

2652 N. Halsted
773-327-2652

Though the décor is on the simple side – the food is anything but! Their traditional dishes are some of the best in Chicago. Bold flavors, perfect spice, and extremely hearty meats. Great if you're a seasoned Indian food fan, but they're also an awesome option to bring a beginner as the menu has all sorts of American inspired fusion dishes.

3.5 ★

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IRISH

[MRS. MURPHY AND SON'S BISTRO](#)

North Center

3905 North Lincoln Avenue
773-248-3905

This handsomely redone funeral parlor looks like an Irish pub that swallowed a French bistro. A big U-shaped bar stocked with scads of Irish whiskeys welcomes imbibers, and comfy banquettes with dark wood tables beckon diners. The executive chef, Jeanne Carlson, uses Irish dairy products: butter for terrific brown soda bread, organic Irish white Cheddar for a take on French onion soup made with Guinness, and Irish cream in bread pudding. All perfect with a glass of Scottish Old Engine Oil ale.

4.0 ★

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[KITTY O'SHEA'S PUB](#)

South Loop

The Chicago Hilton
720 S. Michigan Avenue
312-294-6860

Kitty O'Shea's is a re-creation of an Irish pub, complete with live music and excellent, light supper fare and generous sandwiches. Very reasonably priced for downtown Chicago. This is a fun spot for the Irish and the would-be Irish for good drink, and good friends.

3.0 ★

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ITALIAN

[TOPO GIGIO](#)

Old Town

1516 North Wells
312-266-9355

Boisterous groups fill long wooden tables and pass colorful plates of antipasti in this dimly lit room, where photos of Rome hang on red clay-colored walls. Written in Italian, the menu includes popular starters like mussels marinara, oversized bruschetta or smoky-grilled portobello mushrooms atop moist polenta. Pasta entrees feature seafood, sausage, vegetables and rich sauces, like signature fusilli with chicken and sweet tomato cream sauce.

4.0 ★

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[CLUB LUCKY](#)

Wicker Park

1824 W Wabansia Ave
773-227-2300

Once a VFW dance hall, this space fondly recalls its 1930s splendor, complete with diamond tile floor, glass block windows, red naugahyde booths and geometrically patterned curtains. Italian favorites come in generous portions that make leftovers inevitable. Desserts are homemade and win with tiramisu and profiteroles.

3.5 ★

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[VOLARE](#)

Near North Side

201 East Grand Avenue
312-410-9900

Volare serves up Italian dishes from all over the boot. The restaurant's low lighting and relatively narrow space give it the feel of a side-street mom-and-pop place, enhanced with the white tablecloths and crystal chandeliers of more extravagant establishments. The place is an appealing combination of intimacy and elegance. The food is prepared in plain sight in the bustling open kitchen.

4.0 ★

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[RPM ITALIAN](#)

Near North Side

52 W. Illinois Street
312-222-1888

Modern in approach and Italian in spirit, the menu highlights include more than a dozen fresh pastas made in-house daily, slow-roasted meats, wild fish and seafood, and celebrated Italian classics with an elevated twist.

4.0 ★

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JAPANESE

[SAI CAFÉ](#)

Lincoln Park
2010 N. Sheffield
773-472-8080

We think Sai Café has the best sushi in the city, especially when you compare the freshness, quantity and price. Very good sashimi and nigiri-sushi, as well. There are generous cuts of ultra-fresh fish draped over well-formed rice balls. Great hot or cold sake list, plus all the right beers.

4.0 ★
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MEXICAN

[FRONTERA GRILL](#)

Near North Side
445 N. Clark Street
312-661-1434

Frontera presents the cuisine of several states of Mexico. The extremely creative kitchen staff combines seasonings and ingredients to provide a most unusual type of Mexican fare. Even though the names are recognizable...tacos, enchiladas, etc., the method of preparation and presentation is totally different from the run-of-the mill Mexican restaurant.

4.0 ★
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[TOPOLOBAMPO ROOM](#)

Near North Side
445 N. Clark Street
312-661-1434

A more formal Mexican dining experience. Semi-formal setting for more refined cooking with dishes that rival French and Italian fare in elegance. There are tasty selections that treat and surprise the palate.

3.5★
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[SU CASA](#)

Near North Side
49 E. Ontario
312-943-4041

Su Casa offers a charming-quaint Mexican village setting. The best margaritas in the city. Be sure to ask the bartender to free-pour one for you...it's a show to see! Excellent sipping tequila list.

2.5★
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RUSSIAN

[RUSSIAN TEA TIME](#)

The Loop

77 E. Adams Street
312-360-0000

This restaurant proudly features the combination of traditional specialties of the former Soviet Union with classic dishes of the Russian Czarist court. Narrowing down choices from the "War and Peace" menu is no simple task.

4.0 ★

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SPANISH

[CAFE BA-BA-REEBA!](#)

Lincoln Park

2024 N. Halsted Street
312-935-5000

Although the Ba-Ba-Reeba also serves dinner, the real fun is in sitting at the bar or in the adjoining garden, ordering one tapas after another. There are great Spanish wines, sherries and other drinks.

4.0 ★

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THAI

[ARUN'S](#)

Irving Park

4156 N. Kenzie
773-539-1909

This is the best and most rewarding Asian restaurant in the city. Arun's lovely dining room, outfitted with Thai art and craft works, provides a serene setting for exquisitely crafted dishes. There is no printed menu. The multi-course Chef's Design Menu is a changing 12-part array of beautifully presented dishes. Strong white wine list and excellent-polished service.

4.0 ★

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VIETNAMESE

[TANK NOODLE](#)

Uptown

4953 N. Broadway
773-878-2253

The massive menu teems with Vietnamese dishes of every description. But narrowing down the decision is easy because what you really want is pho: rich, steaming broth chock-full of noodles, tender meat, and all the fixin's.

4.0 ★

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