

Sonnhalter
Not Afraid To Get Our Hands Dirty™

Insider's Guide to

CHICAGO

It's called the Windy City...and the Second City. But the nickname we like best for Chi-town is the City of Big Shoulders. This is a city that works...and works hard. It's also a place that plays hard, which is why there are so many fun things to see and do here. We've put together the *Sonnhalter Insider's Guide to Chicago*. It's our way of helping you cut through the clutter to find the city's best restaurants, shows and sights.

We asked some of our Chicagoland friends for their recommendations on the best places to sample some of the city's cuisine – and not just Chicago-style pizza and hot dogs. We wanted those secret locales that only the locals know about. Because at Sonnhalter, we not only like to get our hands dirty...we also like to get them greasy!

So, when you're not convening at the convention center during the ISA Show, make sure you get out and get a real taste of Chicago.

Loop/Magnificent Mile/ River North

Billy Goat Tavern

Burger and Greasy Spoon Joint
(312) 222-1525
www.billygoattavern.com

Made famous by Saturday Night Live "Cheezborger! Cheezborger! No fries, cheeps! No Pepsi, Coke!"? The "original" location (on lower Michigan) is where newspaper reporters still hang out today.

Cafe Iberico

Spanish Tapas
(312) 573-1510
www.cafeiberico.com

Café Iberico prides itself on exquisite Spanish food, offering a variety of cold and hot tapas, dinners, desserts, sangria and more.

Coco Pazzo

Italian
(312) 836-0900
www.cocopazzo-chicago.com/coco-pazzo

Seasonal Tuscan menu abundant with both traditional and contemporary dishes and a 200-bottle all-Italian wine list that boasts a unique selection of popular and small production wines.

David Burke's Primehouse

(The James Hotel)
Steak
(312) 660-6000
www.davidburkesprimehouse.com

The first chef to own his own bull, Chef David Burke's commitment to quality is evident in Prime, a 2500-pound Black Angus Bull. Prime and his offspring produce the highly coveted USDA prime grade beef served in David Burke's Primehouse.

Gene & Georgetti's Restaurant

Italian Steakhouse
(312) 527-3718
www.geneandgeorgetti.com

The steaks here are unseasoned and cooked in an 1,100-degree Vulcan broiler where the heavy, heavy charring draws out the bloody flavor!

Grahamwich

Gourmet Sandwiches
(312) 265-0434
www.grahamwich.com

Homemade sodas on tap, seasonal soft serves, truffled popcorn and pickled farmer's market veggies all go into creating the grahamwich experience.

Mercadito

Mexican
(312) 329-9555
www.mercaditorestaurants.com/chicago

This New York import's taco-and-tequila combination has proved a success... ceviche and guacamole have never been this gourmet.

Paris Club

French
(312) 595-0800
www.parisclubchicago.com

Approachable French fare in a casual, urban setting; with an emphasis on plates to share and their spin on updated classics.

Portillos

Hot Dogs/Lunch
(312) 587-8910
www.portillos.com/portillos

The first Portillo's hot dog stand known as "The Dog House" opened in 1963 and today there are 46 locations in the Chicago-area. Make sure to get the "hot peppers" with the Italian beef.

The Purple Pig

Mediterranean
(312) 464-1744
www.thepurplepigchicago.com

Featuring housemade charcuterie, cheeses and classic Mediterranean fare plus an extensive yet accessible wine list.

Shaw's Crabhouse

Seafood
(312) 527-2722
www.shawscrabhouse.com/chicago

Where crab is always in season...plus live music in their Oyster Bar (Tues, Thurs and Sun) and close to the jazz clubs on Hubbard.

Old Town/Gold Coast/ Lincoln Park

Alinea

Progressive American
(312) 867-0110
www.alinea-restaurant.com

Named one of the world's Top 50 restaurants, you don't come here if you want a quick meal. The double-digit course menu (currently at 20) will take you a few hours to complete!

Boka

American
(312) 337-6070
www.bokachicago.com

Offering a swank atmosphere and an ambitious, Mediterranean-influenced contemporary American menu created by award-winning executive chef Giuseppe Tentori (a Food & Wine Best New Chef 2008).

Burger Bar

(312) 255-0055
www.burgerbarchicago.com

Fried pickles, stacked burgers, hand spun shakes, cold beer...we are talking the motherload of taste explosion.

River West, West Loop

Athena

Greek
(312) 655-0000
www.athenarestaurantchicago.com

Great outdoor patio serving some of the best food in Greektown!

Carnivale

Latin
(312) 850-5005
www.carnivalechicago.com

The kaleidoscope of bright colors, salsa music, and playful décor ignites the sense of being in a Latin house party, all in a unique Kleineresque setting.

Sunda

Asian
(312) 644-0500
www.sundachicago.com

Contemporary setting with a unique take on Asian fusion fare that's long on style.

Kamehachi

Sushi
(312) 664-3663
www.kamehachi.com

The classic, casual sushi bar offers a friendly, neighborhood ambiance, and an impressive sushi selection.

Pequod's

Pizza
(773) 327-1512
www.pequodspizza.com

Serving its version of crispy thin-crust pies and pan pizza (and more) since 1970 with their caramelized crust!

Perennial Virant

American Bistro
(312) 981-7070
www.perennialchicago.com

Fancy and casual at the same time with a nice view of Lincoln Park.

Topo Gigio

Italian
(312) 266-9355
www.topogigiochicago.com

Yes, the mouse from the Ed Sullivan show... great spot, especially in the summer. Reservations (and sometimes patience) are required.

Girl & The Goat

American
(312) 492-6262
www.girlandthegoat.com

Menu consists of 30 items: 10 vegetarian, 10 meat, and 10 fish and appeals to all tastes and gastronomical creeds.

Piccolo Sogno

Italian
(312) 421-0077
www.piccolosognorestaurant.com

Piccolo Sogno, which translates to "little dream" in Italian, features fresh, seasonal rustic Italian cuisine and an all-Italian wine program.

Vermillion

Indian/Latin Fusion
(312) 527-4060
www.thevermillionrestaurant.com

A selection of untamed regional Indian fare "Heat" – tapas, signature entrees, boutique latin & global wines, "herb & spice" cocktails.

Riccardo Trattoria

Italian
(773) 549-0038
www.riccardotrattoria.com
Chicago's creamiest panna cotta.

Sprout

French American
(773) 348-0706
www.sproutrestaurant.com

The first Chicagoan to appear on "Top Chef," Dale Levitski is known for his soulful yet sophisticated comfort foods, bold spicing, game and braised specialties, and striking plate presentations.

Toast

Brunch/Breakfast
(773) 935-5600
www.toast-chicago.com

Great spot for brunch with a kick...offering a wasabi Bloody Mary, a variety of mimosas, select craft beers and spiked hot chocolate.

Twin Anchors

BBQ
(312) 266-1616
www.twinanchorsribs.com

Known for their famous ribs by locals, this small neighborhood bar is a must to dine at while visiting Chicago.

Sushi Wabi

Sushi
(312) 563-1224
www.sushiwabi.com

"Wabi" translates as "quiet of tranquil" and you will feel the wabi aesthetic in everything when visiting Sushi Wabi. It's in the music, the room design, the lighting, the service, and in the artfully prepared sushi.

Wicker Park/Bucktown/ Logan Square

Big Star

Tacos
(773) 680-7740
www.bigstarchicago.com

À la carte honky-tonk where the bartenders spin old time country and western music and make great margaritas.

Bongo Room

Brunch/Breakfast
(773) 489-0690
www.thebongoroom.com

Serving fresh, seasonal breakfast & brunch food in a unique way...like the smoked duck breast benedict or the banana oreo hotcakes!

Bristol

New American
(773) 862-5555
www.thebristolchicago.com

The diverse menu includes bar snacks, daily specials, a rotating chalkboard menu featuring nose-to-tail cooking, charcuterie and handcrafted cocktails.

Las Palmas

Mexican
(773) 289-4991
www.laspalmaschicago.com

One of Bucktown's best-kept secrets, Las Palmas serves spirited Mexican cuisine in an upscale, but refreshingly unpretentious environment.

Lillie's Q

BBQ
(773) 772-5500
www.lilliesq.com

Decorated with meat hook light fixtures with Edison bulbs, reclaimed wooden tables, and a four-foot copper moonshine still, Lillie's Q is a perfect blend of southern tradition and Bucktown personality.

Mirai Sushi

Sushi
(773) 862-8500
www.miraisushi.com

This Wicker Park place has the best sushi in town.

Piece Pizza

Pizza
(773) 772-4422
www.piechicago.com

Piece unites classic New Haven-style thin crust pizza with award-winning microbrews in a spacious loft setting.

South Loop

Cafe Bionda

Italian
(312) 326-9800
www.cafebionda.com

Café Bionda has a great selection of old-school Italian dishes and features a large selection of liquor, including a signature martini list, and an impressive wine list.

The Berghoff

German
(312) 427-3170
www.theberghoff.com

Carlyn Berghoff (the founder's granddaughter) is at the helm and still offers those German specialties, as well as contemporary dishes for those who don't want a schnitzel for lunch/dinner.

The Chicago Firehouse

Variety
(312) 786-1401
www.mainstayhospitality.com

Named after the restored turn-of-the-century firehouse the restaurant calls home, the restaurant offers both a casual and more formal dining room.

The Gage

Upscale Comfort Food
(312) 372-4243
www.thegagechicago.com

Think of this handsome spot across from Millennium Park as an Irish pub that went to culinary school.

Bars

Boiler Room – www.boilerroomlogansquare.com

Butch McGuire's – www.butchmcguires.com

Citizen – www.citizenbar.com

Drawing Room – www.thedrchicago.com

Funky Buddha Lounge – www.funkybuddha.com

Hunt Club – www.huntclubchicago.com

Jilly's – www.jillyschicago.com

Juicy Wine Company – www.694wineandspirits.com

Local Option – www.localoptionchicago.com

Lux Bar – www.luxbar.com

Maude's Liquors – www.maudesliquorbar.com

Map Room – www.maproom.com

Martini Ranch – www.martiniranchchicago.com

Murasaki – www.murasakichicago.com

Old Town Social – www.oldtownsocial.com

Peninsula Bar – www.peninsula.com/chicago

Pepper Cannister – 312-467-3300

Publican – www.thepublicanrestaurant.com

Revolution Brewery – www.revbrew.com

Rockit Bar & Grill – www.rockitbarandgrill.com

Roof – www.roofonthewit.com

Small Bar – www.thesmallbar.com

State – www.state-chicago.com

The Matchbox – 312-666-9292

The Signature Room at the 95th – www.signatureroom.com

The Tasting Room – www.thetastingroomchicago.com

Tilted Kilt – www.chicago.tiltedkilt.com

Twisted Spoke – www.twistedspoke.com

Violet Hour – www.theviolethour.com

Webster Wine Bar – www.websterwinebar.com

Zebra Lounge – 312-642-5140

Chicago Sightseeing

Adler Planetarium – www.adlerplanetarium.org
Art institute of Chicago – www.artic.edu
Botanic Garden – www.chicago-botanic.org
Chicago Bears at Soldier Field – www.chicagobears.com
Chicago Blackhawks at The United Center – www.blackhawks.nhl.com
Chicago Bulls at United Center – www.nba.com/bulls
Chicago Cubs at the Wrigley Field – www.chicago.cubs.mlb.com
Chicago Cultural Center – www.explorechicago.org
Chicago History Museum – www.chicagohs.org
Chicago Symphony Orchestra – www.cso.org

Chicago White Sox at U.S. Cellular Field – www.chicago.whitesox.mlb.com
Field Museum of Natural History – www.fieldmuseum.org
John Hancock Observatory – www.hancockobservatory.com
Lincoln Park Zoo – www.lpzoo.org
Millennium Park – www.millenniumpark.org
Morton Arboretum – www.mortonarb.org
Museum of Contemporary Art – www.mcachicago.org
Navy Pier – www.navy pier.com
Second City – www.secondcity.com
Shedd Aquarium – www.sheddaquarium.org
Willis Tower Skydeck – www.theskydeck.com

Taxis

Chicago Carriage Cab – (312) 326-2221
Chicago City Taxi Cab Services – (773) 262-1103
Flash Cab – (773) 561-4444
Shoreline Water Taxi – (312) 379-8530
Taxi Affiliation Services – (312) 881-3330
Yellow Cab – (312) 829-4222

Limousine Services

Chicago Airport Car Service – (312) 804-1310
Choose Chicago Limo – (773) 735-2200
Chicago Limo Express – (773) 443-2093
Chicago Signature Limousine Services – (312) 804-1310
Expedite Limo Service – (773) 237-5466

Rosemont Area Restaurants

Carlucci
(847) 518-0990
www.carluccirosemont.com
Traditional Northern Italian fare with a great wine list.

Edelweiss
(708) 452-6040
www.edelweissdining.com
German neighborhood favorite with great "schnitzel and wurst" plus liter of brews.

Gale Street Inn
(773) 725-1300
www.galestreet.com
Some of the best ribs outside the city!

Gene & Jude's Red Hot Stand
(708) 452-7634
2720 River Rd. in River Grove
Voted best hot dogs in Chicago, but don't ask for ketchup!!!!

Nicks Fishhouse
(847) 298-8200
www.nicksfishmarketchicago.com
If you're on an expense account, this seafood place is great with fresh fish flown in daily.

Rosewood Restaurant
(847) 696-9494
www.rosewoodrestaurant.com
Tired of the "chain" steakhouses? Try this independently owned steakhouse, you won't be disappointed!

Bars

Café Zalute & Retro Bar
www.zalute.com

Hala Kahiki Tiki Bar
www.hala-kahiki.com

Ram Brewery
www.theram.com/illinois/rosemont.shtml

Shoeless Joe's Sports Bar
www.shoelessjoesrosemont.com

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