

Tony's Picks for NCE Dining in Chicago!

Welcome to my favorite city in the world, Chicago! We have so much for you to see and do, you are certainly going to want to come back. I hope you are going to be able to join us at Second City and on the dinner cruise. These two events will give you a great view and flavor of Chicago. Also, if you have the time, visit Millennium Park just south of our hotel and over the river. You can enjoy free concerts and the people watching is terrific.

Our hotel is located in Streeterville, named after the infamous Cap Streeter. We are also very close to River North and the Gold Coast which have some of the best dining in Chicago so get out and take a walk down the Magnificent Mile to some fine dining and great shopping. This city is a foodie city with over 6,000 restaurants. Barbara and I have made it our mission to visit as many as possible and are rarely disappointed when trying out new spots around here, so if a place looks good to you, try it out!

Here are some of our top picks for you to enjoy. All of these dining establishments are a nice walk or short cab ride away. I always recommend getting reservations when you can; these spots are all very popular.

[Cicchetti](#), 671 N. St. Clair, 312/642-1800, just a few steps away from the Allerton's front door. Chicchetti has recently been named one of the best new Restaurants in Chicago and for good reason. This was my first venture to a Venetian restaurant so its small plates are very favorable and quite different from a traditional Italian restaurant.

[Quartino](#), 626 N. State St., 312/698-5000, is one of our favorite small plate Italian spots in town. They make their own salami's and have a very reasonably priced wine list. This is a great place to share dishes and enjoy good company. It is an excellent alternative to Eatly which is overpriced, always crowded and hard to get seating for more than two people. Try Quatrino for a great dining experience.

[The Purple Pig](#), 500 N. Michigan Ave., 312/464-1744, also very close. The Purple Pig was recently awarded the James Beard Award so expect crowds. It is a Mediterranean place with great wine list.

[Howells and Hood](#), 435 N. Michigan Ave, 312/262-5310, has one of the best outdoor patios and the largest beer list in the city with 144 selections! Howells and Hood is located in the historic Chicago Tribune Building. This outdoor setting and unique menu make this a great place to celebrate the end of your day at NCE with good friends.

[Lou Malnatis](#), N. Wells, for Chicago pizza, you have many great choices here in Chicago, forget Gino's close to our hotel and head to Malattis and order the butter crust deep dish for a real Chicago pizza! This is the pizza John Stewart of the Daily Show enjoyed after dissing Chicago pizza a few months ago. Lou flew out to New York to deliver his pizza on the Daily Show! Also [Pizzeria Uno](#) & Duo are good choices and close.

[Bistro Zinc](#), 1113 N. State, 312/337-1131, is my pick for French. Chicago has many great bistros and this is our favorite. We always get the Moules Marinieres and Pate Traditionnel with a great bottle of Cotes du Rhone for a meal that never fails us. Great Parisian setting.

[Le Colonial](#), 937 Rush, 312/255-0088 is a beautiful Vietnamese restaurant. There are many great Asian spots in the city but few are as attractive as this one.

[Shaw's Crab House](#), 21 East Hubbard, 312/527-2722, is the Chicago place for seafood. We really enjoy the fresh seafood expertly prepared. Our favorites include the lobster roll or crab cakes depending upon our mood. We like the Oyster Bar area for dining and they used to have a ½ off oysters in the afternoon but check first.

[Emilio's Tapas](#), 215 East Ohio, 321/467-7177, is a very nice place for tapas. Sit inside or out and enjoy some of the best tapas in town. Also good for tapas is [Café Iberico](#).

[Siena Tavern](#), 51 W. Kinzie, 312/595-1322, is a new place in the River North area, which has recently had many great new restaurants opening. We had some of the best meatball sandwiches ever in Siena Tavern. They also feature wood oven pizza and other interesting dishes.

[Mr. Beef](#), 666 N. Orleans, 312/337-8500, is Chicago's hallowed Italian beef shack in town. Very cheap, informal, bench seating. Also for great Italian beef is Al's Italian Beef.

Other spots of note would be Water Tower Place Second Floor Food Court; lunch or drinks at the 95th in the John Hancock Center; High Tea at the Drake and drinks at any of the rooftop bars in town!

Enjoy!

Here is my cell 708/828-0188 for anything to do with your visit to Chicago just text me.

Tony Paulauski
The Arc of Illinois