

ADVENTURE & TRAVEL

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JOURNAL CONCIERGE: AN INSIDER'S GUIDE

CHICAGO

AMERICAN CONFIDENTIAL



The Restaurateur
Grant Achatz
Chef/owner of Alinea and soon-to-open restaurants Next and Aviary; named James Beard "Outstanding Chef" in 2008

Surf and Turf: Kith & Kin. This recent addition to the Lincoln Park dining scene combines rusticity with refinement while showcasing amazing Gulf seafood. **1119 W. Webster Ave., knkchicago.com**

Late-Night Spot: The Drawing Room. This subterranean cocktail-lounge turns out imaginative elixirs. Open until 4 a.m. on Saturdays, it's one of the few options for quality late-night fare like bacon-wrapped pork belly and fried avocados. **937 North Rush St., thedrchicago.com**

Personal Bacchus: Perman Wine Selections. It's a clean, compact grape haven that emphasizes quality reserves over trendy volume. Refined yet intimate service. **802 W. Washington Blvd., permanwine.com**

Thai One On: TAC Quick Thai Kitchen. If you want to go beyond your cookie-cutter curries and pad thais, come here, but request "the second menu." My favorites are the fish maw salad and the chewy beef "jerky." **3930 N. Sheridan Rd., tacquick.net**

Tasty Raps: 4 Schwa. This Wicker Park foodie gem is all about Michael Carlson, voted a "Best New Chef" by Food & Wine in 2006. Nine-course meals served over the world kitchen's rap-metal soundtrack—the best "tasting menu" in the city. **1466 N. Ashland Ave., schwarestaurant.com**



The Adviser
Reggie Love
Personal aide to Barack Obama; Chicago resident during the 2008 presidential campaign

Eggs and Beer: 6 Billy Goat Tavern. Underneath the Chicago Tribune Building, the original hangover cure serves greasy cheeseburgers and many beers. Bright lights and surly reporters. What's not to like? **430 N. Michigan Lower Level, billygoattavern.com**

Playing Grounds: Grant Park. This amazing acreage hosts music fests, innovative plays...and presidential acceptance speeches watched by 100,000 attendees. It's also home to Millennium Park, the Art Institute, the Field Museum of Natural History and the Shedd Aquarium. Since 1835, the park-of-parks abides. **chicagoparkdistrict.com**

Strike a Pose: Ten Pin. Chicagoans live hard and bowl harder, but this is the top lane for diehards and recreationalists. Order a shot of milk (with chocolate chip-toffee cookies) or a "10pintini"—no one will judge. **330 N. State St., 10pinchicago.com**

Place to Meat: 8 The Chicago Chop House. The Bentley of steakhouses in a city known for them, this bloody good politico holdout, situated in a century-old Victorian, features a 64-ounce porterhouse steak and dozens of wines by the glass. **60 W. Ontario St., chicagochophouse.com**

Raw Deal: Sushi Wabi. This crowded, noisy, West Loop storefront hot spot has the best wasabi-butter filet mignon and rolls, well, anywhere. **842 W. Randolph St., sushiwabi.com**



The Design Guy
Nate Berkus
Interior designer; host of NBC's "The Nate Berkus Show"; Chicago resident since the early 1990s

Bargain Hunting: The Randolph Street Market Festival. For me, trawling for finds here is the definition of a perfect weekend morning. You can land distinct antiques, great vintage estate jewelry and cool designer pieces. It's open Nov. 20-21, and then one weekend a month from May through September. **1350 block of W. Randolph St., randolphstreet-market.com**

Drive-In: Superdawg. Whenever I get back to Chicago, I go directly to this iconic hot dog heaven for a taste of my hometown. **6363 N. Milwaukee Ave., superdawg.com**

Killer Karaoke: Blue Frog Bar & Grill. There are many karaoke bars in Chicago, but this River North spot is the most fun (and supportive) watering hole to belt it out. I'm just glad none of my awful Madonna renditions have made it onto YouTube...yet. **676 N. La Salle St., 312-943-8900**

Shopping Spree: Broadway Antique Market and the Edgewater Antique Mall. Both vintage treasures are within a few blocks of each other on the North Side. **6130 N. Broadway, bamchicago.com; 6314 N. Broadway, edgewaterantiquemall.com**

International Velvets: Pavilion. This place has a wonderful selection of 20th-century decorative arts and furnishings from France, Italy and Scandinavia. **2055 N. Damen Ave., pavilionantiques.com**



The Architect
Jeanne Gang
Co-owner of Chicago-based Studio Gang, the firm behind Aqua Tower and South Pond at Lincoln Park Zoo

Work Lunch: Zaleski & Horvath MarketCafe. Z&H in Hyde Park is our staff's standby, an old-fashioned gourmet grocer with Clover coffee and delicious sandwiches. You can't go wrong at their deli counter. **1126 E. 47th St., zhmarketcafe.com**

Three For the Road: Green Zebra, 1 The Violet Hour and Rosa's Lounge. Start at the Zebra, for its vegan cuisine, in Wicker Park; then head to the so-chic Violet Hour, in Bucktown, for perfect martinis; and wrap it up with live blues at Rosa's. **1460 W. Chicago Ave., greenzebrachicago.com; 1520 N. Damen Ave., theviolethour.com; 3420 W. Armitage Ave., rosaslounge.com**

Midcentury Now: 2 Wright. I love browsing the showroom and watching the bidders at this important auction house. The auctions range from shows selling modern Eames chairs and Scandinavian furniture to canvases by George Condo and Kenny Scharf. **1440 W. Hubbard St., wright20.com**

Experimental Stage: Redmoon Theater. Whenever possible, I go to a performance here. Cool space and a vibrant, daring company. It's in the West Loop. **1463 W. Hubbard St., redmoon.org**

City View: Chicago Architecture Foundation. There's an incredible scale model of Chicago from a bird's-eye perspective on exhibit here through March. **224 S. Michigan Ave., caf.architecture.org**