

CHICAGO

Summer 2015

DINING OUT

the great restaurants of **chicago**



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FOOD WITH A VIEW

Dining alfresco on Chicago's ROOFTOPS AND PATIOS

BY MONICA PARPAL

"Live in the sunshine, swim the sea, drink the wild air." Ralph Waldo Emerson certainly appreciated the beauty and vitality of the outdoors—and he probably enjoyed dining outside as well. This summer, make Lake Michigan your Walden Pond and Chicagoland your world to discover. When you get hungry, consider the following places to dine alfresco—taking in the sunshine and drinking in all the delicious opportunities of the Chicago restaurant scene.



The Terrace at Trump

COCO PAZZO CAFÉ {636 North St. Clair Street; 312.664.2777; cocopazzo.com}

This sidewalk café is brimming with European charm. "It's like dining in a beautiful piazza in Florence," says Owner Jack Weiss. Gold awnings cast a warm, flaxen glow on the dining space, perfect for families, business lunches, or casual dinners. Shoppers, doctors from nearby Northwestern Memorial Hospital, and out-of-towners are all part of the hustle and bustle, while many residents of Streeterville consider Coco Pazzo Café their personal dining room. "We have a strong neighborhood feel," Weiss says.

THE VIEW: From your perch at a wooden café table, you've got a prime spot for prime people-watching.

WHERE TO SIT: Enjoy the fresh air outdoors, or sit inside to experience the terra cotta floors, copper and animal hide light fixtures, and colorful murals. Thanks to the French doors, the beauty of nature fills the inside, while the beautiful interior spills out onto the sidewalk.

WHAT TO ORDER: Choose from Tuscan favorites like panini, salads, and "heavenly" lasagna.

WHEN TO DINE: Anytime is lovely, like during the buzzy, casual lunchtime hour or for a peaceful evening meal over white linen-clothed tables.

INSIDER TIP: The Rigatoni Buttera with sausage, peas, Parmesan, tomato, and a touch of cream has been a staple on the menu for more than 20 years.



THE TERRACE AT TRUMP {Trump International Hotel & Tower Chicago, 401 North Wabash Avenue; 312.588.8600; trumphotelcollection.com}

When visiting The Terrace at Trump, guests are welcomed with an elegant, vibrant atmosphere, accented by contemporary décor that includes dramatic lighting, lush foliage, and Chicago's magnificent architecture and waterways. Guests can unwind and enjoy the vibrant scene in the custom-designed lounge, in a booth or at a table—a chic environment for a memorable dining affair.

THE VIEW: From its elevated position, The Terrace at Trump showcases unobstructed, picturesque views of Lake Michigan, and the Chicago River with its famed bridges.

WHAT TO ORDER: Share a Trump Tower Platter of Maine lobster, Alaskan king crab, colossal shrimp, and other seafood delights or enjoy a fresh plate of Grouper Ceviche with grapes, mango, and citrus all to yourself.

WHEN TO VISIT: There's no time like early afternoon to experience the warmth of the day on The Terrace, right when it opens at 2pm. Secure a seat on Wednesday and Saturday evenings for a prime view of the fireworks display at Navy Pier.

INSIDER TIP: The staff uniforms are designed by local Chicago designers. Nicolas Joseph crafts the apparel for men, and Anna Fong creates the fashion-forward dresses for female staff.

STREETERVILLE SOCIAL, LOEWS CHICAGO HOTEL

{455 North Park Drive; 312.840.6600; loewshotels.com/chicago-downtown/dining}

Atop the third floor roofdeck of the Loews Chicago Hotel, sits the 9,000-square-foot Streeterville Social, the largest outdoor terrace space in the city. This metropolitan retreat features a sprawling grassy lawn, flowers, and greenery to enjoy.

THE VIEW: Vistas of Lake Michigan via Ogden Slip and Chicago's skyline.

WHERE TO SIT: Take in the view from one of the lawn cabanas or while swinging in a birdcage chair; two bar areas also offer great vantage points.

WHAT TO ORDER: Order from a creative cocktail menu and a menu of refined street food from renowned Chicago Executive Chef Mark Payne. He suggests the Grilled Chicken Thigh Bánh Mì, paired with a refreshing Streeterville Mai Tai, affectionately known as the "SMT."

WHEN TO DINE: Streeterville Social Bistro is open for lunch from 11am-3pm, and Streeterville Social Terrace is open for drinks and light bites from 4-10pm, buzzing with daytime sun-worshippers and after-work revelers alike.

INSIDER TIP: Guests can enjoy the sun with a game of giant Jenga or a round of Pétanque, bocce ball's French cousin.

IVY SKY TERRACE AT THE IVY BOUTIQUE HOTEL {233 East Ontario Street; 312.335.5444; exploreivy.com}

Located on the 16th floor of the Ivy Boutique Hotel, this remodeled rooftop bar is like an oasis in the sky. Guests enjoy a casual, relaxing ambience during the day, sheltered by sprawling white umbrellas. At night, striking sunsets shift the mood to that of a sultry, romantic lounge, while weekends bring an energetic club feel.

THE VIEW: From high in the sky, guests enjoy sweeping views of the John Hancock Tower, Trump International Hotel & Tower, and a small slice of blue Lake Michigan.

WHEN TO VISIT: Right after work, the stunning views and fresh air are practically therapeutic, especially over small bites and craft cocktails, wine, or beer.

WHAT TO ORDER: The Guacamole Tuna Tower is a fun choice for a rooftop meal, or try the Domestic Cheese and Meat Tray—a sophisticated option with a bottle of chilled wine or Prosecco.

INSIDER TIP: Private event opportunities abound at the Ivy Sky Terrace. Consider hosting your next special event, birthday party, or corporate gathering here.



PROSECCO {710 North Wells Street; 312.951.9500; prosecco.us.com}

For the romantics among us, there is no place like PROSECCO for a classic Italian meal. Inside, the richly decorated space transports diners to a floating Venetian paradise. Outside, the wide sidewalk seats up to 40 under the shade of a tall, blossoming tree, surrounded by planter boxes overflowing with aromatic herbs, blossoming flowers, and bright greenery—like a sidewalk café in Venice in the summertime.

THE VIEW: Along the sidewalk, guests contemplate the activity in the River North gallery district—the largest in the country outside SOHO. In the spring and early summer, enjoy the art and culture of the outdoors, bubbly in hand.

WHERE TO SIT: The padded chairs, carpeted ground, and bright linens make for a comfortable fine-dining experience.

WHAT TO ORDER: The summer menu offers Chef Mark Sparacino's Caprese salad, made with his mother's homegrown heirloom tomatoes, imported bufala mozzarella cheese, Sicilian sea salt, freshly cracked pepper, fresh local basil, and basil oil. Share it with friends alongside the Avocado Salad with grilled lobster and prawns. Pair it with—what else?—a sparkling glass of Prosecco.

INSIDER TIP: This summer, PROSECCO will launch a secret cocktail, exclusively for patio diners. It's not on the menu, so be sure to ask your server about the Prosecco patio special.



MASADA {2206 North California Avenue; 773.697.8397; masadachicago.com}

With three separate levels shrouded in greenery, Masada's patio is like a magical garden. Wrought iron elements, winding grape vines, Moroccan light fixtures, and plenty of romance make guests feel as though they are suspended in time, far from the everyday life in the city.

THE VIEW: With planter boxes, hanging ferns, rustic brick walls, cobblestone floors, high wooden fences, and twinkle lights, Masada's décor casts the space—and your fellow diners—in a warm, romantic glow. “You feel like you're no longer in Chicago,” says Owner Shadi Ramli. “That's the whole point.”

WHAT TO ORDER: Share a pitcher of red, white, or rosé sangría, or try the summer cocktail, Habibi Hendrick's (meaning “my love”) with gin, lime, cucumber, and a splash of soda. Paired with a Kale Salad topped with shrimp, slow-braised calamari, and seared scallops, it makes a refreshing meal.

WHEN TO DINE: The twilight hour, when the sun begins to set and the lanterns flicker to life; it is truly magical.

INSIDER TIP: The rooftop terrace is a prime location for private parties. The open-air setting has a long table for parties of 35 (or up to 100 standing). Hire a belly dancer and a drumming tublah player for a memorable celebration.

RICCARDO ENOTECA

{1116 North Clark Street; 773.549.5010; riccardoenoteca.com}

This quaint, 16-seat sidewalk café recalls the intimacy of a tiny Italian village. Surrounded by low metal fencing topped with bright, blooming flower boxes, the café is a charming oasis in Lincoln Park.

THE VIEW: The café is located just a few blocks from the Lincoln Park Zoo. Guests cozy up to their neighboring diners and observe the quiet goings on of the surrounding neighborhood.

WHEN TO DINE: Come right after work to enjoy a glass of wine or an aperitivo, or stay for a full dinner.

WHAT TO ORDER: At Riccardo Enoteca, pizza is prepared in a tray and called Pizzaccia—a hybrid of Tuscan focaccia and Milanese-style pizza. “It's quite uncommon,” says Owner Riccardo Michi. “But it's very good, and perfect for sharing between two people.” This season, try the Four Seasons Pizzaccia with tomato sauce, artichokes, olives, cooked ham, mozzarella, and mixed mushrooms.

INSIDER TIP: New this summer, the café now boasts a large awning to protect diners from the elements, so you can enjoy your Pizzaccia rain or shine.



ZED451 {739 North Clark Street; 312.266.6691; zed451.com}

Put this place near the top of your alphabetical list of places to try. The recently renovated rooftop now features comfortable lounge furniture and high-top community tables, and the popular cabanas and fireplace lounge have been freshly updated. The setting is friendly and comfortable with bright pops of color and patterns to create a trendy edge.

THE VIEW: Incredible views of the city only add to the zen of ZED451's rooftop oasis.

WHEN TO VISIT: Toast to the weekend with mimosas and Bloody Marys on the rooftop before or after brunch. During the week, the rooftop is a relaxing spot for a quick bite or drink before dinner. Or, visit after dark for a lively late-night cocktail.

WHAT TO ORDER: A favorite patio snack is the fondue with a selection of veggies and grilled meat, or the fresh Ahi Tuna Tacos paired with a signature craft cocktail.

PLAN AN EVENT: Consider hosting your next private event on the rooftop at ZED451; with space for 115 guests, the patio is perfect for corporate gatherings, baby showers, engagement parties, and more.

INSIDER TIP: As popular as this rooftop destination is, guests may encounter a line to get in. But, there's no need to wait when you can enjoy a selection of handcrafted cocktails at the bar downstairs. Guests are welcome to leave their name with the host or hostess and the restaurant will call when space is available.

