

Chicago File – Restaurants

RESTAURANTS *For Breakfast Meetings*

The most important thing for me here is that you can be pretty sure of getting a table between 7:30 and 9:00, especially for larger groups. There are lots of good places you will hear about like Yolk or the West Egg, but they get pretty crowded and don't take reservations. Your best bets are likely to be hotel restaurants

These are some of the places I like in the Loop-North Michigan Avenue area:

Current Restaurant at the W Hotel Lakeshore – good lake views too
<http://www.wchicago-lakeshore.com/>

Pierrot Gourmet at the Peninsula Chicago – a little tighter on space for big groups, but some nice long tables
<http://chicago.peninsula.com/en/fine-dining/pierrot-gourmet-cafe>

Beatrix (multiple locations) – good all day long
<http://beatrixrestaurants.com/beatrix/river-north/menu/>

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For Lunch or Dinner (at regular tables)

Again, these might not be the hottest places, but you can generally rely on being able to get a table. This section is for groups of about 6-8 or less; there is another section for private room options:

Osteria Via Stato – our neighborhood hang, mention my name

This is a great option for dinner because you can order a “dinner party” which fixes the appetizers and pastas (and wine if you like) but still offers individual choice of entrée. The pizzeria side of the house is a great option too.

<http://osteriaviastato.com/>

Coco Pazzo Café – another neighborhood place we enjoy

<http://www.cocopazzocafe.com/>

Piccolo Sogno – a little off the beaten track but only a few minutes by Uber, bus, or train and you will find an amazing outdoor courtyard in good weather (I know, but it's a longer season than you think)

<https://www.piccolosognorestaurant.com/>

At this point, it probably seems like I only eat Italian, so here are some other options:

North Pond Restaurant – a lovely old bathhouse in the middle of Lincoln Park with great food – pricier than the other options mentioned here and dinner only, but memorable

<https://www.google.com/search?q=north+pond+restaurant&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8>

Le Colonial – French-Vietnamese, so something different:

<http://www.lecolonialchicago.com/>

They have moved as of winter 2019 from Rush Street to Oak Street

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For Lunch or Dinner (at regular tables)

Cafecito— There are several locations of this great Cuban semi-fast casual (table service), but the one we go to is the Gold Coast location. Tough for more than four people.

<http://www.cafecitochicago.com/>

Beatrix – again, a few locations for breakfast or lunch, and on the health side but with enough non-kale and quinoa options to please most people. Lunch is busy – get a reservation. My personal neighborhood location is the Streeterville branch.

<http://beatrixrestaurants.com/>

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For Lunch or Dinner (Private Rooms)

Osteria Via Stato – our neighborhood hang, mention my name (yes, it's on the previous page for smaller tables as well)

This is a great option for dinner because you can order a “dinner party” which fixes the appetizers and pastas (and wine if you like) but still offers individual choice of entrée. They have multiple options for private spaces, starting at about 10-12 people up to the whole restaurant

<http://osteriaviastato.com/>

Eataly – The place looks like a zoo, but you can rent out the Birreria for heavy appetizers, wine and beer, and demonstrations

https://www.eataly.com/us_en/stores/chicago/chicago-restaurants/

Somerset at the Viceroy Hotel – Credit to the Charlotte Partnership for introducing me to the private dining room at this boutique hotel in the Gold Coast – great food and hidden door panels and everything

https://www.viceroyhotelsandresorts.com/en/chicago/dining_and_nightlife/somerset

Whiskey Library at the Untitled Supper Club – Nice space for a cocktail reception with tasty, different food. Thanks for MAEDC for introducing me during their Competitiveness Conference

<https://www.untitledsupperclub.com/private-events/>