

Chicago List

CTU

February 16, 2010

HOTELS

Four Seasons – fresh, contemporary landmark hotel on Michigan Avenue

Hotel Burnham – a boutique hotel, part of the Kimpton Hotel group, in “the Loop” downtown

James Hotel – just off Michigan Avenue in River North, home to David Burke’s Primehouse restaurant

Park Hyatt – contemporary classic, feels like a big city apartment, great views, right on Michigan Avenue/Magnificent Mile

Swissotel – modern, great architecture, my favorite

The Drake – historic, classic, great lobby for piano bar and drinks even if you don’t stay here

The Peninsula – five star, luxury

Trump Hotel – brand new, on the river, Rebar is great for cocktails, new terrace bar just opened

JAZZ AND BLUES

Need to ask hotel concierge where to go. I never can remember the names, but there are a couple of good ones on Rush Street and I have been to Blue Chicago a few times.

RESTAURANTS

Adobo Grill, great margaritas and guacamole made tableside, two locations - Old Town and Wicker Park

Bin 36, neat casual wine bar and great cheese plates

Blackbird, creative American bistro, on Randolph Street where there are lots of the trendier places

Charlie Trotter’s, upscale gourmet, sets the standard in Chicago

Chicago Pizza and Oven Grinder Company, located in the heart of Lincoln Park, serving unique pizza pot pies

Cocco Pazzo, best Italian

Frontera Grill, Mexican, great chef, not “tex mex”

RESTAURANTS CONT.

Gibson's Steakhouse, best steakhouse in the city

Hugo's Frog Bar and Fish House, next to Gibson's, more casual

Hub 51, hot spot

Japonais, hot spot, this is where the "cool crowd" goes

MK, great new American bistro

Naha, foodie place, creative American

NoMi, in Park Hyatt, nice restaurant and wonderful outdoor terrace

Opera, great Chinese food, located in the South Loop, emerging district

Signature Room at the 95th, located at the John Hancock Center, best for cocktails and view

Spiaggia, upscale Italian Restaurant

Spring, best place in trendy neighborhood of Wicker Park/Bucktown

Tavern on Rush, in the middle of the Rush Street district where there are several of good restaurants (like Gibson's), great for cocktails

Tru, upscale gourmet, kind of "over the top" but a great experience

PLACES TO SEE

Art Institute Chicago, new Modern Wing just opened in May 2009

Chicago Architecture Foundation, store on Michigan Avenue across from Grant Park, best river cruises (an architecture river cruise is a must)

Grant Park, Buckingham Fountain

Lakefront, Navy Pier, Oak Street Beach, North Avenue Beach, you can walk the entire waterfront and this is the best part of Chicago

Millennium Park, Cloud Gate (the "bean") and Crown Fountain

Museum of Contemporary Art (just off Magnificent Mile, towards the lakefront)

Second City Comedy Club, an improve-based sketch comedy club (famous alumni John Belushi, Gilda Radner and Mike Myers)

Segway Tour, Grant Park

Shopping on North Michigan Avenue, Magnificent Mile