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GOLDEN HOUR

Michelle Monaghan Soaks in the Moment

+

TOP MEXICAN RESTAURANTS, THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO RIVER NORTH & MORE!

AWAY WE GO

PRESENTING THE 2026 BEST OF TRAVEL AWARDS

River North 101

From world-class galleries and design showrooms to chic hotels, Michelin-starred restaurants and A-list nightlife, here's your ultimate guide to River North.
by THE EDITORS

At Gene & Georgetti, pasta dishes like mezzemaniche carbonara hold their own alongside the house's signature steaks.

WHERE TO EAT

Bavette's Bar & Boeuf
This hip, European-style steakhouse features a retro-cool atmosphere with an oh-so-flattering candlelit glow. While there are plenty of terrific steaks, it's the non-red-meat offerings—baked crab cake and spiced fried chicken among them—that top its must-have list. *218 W. Kinzie St., bavettessteakhouse.com*

Frontera Grill
Frontera was born out of owner/TV host/*Top Chef Masters* winner Rick Bayless' devotion to the delights of regional Mexican cuisine, and it remains a go-to for delectable fare. *449 N. Clark St., fronteragrill.com*

Gene & Georgetti
Founded in 1941, this charming restaurant is Chicago's oldest steakhouse. Soak up the history as you dine on filets, strips, ribeyes and Italian specialties like tagliatelle bolognese and eggplant parmigiana. *500 N. Franklin St., geneandgeorgetti.com*

Indienne
The city's first Indian restaurant with a Michelin star, this comfortable, cosmopolitan hot spot from chef Sujan Sarkar offers contemporary takes on classic Indian cuisine that suit vegetarians and carnivores alike. *217 W. Huron St., indiennechicago.com*

Siena Tavern
Top Chef favorite Fabio Viviani, alongside the DineAmic team, is behind this lively River North spot known for rustic Italian fare, housemade pastas and a buzzy bar and lounge scene. *51 W. Kinzie St., sienatavern.com*

Tzuco
Chef Carlos Gaytán helms this contemporary Mexican stunner, with standout dishes like guajillo-roasted octopus with salsa macha and pickled carrots, alongside braised short ribs with charred avocado and a blend of guajillo and ancho chiles. *720 N. State St., tzuco.com*

PHOTO COURTESY OF GENE & GEORGETTI

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP, PHOTOS: BY JOSH GOLDMAN; BY EDDIE RODRIGUEZ; COURTESY OF OSCAR ISBERIAN RUGS; COURTESY OF SIENA TAVERN

WHERE TO STAY

The Langham, Chicago
A perfect place to relish the city, this refined hotel offers luxe accommodations with elegantly designed guest rooms and suites featuring warm tones, rich textiles and floor-to-ceiling windows. Guests can dine at Travelle or unwind in a cinema suite with a 111-inch screen and private dining menu. *330 N. Wabash Ave., langhamhotels.com*

The Peninsula Chicago
This elegant oasis just off Michigan Avenue has been a staple for more than two decades, known for its impeccable service, luxurious accommodations and award-winning amenities. *108 E. Superior St., peninsula.com*

Trump International Hotel & Tower
Soaring 92 stories above the Chicago River, this five-star hotel offers sweeping city views alongside a 23,000-square-foot spa and elevated dining experiences. *401 N. Wabash Ave., trumphotels.com/chicago*

A lively outdoor patio and classic Italian cuisine make Siena Tavern a go-to among Chicagoans.

WHERE TO RELAX

Chuan Spa at The Langham, Chicago
Each treatment begins with the optional Chuan Bathing Ritual, guiding guests through a series of hot and cold experiences designed to relax muscles and awaken the senses. *330 N. Wabash Ave., langhamhotels.com*

The Peninsula Spa & Wellness Center
A serene escape defined by wood-paneled walls, soft lighting and exceptional service, this spa remains one of Chicago's most luxurious wellness destinations. *108 E. Superior St., peninsula.com*

WHERE TO SHOP

Ikram
Chicago style icon Ikram Goldman curates this bold, red-hued boutique, filled with coveted pieces from fashion's most sought-after designers. *15 E. Huron St., ikram.com*

Oscar Isberian Rugs
This family-owned showroom specializes in exquisite artisan rugs, ranging from understated neutrals to bold, statement-making patterns. *120 W. Kinzie St., isberian.com*

P.O.S.H.
A River North staple since 1997, this globally inspired shop offers an eclectic mix of tableware, pottery, jewelry and one-of-a-kind finds. *613 N. State St., poshchicago.com*

The Shops at North Bridge
Spanning six city blocks, this expansive shopping destination features more than 50 retailers alongside dining options and the beloved Eataly marketplace. *520 N. Michigan Ave., theshopsatnorthbridge.com*

Zolla/Lieberman Gallery
Located in the heart of the River North Gallery District, this space showcases works across a wide range of genres for both seasoned and emerging collectors. *325 W. Huron St., zollaliebermangallery.com*

Clockwise from top: Ikram's bold red facade draws shoppers into the renowned fashion boutique; the interior of chef Carlos Gaytán's Tzuco leans into earthy textures and artisanal details; Oscar Isberian Rugs' River North showroom features collector-worthy rugs in a range of textures and patterns.

Step inside the Richard H. Driehaus Museum for a deep dive into Gilded Age art and architecture.

WHERE TO HIT THE TOWN

TAO Chicago
A go-to for nightlife, this high-energy destination pairs dining with a nightclub experience, often featuring top-tier DJs and performers. *632 N. Dearborn St., taogroup.com*

Three Dots and a Dash
This tucked-away tiki speakeasy delivers an immersive cocktail experience, complete with inventive drinks and a hidden Bamboo Room offering guided rum tastings. *435 N. Clark St., threedotschicago.com*

Untitled Supper Club
Blending a 100-seat restaurant with a lively lounge, this modern speakeasy offers classic dishes, craft cocktails and live entertainment in a sprawling, refined space. *111 W. Kinzie St., untitledsupperclub.com*

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

Driehaus Museum
Set within a restored Gilded Age mansion, this museum offers an immersive look at late 19th-century design, complete with period furnishings and decorative arts. *40 E. Erie St., driehausmuseum.org*

Museum of Broadcast Communications
Explore the evolution of radio and television through interactive exhibits and archival material spanning decades of media history. *360 N. State St., museum.tv*

Poetry Foundation
Dedicated entirely to the art of poetry, this cultural space offers an extensive collection and thoughtfully curated programming. *61 W. Superior St., poetryfoundation.org*

From above: The Poetry Foundation draws verse lovers with a robust collection and active event calendar; pair a night of live music at The Redhead Piano Bar with its signature Redhead Martini.

HIDDEN GEMS

Green Door Tavern
Dating back to 1872, this historic tavern remains a beloved River North staple with a lively, welcoming atmosphere. *678 N. Orleans St., greendoorchicago.com*

The Redhead Piano Bar
A longtime favorite for live music, this intimate spot invites guests to sing along and enjoy classic cocktails in a cozy, underground setting. *16 W. Ontario St., redheadpianobar.com*

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT. PHOTOS: BY STEVE HALL/HEDRICH BLESSING PHOTOGRAPHERS; BY MELODY BILBO/COURTESY OF POETRY FOUNDATION; COURTESY OF LODGE MANAGEMENT GROUP