

# Dining & Drinking

## Beloved by Many and Unknown to Most

The Ten Best Restaurants You've Probably Never Visited

By David Hammond

There are a lot of outstanding restaurants in Chicago that you've probably never visited, little places that don't advertise or have public relations representation. It's possible you may have visited one or more of the restaurants on this list, but for the most part, we've focused on places beloved by many and unknown to most.

A number of these places don't have a website. They don't need a website; the people who know these places love these places and that's what keeps them coming back, year after year.

### Hyderabad House Family Dining

On Devon, a target-rich zone for fanciers of Indo-Pak chow, Hyderabad House specializes in biryani, a pilaf that looks a lot like Rice-a-Roni

and usually contains veg and meat. This is the kind of place where South Asian taxi drivers stop for a bite, a tea, some conversation and a chance to catch up on news and movies from the subcontinent. Hyderabad House is open twenty-four hours a day, and one must admit it looks a little beat up. Still, we've never been greeted with anything other than smiles and hospitality, and the biryani is delicious and filling (just what you need if you're going to jump back in your cab for another shift). On weekends and select weeknights, by the front door, there's sometimes a vendor of paan: a roll of spices, including fennel and cardamom, a major blast to the palate, wrapped in a betel leaf, considered good for averting flatulence and indigestion. 2226 West Devon, (773)381-1230

Iconic Russell's sign / Photo: David Hammond

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## DINING & DRINKING TOP 5

### 1 Thanksgiving Cooking Class.

Restaurant Michael, Winnetka. Learn from a master how to master Thanksgiving dinner. \$100. November 4

### 2 CHILL. Merchandise Mart.

Fifty chefs make mountains of deliciousness, paired with oceans of wine: gorge yourself for charity. \$125-145. November 9

### 3 Taste of Ravenswood.

Ravenswood Event Center, Malt Row and neighborhood chefs, from places like Band of Bohemia and Kitsune, create one-night-only pairings. \$70. November 10

### 4 Passport to France. Union League Club.

The French really know how to eat and drink; join them for an evening of Gallic gourmandizing. November 16

### 5 Christkindlmarket. Daley Plaza.

Quaint wooden stands with real-live Germans selling beer and sausage and other foods with universal appeal. Opens November 17