



Welcome to Literary and Culinary Chicago

Wondering what to do after the show floor closes each day? We tapped the local experts to choose some places you won't want to miss: PW's Midwest correspondent, Claire Kirch, rounds up Chicagoland bookselling highlights, including iconic indies and where Obama shops. And of course you'll need to eat, so we asked Fodor's Chicago editor to pick some unique dining destinations. Whether you're on the hunt for great books or a blowout meal, we've got you covered.

Check out an extended version of this list and more tips from Fodor's at publishersweekly.com/chicago2016.

 LITERARY

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- 1 57th Street Books**—1301 East 57th St., Hyde Park
President Obama is one of 13,000 members of this beloved literary cooperative; the entire Obama family has been spotted browsing the huge selection of fiction and nonfiction titles in the labyrinth-like space.
- 2 Acadia**—1639 S Wabash Ave., South Loop
Acadia is one of the most interesting places to dine in the South Loop. The walls are gleaming white—all the better to set off chef Ryan McCaskey's Instagram-ready creations. Start off with butternut squash soup made with silky almond milk or celery root risotto flavored with pears, then move on to Indiana duck ham with compressed plums or wild salmon with cauliflower, pickled beets, and buttery golden raisin purée.
- 3 Avec**—615 W Randolph St.
Go to this Euro-style wine bar when you're feeling gregarious; the space has seating for only 48 people, and it's a tight fit. The results are loud and lively, though happily the shareable fare—a mix of small and large Mediterranean plates—is reasonably priced.
- 4 Barbara's Books at Macy's**—111 N. State St., Loop
The most centrally located outlet of this longtime mini-chain of small bookstores operating inside large buildings is on the lower level of a landmark building that previously was a Marshall Fields store and is on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 5 Blackbird**—619 W Randolph St.
Being cramped next to your neighbor has never been as fun as it is at this hot spot run by award-winning chef Paul Kahan. Celebs pepper the crowd that comes for the creative dishes and exceptional cocktail list. Though the menu changes constantly, you'll always find choices that highlight seasonal ingredients.
- 6 Chicago Cultural Center**—78 E. Washington St., Loop
Contains the largest Tiffany stained glass dome in the world as well as the Chicago Publishers Gallery and Cafe, which features 2,300 books and periodicals from local publishers, as well as works by the city's most notable authors.
- 7 Dusek's**—1227 W 18th St.
Chef Jared Wentworth breaks all the rules with dishes such as General Tso's sweetbreads with charred shishito peppers, a Moroccan spiced vegetable tagine, and octopus confit with black-olive risotto. Craft beer fans will feel right at home with the 24 drafts pouring suds from all over the world.
- 8 Eleven City Diner**—1112 S. Wabash Ave., South Loop
For all its great food, Chicago is not a big deli town, which endears Eleven City Diner to the locals. You can get breakfast all day, but its deli staples like matzo ball soup and pastrami and corned-beef sandwiches shouldn't be missed.
- 9 Gioco**—1312 S. Wabash Ave., South Loop
The name means *game* in Italian, and the restaurant fulfills the promise not with venison, but in the spirit of having fun. The space is said to have been used by the Chicago gangsters of the early 20th century as a gambling house—but the menu is comfort-Italian.
- 10 Girl & the Goat**—809 W Randolph St.
Top Chef season 4-champ Stephanie Izard's restaurant serves up shareable, eclectic plates with seasonal flair in an unfussy atmosphere. Dishes range from pan-roasted skate cheeks with pecans and romesco sauce to roasted pig's face with tamarind and cilantro sauces.
- 11 Kurah**—1355 S. Michigan Ave, South Loop
Come during the day and sunlight will be streaming through the floor-to-ceiling windows at cozy Kurah, a neighborhood favorite in the South Loop. Mediterranean and Middle Eastern dishes share space on an imaginative menu. The globe-trotting wine list includes a few bottles from Lebanon that are well worth trying.
- 12 Lao Sze Chuan**—2172 S. Archer Ave.
If you're looking for spicy, filling food and great prices in Chinatown, check out this Szechuan kitchen. The digs are nothing fancy, but you'll feel smug for choosing it once the feast is finished and you're sipping your tea with a happy tummy.
- 13 Lou Mitchell's Restaurant**—565 W Jackson Blvd.
Lou Mitchell's heeds no modern health warnings, specializing in high-fat breakfasts and comfort food lunches. You can start the day with eggs and homemade hash browns, and later load up on meat loaf and mashed potatoes.
- 14 Maude's Liquor Bar**—840 W Randolph St.
A classic French menu of dishes such as chicken liver mousse and French onion fondue is the only traditional thing about this sexy Randolph Street hot spot. If your table is feeling particularly indulgent, spoil yourselves with Maude's Plateaux seafood platter for \$175.
- 15 Mercat a la Planxa**—638 S. Michigan Ave., South Loop
Philadelphia-based chef Jose Garces returned to his native Chicago for Mercat, where he created a menu of small and midsize plates of Catalan *sopas* (soup), cured meats, *fideos* (Spanish pasta), and a variety of vegetable sides, all of which are great for sharing.
- 16 Newberry Library**—60 W. Walton St., Gold Coast
The quirky little bookstore/gift shop inside is in itself worth a visit to this humanities research library close to the ABA's Bookseller Hotel.
- 17 Open Books**—651 W. Lake, West Loop, and 905 W. 19th St., Pilsen
All of Open Books' profits go toward funding literacy programs. The *Chicago Reader* called Open Books the "best hidden bookstore" in 2015.
- 18 Poetry Center**—61 W. Superior St., River North
The center functions as the Poetry Foundation headquarters, houses *Poetry* magazine's offices, and boasts a performance space, an exhibition gallery, and a 30,000-volume poetry library.
- 19 The Publican**—837 W Fulton Market.
Don't call this beer-focused hot spot a gastropub—chef Paul Kahan prefers *beer hall*. The long communal tables give the bustling space the air of an Oktoberfest celebration where diners share shucked oysters and just-fried pork rinds before tucking into grilled, smoky country ribs, fried perch, and beef-heart tartare.
- 20 Read It and Eat**—2142 N. Halsted, Lincoln Park
A bookstore for foodies, this store/test kitchen opened in 2015. Besides food-related books, this indie stocks biographies and travel and history books.
- 21 Sandmeyer's Books**—714 S. Dearborn, South Loop
This literary icon has been owned by the same family since 1982 and is located in the historic Printers Row area, where the annual Chicago Tribune Printers Row Lit Fest has taken place since 1985.
- 22 Seminary Co-op**—5751 S. Woodlawn, Hyde Park
If you visit 57th Street Books, you might as well walk around the corner and check out its more erudite sister store. Founded 55 years ago, Seminary Co-op is popular with the students and faculty at nearby University of Chicago.
- 23 Unabridged Books**—3251 N. Broadway, Lake View
This 36-year-old indie within walking distance of Wrigley Field was selected in 2015 by *Chicago Magazine* as the city's best bookstore and is renowned for its selection of LGBTQ books.
- 24 Volumes Bookcafe**—1474 Milwaukee Ave.
This just-opened shop has several nooks for reading and curling up with a cup of coffee or a glass of wine. "We want people to feel welcome to come and stay all day if they want," says owner Rebecca George.