

IIT Recommended Restaurant List 2008

\$ = \$7-\$12 per person

\$\$ = \$12-\$17 per person

\$\$\$ = \$17-\$25 per person

\$\$\$\$ = \$25-\$35 per person

American

Cheesecake Factory - \$\$ - \$\$\$

Lower level of John Hancock Tower, 875 N. Michigan Ave.

CTA Red Line to Chicago, 3 blocks east and 3 blocks north

(Or CTA Bus #145,146,147,151)

American food, awesome desserts (obviously). Dress is casual; expect a moderate-to-long wait for seating during peak times.

Hard Rock Café/Rainforest Café - \$\$ - \$\$\$

Intersection of Ontario St. and Clark St.

CTA Red Line to Grand, 2 blocks west and 2 blocks north

A high-style dinner downtown with a high fun factor, too.

Portillo's/Rock'n'Roll McDonald's - \$

Intersection of Ontario St. and Clark St.

CTA Red Line to Grand, 2 blocks west and 2 blocks north

A Chicago twist on an American classic (R'n'R Mc'D's) and some of Chicago's best hot dogs and Italian beef sandwiches (Portillo's). Rock'n'Roll McDonalds is a recently refurbished, state-of-the-art attraction.

Cajun/Creole

Dixie Kitchen - \$\$

5225 S. Harper Ave.

Lake Shore Drive to Hyde Park Blvd., left on Lake Park Ave., 1 block to parking lot on right

Some of the best Southern cooking in Chicago, mostly Cajun/Creole/New Orleans-style. Dress is casual; expect short to moderate wait at peak hours.

Chicago-Style Pizza - Three of Chicago's finest pizzerias. No trip to Chicago is complete without a Chicago-style deep-dish pizza. Ask three Chicagoans who has the best pizza, and you'll probably get three different answers. The rest of the Italian style menus are really good too.

Gino's East - \$\$

633 N. Wells St.

CTA Red Line to Grand, 4 blocks west, 2 blocks north

(Or CTA Brown Line to Chicago, 1 block east, 4 blocks south)

Giordano's - \$\$

In the Prudential Plaza, 130 E. Randolph

CTA Green Line to Randolph/Wabash, 2 blocks east

Pizzeria Uno/Due - \$\$

29 E. Ohio St. or 619 N. Wabash Ave.

CTA Red Line to Grand, 1 block east, 1-2 blocks north

Chinese

Lao Sze Chuan - \$\$

2172 S. Archer Ave., in the Chinatown Square Market

CTA Red Line to Cermak/Chinatown, north to Archer, west to Princeton

Rated by Zagats as one of Chinatown's best, this Szechuan-style Chinese restaurant can get rather busy - but extra seating upstairs is available, though the signage doesn't always make that clear.

Three Happiness - \$

203 W. Cermak Rd.

CTA Red Line to Cermak/Chinatown, 1 block west on south side of Cermak Rd.

Not to be confused with its larger neighbor just off the Cermak/Chinatown stop, this IIT favorite serves Cantonese food in an intimate environment.

Greek

Greek Islands - \$\$

200 S. Halsted

CTA Blue Line to UIC/Halsted, 3 blocks north

In the heart of Greektown, Greek Islands is a Greek family-style restaurant that won't disappoint. Wait is usually short to moderate.

Italian

Maggiano's - \$\$\$ - \$\$\$\$

516 N. Clark St.

CTA Red Line to Grand, 2 blocks west

Great family-style Italian food and desserts. Reservations are recommended, dress is nice but not formal.

Ricobene's - \$

252 W. 26th St.

Bridgeport/Chinatown area - Just west of 26th and Wentworth intersection

Big Italian dishes, great pizza, a local favorite! Just a short cab ride from IIT's main campus.

Mexican

Carbon Live Fire Mexican Grill - \$

300 W. 26th Street

312.225.3200

Bridgeport/Chinatown area - Just west of 26th and Wentworth intersection

Small, intimate, counter service, and newer to the neighborhood, Carbon (pronounced car-BONE) has authentic Mexican flavors prepared over Live Fire. It's just a short cab ride from IIT's main campus.

Pancho's Pistolas - \$

700 W 31st St. (corner of 31st and Union)

31 St. West from IIT campus, just before Halsted St.

IIT neighborhood favorite for authentic Mexican. Table service, dress is casual, wait is usually short.