



**Cool** From outdoor adventures and icy treats to  
**Chicago** breezy alfresco dining spots, we've got 20  
great ways to beat the heat of  
summer in the Windy City

BY ERIN BRERETON

Chilling out: The rooftop deck at Rock Bottom Brewery (above left); cruising on the river with Kayak Chicago (above right).

With winters as intense as Chicago's, it's no surprise that locals are all about soaking up the sun come summertime. And though it's hot outside, this city is full of ultra-cool things to eat, drink and do. Here are 20 of our favorites.

### »Outdoor Eats

Spanish food lovers flock to **Emilio's Sol y Nieve** (215 E. Ohio St., 312-467-7177) in Streeterville for tasty traditional tapas—think bacon-wrapped dates and goat cheese with marinara—but the real summer treat is Emilio's massive sidewalk patio, with great people-watching just steps from the Mag Mile. Bubbly pitchers of peach, mango, raspberry and strawberry sangria (\$25) are the perfect accompaniment. In a more upscale mood? Snag a table in the intimate back garden at Old Town favorite **Boka** (1729 N. Halsted St., 312-337-6070), where executive chef Giuseppe Scurato whips up progressive American fare like trout with English pea puree and roasted fingerling potatoes. For a different perspective, head to River North's **Rock Bottom Brewery** (1 W. Grand Ave., 312-755-9339); sure, it's a chain, but the stellar rooftop beer garden offers one-of-a-kind skyline views.

### »Breezy Cocktails

Nothing says summer quite like a frosty beverage—and we're not talking lemonade. One of our favorite libations, the Bomb Pop cocktail at **Rockit Bar and Grill** (22 W. Hubbard St., 312-645-6000) refreshes with a potent mix of Blue Curaçao, Bacardi Razz, and a mixture of Bacardi Limon and lemonade. At airy Latin hot spot **Carnivale** (702 W. Fulton Market, 312-850-5005), bartenders grind fresh mint for your raspberry mojito. Margarita lovers are in tequila heaven at **Lalo's** (500 N. LaSalle St., 312-329-0030), which serves up a potent Ultimate Margarita made with Sauza Tres Generaciones blue agave premium tequila, Cointreau, sour mix and a squirt of fresh lime. And **Howl at the Moon** (26 W. Hubbard St., 312-863-7427) is home to rowdy happy hours, nightly live piano music, and potent cocktails like a whopping 86-ounce Long Island Iced Tea, enough for you and several of your closest friends to share.

### »Summer Soothers

Get a beach-inspired beauty treatment without leaving downtown with the Sea Spa Pedicure (\$65) at the **Tiffani Kim Institute** (310 W. Superior St., 312-260-9000). Designed for stressed-out or arthritic feet, the pedicure includes a whirlpool soak, sea salt scrub and seaweed mask to reduce joint inflammation and recondition the skin. Exotic fruit fans, take note: The Mango Body Buff and Polish (\$100) at **Honey Child Salon and Spa** (735 N. LaSalle St., 312-573-1300) is a full-body treatment done using a citrus scrub made with white sugarcane and citrus essential oils to reduce anxiety. And if you're mad about mango, good news: Honey Child also offers a mango mani-



Boka

cure (\$35) and pedicure (\$58). Get golden without any of the skin damage via the Fantasy Spray Tan (\$80) at **Elizabeth Arden Salon and Spa** (845 N. Michigan Ave., suite 908E, 312-944-4311), where an esthetician covers your body with a controlled spray that develops into a tan within four hours. At the next-day follow-up visit (which is covered in the cost), you can adjust to a darker shade. Results last about a week.

### »Hot Nightspots

In search of some classic Chicago cool? Belly up to the bar at **Jilly's** (1007 N. Rush St., 312-664-1001), where slick bartenders shake up oversized martinis, a pianist warbles Rat Pack-era tunes, and patrons are treated to some of the best people-watching on Rush Street via outdoor tables and large open windows. For a more contemporary take on the retro experience, check into **Motel** (600 W. Chicago Ave., 312-822-2900), a bar so painstakingly decorated to resemble a swanky 1950s-'60s era hotel lobby bar that you'll think you've time-traveled back to a happy hour long ago. Sharply dressed patrons sip classic cocktails on the expansive outdoor patio or inside the bar's dark, comfy confines. Meanwhile, a relaxed hipster crowd congregates at **Northside Tavern & Grill** (1635 N. Damen Ave., 773-384-3555), whose sunny side patio is the perfect spot for burgers and a beer.

### »Outdoor Adventures

Summer in Chicago is all about being outside and active, so rent a pair of rollerblades from **Bike and Roll** at the North Avenue Beach boathouse (1600 N. Lakeshore Dr., 773-327-2706) and cruise the path along Lake Michigan (\$8.75 per hour/\$34 per day). Or indulge your passion for putting at the **Diversey Driving Range** (141 W. Diversey Pkwy., 312-742-7929), not far from the Lincoln Park Zoo, where golf fans can hit a bucket of 100 balls for \$11.50 or play a game of mini golf (\$5.50 for kids, \$6.75 for adults). **Kayak Chicago** rents out kayaks at 1501 N. Magnolia St. (single kayaks \$15 per hour/\$60 per day, double kayaks \$25 per hour/\$100 per day, 630-336-7245). The company also offers an architectural tour of the Chicago River (F 5-8 pm, Su 3-6 pm; \$40). ☺

## Ice, Ice Baby

From chilled coffee drinks to heaping ice cream sundaes, these summery treats are a great way to stay cool.

»**Margie's Candies** (1960 N. Western Ave., 773-384-1035; 1813 W. Montrose Ave., 773-348-0400) has served everyone

from the Beatles to the Smashing Pumpkins (who once did a photo shoot here, according to Margie's son, Peter Poulon), but the locals don't come for the candy. They come



for the ice cream. Fan favorites include the strawberry shortcake sundae and the gooey fudge turtle sundae, which comes complete with a separate tin of extra hot fudge. »For a twist on the classic sundae, partake in the special popsicle/ice cream menu at the **Ritz-Carlton** (160 E. Pearson St., 312-266-1000), featuring unique desserts like the Peach Melba: white peach and raspberry sorbets with Michigan Red Haven peaches, fresh raspberries and clouds of soft meringue. The Ritz also offers root beer, cherry, vanilla and other homemade popsicles at the hotel's Café and Greenhouse.

»For a sweet snack that comes complete with health benefits, the Sunshine smoothies at foodlife in Water Tower Place (835 N. Michigan Ave., 312-335-3663) are the perfect blend of orange, banana and a touch of coconut.

»And for java junkies, **Kitsch'n River North** (600 W. Chicago Ave., 312-644-1500) whips up a variety of iced coffee drinks, including coffee toffee and mocha brownie frappe freezes and Purple Haze Lemonade.