



FEATURES

Best New Restaurants

Centered more on great ingredients than on chef egos, these 12 newcomers add up to one fantastic year for dining.

By John Kessler

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9 DeNucci's

503 W. Dickens Ave., Lincoln Park
— C.H., J.M.



Bruschetta pomodoro



the bar



tagliatelle Bolognese

Hello, red sauce, my old friend, I've come to slurp you up again. If there's one constant in Chicago, it's that every year sees a bumper crop of Italian American supper clubs. Many attempt to update the tired yet beloved genre, but DeNucci's feels like it actually has something new to say. Some of it is the way it reflects modern tastes (Who wants a Negroni Sbagliato? A branzino piccata?), and some of it is the way it grounds the experience in old-school service and the kind of brass and tile decor that feels timeless. Maybe you won't be greeted quite like Tony Soprano at Vesuvio, but you'll be made to feel like your happiness is all that matters, whether you're just having some calamari and a drink at the bar or feasting on a grand platter of cavatelli ragù alla Joe and a bottle of Super Tuscan Ornellaia. These folks know how to take care of you, and if that's not Italian ...

