

NOVEMBER 26, 2024

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* BLACK FRIDAY DEALS *

Ready, set, relax: In Asian countries, thousands of burnt-out adults now gather for competitions to do as little as possible. Plus:

- **Take a break at a dude ranch:** Play cowboy, gunslinger, or unplug with a book in a hammock on a sprawling chunk of Montana wilderness that dotes on your needs.
- **From Hoops HQ: A guide to Feast Week 2024.**

But first, a visit to Chicago's Arts District.



An Evening Exploring Chicago's Art Scene During 2nd Fridays

Second Fridays take place in the Chicago Arts District, which was formerly known as Pilsen East. The area covers several blocks of artist studios, galleries, lofts and retail spaces, many of which are open to the public every(ish) second Friday of the month. It's a great (and free!) way to spend a Friday night in the city, meeting some of Chicago's talented artists and checking out a bevy of art, ranging from the traditional to the bread-based (more on that later).

VISIT CHICAGO'S ARTS DISTRICT



Hotels We Love: The Summit Hotel

Just a stone's throw from downtown Cincinnati, The Summit Hotel redefines style and sophistication in the Queen City. Nestled within the expansive Madison Square campus in Madisonville, this 239-room haven offers the perfect blend of work and play in an environment that's as inspiring as it is luxe.



The Sport of Spacing Out

On a busy October afternoon in Ark Karajan Place in the bustling Tokyo Metropolis, 70 people took their places, plopped down inside a taped-off square of floorspace and...did nothing.

At first glance, there was nothing to link these people. This wasn't a climate protest, or a political movement. They weren't angry about the economy. They weren't interested in gender rights, more days off of work or whether the trains ran on time. Their ages, backgrounds and even nationalities varied.

The one trait they did share was a massive, near-overwhelming sense of stress in their daily lives.

THE SPACE-OUT COMPETITION



WHERE BARTENDERS ARE DRINKING

Sweet Hearts Bar

"As a bartender, I am lucky enough to have opportunities to visit countless bars located across the city of Chicago. But right now, my top up-and-coming bar would have to be Sweet Hearts Bar on Clark Street, not too far from my own bar. They recently opened up this ambient bar with delicious cocktails on the menu. One of my favorites is the Saturn, which is gin-based. They also feature some fun Jell-O shots with little sweetheart garnishes as a cute detail to top them off. I really hope everyone gets a chance to visit this lovely local spot!" — *Isabella Jimenez, beverage director at Lost Never Found*

Billy Sunday

"Billy Sunday is a great spot to check out right now. They have well-curated cocktails by great people." — *Daniel Bautista, general manager of Robert's Pizza & Dough Co.*

Cara Cara Club

"Right now, I love to drink at Cara Cara Club in Logan Square. They have this savory clarified tomato highball with MSG in it. It's so delicious and one of those drinks where you take a sip and you're left wanting to take another sip. They're doing something really special there." — *Ramisha Saeed, Bartender at Lemon*



This Dude Ranch Finally Perfected the All-Inclusive Travel Experience

BY SAL VAGLICA

In travel, the term all-inclusive is typically reserved for experiences designed for mass consumption. Think: beach vacations, where frozen drinks are a food group, or queuing up for the thrice daily cattle call — eating, disembarking and embarking — on a city-sized cruise ship. But the math of The Ranch at Rock Creek is a big reason why this is a different kind of all-inclusive: A maximum of 125 guests, spread over about 31 different luxury tents, cabins and traditional rooms, all sharing 6,600 acres of mostly untouched Southwestern Montana wilderness. Another key figure: Costs start at \$2,100 per night, double occupancy, for a room at the Granite Lodge during shoulder season, to \$3,200 per night, double occupancy, for a glamping tent at the same time of year.

[VISIT THE RANCH AT ROCK CREEK](#)



WHERE CHEFS ARE EATING

Cheesies Pub & Grub

“Cheesies is one of the best hospitality experiences in the city. While known for its late drunken nights, one can receive some of the most honest service in Chicago.” — *Christos Vlahos, operations chef for [The Fifty/50 Restaurant Group](#)*

Asador Bastian

“I’m around a LOT of beef, so it’s not necessarily what I crave when I’m dining out. What Doug and Christian are doing here is special — it’s one of my favorite spots in Chicago.” — *John Manion, chef at [El Che](#) and [Brasero](#)*

Lao Peng You

“The chive dumpling soup at Lao Peng You is a gift. Vinegar, chili, bones, spice, shrimp paste — the broth travels along your palate and never stops. I can taste the chef’s intent in the food. It’s stunning: sophisticated and pleasant, hot and sour. I always accompany my chive dumpling soup with lamb bing bread and eggplant.” — *CJ Jacobson, chef-partner of [Aba](#) and [Ema](#)*

FROM HOOPS HQ



Get Ready for the Best Week of College Basketball Till March

Welcome to Feast Week. UConn, Duke, Kansas, UNC, Marquette, Auburn, Alabama and Houston are all in action. PLUS: A 50% off sale on a subscription to Hoops HQ.

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