

40 DENTISTS TO MAKE YOU SMILE

Chicago

BEST RESTAURANTS

30
UNDER
\$30

EAT AT
TOP PLACES
FOR LESS!

ANNE
BURKE'S
BRUSH WITH
HISTORY
(AND THE
KENNEDYS)

>> BY LUCINDA HAHN

HEROIN
INVADES
THE BURBS

>> BY BRYAN SMITH

A MURDER
MYSTERY
THAT WON'T
GO AWAY

>> BY RICHARD BABCOCK

Salted-caramel
chocolate cake:
the exclamation point
of a \$29 dinner at
Café des Architectes

SOFITEL
LUXURY HOTELS
CHICAGO WATER TOWER

NOVEMBER 2009



CHICAGOMAG.COM U.S. \$4.99

Chicago,
by Dennis Ray Wheaton
and Jeff Ruby

30
UNDER
\$30

photography by Anna Knott



*
APPETIZER
Five-hour braised short ribs, Nichols Farm spinach, candied orange, and citrus foam

*
\$29

prix fixe menu at
Café des Architectes



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AMUSE-BOUCHE
Eggplant, tortellini, piquillo pepper purée, Roquefort cheese



*
ENTREE
Wild striped bass, artichoke barigoule, oven-dried tomato, and crayfish



*
MIGNARDISES
Chocolate Earl Grey tea macarons, passion fruit pates, and chocolate nougats



*
DESSERT
Salted-caramel chocolate cake, dark chocolate cream, and chocolate nougatine

It's easy to spend a lot of money on fine dining, but you don't have to. The trouble with finding bargains in a big city is that the gems are hard to uncover. So we did the heavy lifting for you, scouring the land for values—often at some of the most highly touted restaurants—and compiled a list of the best deals in dining right now. That includes prix fixe dinners such as a stunning \$29 three-course offering at Café des Architectes.

CAFÉ DES ARCHITECTES

Sofitel Chicago
Water Tower, 20
East Chestnut Street;
312-324-4063

FRENCH

3
courses
\$29 adults
\$16 children
6 to 10

M T S

*
“Won’t you be my neighbor?” That’s the welcome from the master French chef Martial Noguier on his Sunday-through-Tuesday Neighborhood Friends’ Menu. His petite Ball jar of wonderful fennel-purée-topped salmon tartare with a side of micro-greens and lemon

confit was welcome, indeed. Then came a comforting flatiron steak with wild leek purée, English peas, wild mushrooms, and fingerling potatoes. Noguier works the room—to make sure you feel the love—but if that doesn’t do it, his hazelnut nougatine and espresso crème should. Almost forgot about the two freebies—an amuse to start and mignardises to finish. Wish Martial was *my* neighbor.
-D. R. W.

KEY

M T W T F S

days available

not offered

time specific

no reservations

BYO

drink included

cash only

vegetarian

free valet

All prices are per person and without wine, tax, or tip unless noted.