

SEASONALLY

SUMMER 2022 CATERING + EVENT INSPIRATION

PEAK CHICAGO FLAVOR



Summertime Chi is the best time of year.

By now, you should be enjoying patio dining, picnicking along Lake Michigan, and sampling events in every neighborhood. Summer brings an expansive range of activities and reasons to try locally sourced ingredients at their peak. Featuring seasonal dishes, beverages, and trends in music and style, *Seasonally* will raise the thermometer to your event inspiration and give you something to talk about when planning your summer soirées in the 312.



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What's Harvested During the Summer?

All the hard work of spring planting comes to fruition in the summer. As the weather gets warmer you'll see the farmer's markets get fuller with a cornucopia of options. Garden vegetables like tomatoes, cucumbers, and peppers can be found in a number of dishes in addition to greens, berries, and melon. Let's dive into some of our favorites below:



SWEET BASIL

Sweet basil is the most common of the four types of basil and it's used in a variety of dishes and cocktails. One of the oldest herbs, basil helps promote gut health, fights free radical activity, and can be used within skin cleansers.



BORAGE

Naturalized in a few counties in Illinois, this plant attracts bees through the nectar and pollen in its star-shaped flowers. The Borage flower adds beauty as a garnish and it has a sweet honey taste, while the plant's young leaves have a flavor similar to cucumbers.



BLACKBERRIES

An easy berry to grow, blackberries are packed with vitamin C and vitamin K, they are high in fiber, and are characterized by a sweet and tangy taste. You can eat them right off the plant or use the berries to make jam, pie filling, juice, syrup, and even a blackberry liqueur.



CORN

Depending on how you eat it, corn can be a vegetable, grain or fruit. It's full of vitamin C, B vitamins, and other essential minerals that promote eye health. However it's eaten, a sweet flavor will be discovered.



A Unique Take on a Mexican Classic

A tamale isn't the first food you think of when it comes to Chicago cuisine, but it has made its way throughout the city with the large population of Hispanic residents - not to mention everyone's favorite, Tamale Guy. This specific dish comes from Paramount Events' Sous Chef, Giuseppe Villa. Moving away from the standard corn husk, this tamale comes in the form of a roulade, with a spring onion and sweet potato filling. The base is a jam composed of slow roasted cherry tomatoes, blended with a balsamic glaze and basil. You will also find grilled corn and sunflower seeds adding texture to the dish. On top of the tamale a line of avocado mousse adds a little creaminess to the dish while holding the fried garlic in place.

All of these components come together to create a one-of-a-kind vegan tamale that is the epitome of summer.

BASIL

from our on-site greenhouse

CORN

GARLIC

TOMATO JAM

SUNFLOWER SEEDS

Cool Off & Cheers to Patio Season

Nothing's better than cooling down with a cold beverage on a hot summer day. Let's channel some frosty vibes with crafted cocktails and mocktails from our mixologist, Alex Rydzewski. They are as refreshing to look at as they are to drink.



FULL SAIL AHEAD
Smoked Strawberries,
Balsamic Syrup, St.
Germain, Aperol,
Club Soda



THIRSTY CACTUS
Mezcal, Prickly Pear
Puree, Agave, Lime,
Mint, Ginger Beer, Tajin



RUM STREET BEACH
Coconut Rum, Pineapple
Juice, Basil, Honey and
Pink Peppercorn Syrup,
Lemon, Lime



GARDEN MIST
Blackberry Syrup,
Lovage, Fever Tree
Sparkling Lime & Yuzu

SUN'S UP
Green Tea, Watermelon,
Lemon, Ginger,
Club Soda





Revamp & Revive Your Summer Fits

It's official, warm weather is here to stay for the next few months. While your winter coat and snow boots are starting to collect dust, it's time to brush off your summer wardrobe. We're highlighting some staple brands to keep in mind when adding to your closet.

FOR RUNNING ERRANDS

VEJA

Start the summer off on the right foot. VEJA's materials, work ethics, and sustainability mission is transparent with the consumer. Aside from being more progressive than most brands, their shoes are minimal, sleek, and worn by royalty (Really, Kate Middleton has a pair). Ranging from white leather low-tops to suede runners, perfect for that summer-fall transition, VEJA has you covered.

FOR WEDDINGS & EVENTS

RENT THE RUNWAY

Wear designer clothing without breaking the bank. Rent the Runway is a subscription service that allows you to order clothing, accessories, and shoes for any occasion. With subscriptions as cheap as 4 designer items for \$69 a month, why not? Subscription services are perfect for that one-time use outfit for weddings, cocktail parties, and galas.

FOR DAY TO NIGHT MAKEUP

GLOSSIER

Touch up your makeup after a long day for your night out. Glossier is perfect for that day to night makeup look. Their products are mostly cream-based and can be used with just your fingertips. Whether you're adding a red lip to your work outfit or spicing up your look with sparkly eyeshadow, Glossier has you covered.

Songs of the Summer

DJ MEGAN TAYLOR | FIG MEDIA COLLECTIVE

Days spent on the sand are on the horizon, but your packing list isn't complete without the best summer songs to set the mood.

The thing is, beach songs can sound like anything you want. Ukuleles and steel drums might come to mind first, but those aren't the only sounds that invoke seaside fun. Summertime songs can be driven by synth sounds, gospel piano, classic '80s songs, and even EDM beats.

Similarly, the lyrics can be varied—a beach song can be carefree, dance-y, wistful, or just plain catchy. Whether you're spending your seaside time with a significant other or a group of friends or by yourself, the right soundtrack will transform a summer getaway from a quick weekend to forever paradise.

If you're looking for some reggae, a bit of salsa from your favorite Latinx artists, chart-toppers, throwback jams, or some lo-fi beats to swim to, this summer playlist includes some of the best songs for your trip. (Landlocked this summer? Let this mix mentally take you to the shore).



ABOUT DJ MEGAN TAYLOR

DJ Alchemist, Wellness Activist, & Travel Enthusiast. DJ Megan Taylor is an international DJ, frequently providing the soundtrack for the best parties and events in Chicago. She is part of the Fig Media Collective.



Playlist Preview

ABOUT DAMN TIME LIZZO	3:11
WOMAN DOJA CAT	2:52
WATERFALL DISCLOSURE, RAYE	3:52
SUMMER IN NEW YORK SOFI TUKKER	2:38
DIE HARD KENDRICK LAMAR	3:59



SCAN TO LISTEN TO
THE FULL PLAYLIST
ON SPOTIFY.

Venue Spotlight: Outdoor Spaces

Venues play a role in event planning, especially per season. We're highlighting a few spaces that offer the perfect setting for your summer events. Chicago has perfect venues for the summer—ranging from rooftop terraces to elaborate green spaces and courtyards.

Loft Lucia | Photography by Emma Mullins

LOFT LUCIA

Loft Lucia is a multi-level venue in the West Loop that offers both indoor and outdoor space. Their outdoor terrace is perfect for cocktail parties, wedding ceremonies, and bridal showers. Celebrate here during the day and enjoy beaming sunlight, or enjoy the sunset on the outdoor rooftop.

SCULPTURE GARDEN | BRIDGEPORT ART CENTER

The Sculpture Garden at Bridgeport Art Center provides a beautiful and artisan feel for any large-scale event. Exposed brick, wood-beamed ceilings, and exquisite French doors are just the beginning of this venue. Not to mention the beautiful sculptures and artwork around the space. Your guests are in for an artistic treat with the sculpture garden.

PLAZA | CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM

Perfect for warm weather, this Lincoln Park venue is perfect for being in touch with nature and the city at once. Plaza offers a large space outside enclosed with beautiful landscaping. Oh, did we mention the amazing architecture? With extravagant steps up to the museum and large pillars, you won't want to miss this photo opportunity.



MEADOW | THE OLD POST OFFICE

Escape your typical highrise rooftop and emerge into a fully landscaped terrace in the Meadow at The Old Post Office. From a large built-out bar to encapsulating 360° city views, the Meadow is the perfect place to host any summer celebration.

GREENHOUSE LOFT

If you're choosing a venue based on its sustainability initiatives, then the Greenhouse Loft is for you. From reducing waste to composting 90% of event waste, this venue is perfect for eco-friendly-minded people. The space has beautiful floor-to-ceiling windows with beaming natural light along with an outdoor garden.

ROCKWELL ON THE RIVER

Escape the city and walk up a cobblestone road to Rockwell on the River. With an outdoor patio along the Chicago River adjacent to ample indoor space, celebrating will be easy. Consider Rockwell on the River your go-to space for large events such as corporate galas, weddings, and other celebrations.

LET'S BOOK YOUR VENUE

When choosing Paramount Events as your catering partner, you're opening the door to exclusive venues throughout Chicago. Whether you're planning an event in the loop or along the lake, we're here to provide impeccable service and delicious cuisine.



Meadow | The Old Post Office



**VIEW ALL OF THE VENUES
PARAMOUNT EVENTS WORKS WITH:
[BIT.LY/SEASUM2022](https://bit.ly/seasum2022)**

Partnership Spotlight: The Local Bakeries

Paramount Events is in the business of supporting other businesses, specifically those that are small, local, and minority-owned. Currently, we are working with multiple minority-owned and operated bakeries, including Justice of Pies, Eméché Cakery & Café, and Brown Sugar Bakery. Our partnership with the bakeries includes featuring their brands' menu items in our dessert menu and highlighting their product at activations for our clients. Our goal is to be loud on our platforms and with our connections to amplify the story of these businesses to help them get exposure to a wider market.



Justice of the Pies is a Chicago-based bakery that specializes in sweet and savory pies, quiches, and tarts.
For more info: justiceofthepies.com



Located in the Bronzeville neighborhood, Eméché Cakery & Café makes delicious sweets, flavorful sandwiches, fresh salads, hot coffee, and more!
For more info: emechecakeryandcafe.com



Brown Sugar Bakery is a southern-style bakeshop specializing in traditional sweet treats & custom cakes located on the south side of Chicago and at Navy Pier.
For more info: brownsugarbakerychicago.com



CHEERS TO A REFRESHING SUMMER!



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