

Chicago Tribune

How Chicago restaurants are adapting to draw you back in: Azul Mariscos launches riverside, Pizza Lobo replaces Big & Little's in Logan Square, plus more fresh eats

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CHICAGO TRIBUNE | AUG 20, 2020

Desperate times, creative measures.

The pandemic has put the dining scene in and around Chicago in upheaval. Many restaurants are cautiously reopening, either outdoors, indoors or both. New places are launching. We're gathering the news here —comings and goings, logistics, renovations, safety protocols and, of course, interesting things chefs are doing with food.



Langoustines will be offered at Azul Mariscos + Muelle, opens Thursday, Aug. 20, 2020, featuring a Latin-inspired seafood menu by chef Michael Hernandez. (Samantha Crafton Public Relations)

Azul Mariscos + Muelle opens Thursday. The riverfront location is a familiar destination for revelers and boaters (there's a dock, which is what *muelle* means); once upon a time it was home to Slow Down, Life's Too Short. For the last year, the Goose Island-facing space has been occupied by Estate — indeed, the Estate owners are behind this new concept, which features a Latin-inspired seafood menu by chef Michael Hernandez, and plenty of libations. The sprawling, multi-level space is done in shades of blue and white, and the property includes what's billed as Chicago's largest open rooftop. True or not, it offers spectacular views of downtown; the rooftop, however, won't open right away.

1177 N. Elston Ave., 773-770-3766; azulmariscos.com