

## Where to celebrate Valentine's Day in Chicago, whether ordering in or dining out

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*Candy hearts boost the love of a Valentine's Day cocktail at The Gage on Michigan Avenue in Chicago. (The Gage)*

Maybe Valentine's Day will be the occasion that gets you back into restaurants? With dining rooms again open across the state, albeit at reduced capacity, restaurants are gearing up to offer holiday dinners the weekend of Feb. 12-14, traditionally the busiest time of the year. Outdoor dining options in heated tents, igloos and other structures await as well. And, of course, full takeout dinners and meal kits let you order in and create a romantic evening at home. New this time? Many restaurants are pairing with florists to offer bouquets of flowers.

With the demand for takeout higher than ever, some area restaurants have been overwhelmed with orders during big events. Here are some tips restaurant owners have shared with us to make ordering takeout smoother: Order well in advance. Call to place the order and pick it up yourself. Don't call several times to make changes. Check the order, pickup dates and times. Remember to tip. If you're doing a curbside pickup, leave a 10% to 20% tip in a clearly marked envelope in your trunk.

### **Azul Mariscos**

Celebrate Dia del Amor y la Amistad (the day of love and friendship) with a Latin America-inspired dinner. Three-courses filled with a variety of seafood options including the Tower of Love are available Feb. 12-14 (\$50 per person). Brunch mimosa kits include a bottle of rosé, orange, pomegranate, mango and peach juices and a tray of fresh fruit (\$40). 1177 N. Elston Ave., 773-773-3766, [azulmariscos.com](http://azulmariscos.com)