

## 26 New Outdoor Dining Options to Try in Chicago

This year, Chicagoans can eat in the middle of the street

by [Naomi Waxman](#) and [Ashok Selvam](#) Updated

Outdoor dining has long been a popular pastime (weather allowing) in Chicago. The pandemic has made the practice more important than ever for Chicago's bars and restaurants. This summer's patio season looks a lot different from those prior. Especially with open roads, where the city closes streets to allow restaurants to set up tables and seats. The city has compiled a list of the [closed streets where weekend outdoor dining is planned](#).

Many spots are getting creative with outdoor options so patrons can support their favorite establishments in relative safety. As with all things COVID-19 related, hours and seating options are subject to change so it's a good idea to check in online or by phone before making plans.

### 12. Azul



1177 N Elston Ave  
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There's finally some activity inside an older building a Division and Elston. **Azul** serves up a menu of Mexican seafood and cocktails along the Chicago River. Eventually, a rooftop bar will debut with the rest of the space.

