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Eateries open Christmas Day

Metromix dining producer M. Kathleen Pratt contributed to this report.
December 25, 2008

Whether your holiday gathering is with family, friends or both, a number of restaurants—especially those located in hotels—will be open on Thursday. Many will be offering special holiday menus. The following is just a sampling.

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Ann Sather Restaurant, 909 W. Belmont Ave.; 773-348-2378. Roast turkey, prime rib and baked ham are among the special holiday meals at this Swedish-American spot, which is also serving a Swedish Sampler (duck breast with lingonberry glaze, potato sausage, etc.). Breakfast items will be served throughout the day, beginning at 8 a.m. Holiday meals will be served 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Birch River Grill, 75 W. Algonquin Rd., [Arlington Heights](#); 847-427-4242. A special holiday menu is available with a choice of three entrees: Roast turkey with chestnut brioche stuffing, Creole mustard glazed salmon and roast prime rib. A starter and dessert are also included in the \$38.95 per person holiday meal. Children's menu for ages five through 12 is \$12.95 per child. Noon-10 p.m.

Cafe des Architectes, 20 E. Chestnut St.; 312-324-4000.

Longtime one sixtyblue chef Martial Noguier now oversees the show at this French brasserie in the Sofitel Chicago [Water Tower](#). He's rolling out a prix-fixe menu for [Christmas Day](#). Cost: \$49. When: 5-9 p.m.

China Grill, Hard Rock Hotel, 230 N. Michigan Ave.; 312-334-6700. This hip eatery is offering a four-course tasting menu (as well as its regular menus). Among the items on the tasting menu: Hoison-glazed duck satay with spicy Chinese mustard sauce, vanilla red chile marinated shrimp in a Thai curry sauce, mango fried rice and a selection of seasonal desserts. The tasting menu is \$44 per person. Noon-8 p.m.

The Restaurant at Conrad, Conrad Chicago Hotel, 521 N. Rush St.; 312-377-0979. This elegant spot is serving a prix-fixe menu (with heirloom turkey as its star, a soup of cauliflower and blue cheese plus pumpkin pie dessert; \$45) as well as an a la carte menu (turkey, veal osso bucco, olive oil poached swordfish, etc.). 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and 4-9 p.m.

Dine, 733 W. Madison St.; 312-602-2100. The West Loop's retro-themed eatery is serving a holiday menu of prime rib with sides, including grilled asparagus and pommes dauphinoise, starters and dessert. Christmas dinner at Dine can also be prepared for take out. The holiday menu is \$35 per person; \$16 per child 12 and under. Noon-9 p.m.

Fireside Restaurant, 5739 N. Ravenswood Ave.; 773-561-7433. Keep it casual at this laid-back [Edgewater](#) spot, which rolls out holiday specials such as glazed duck breast and



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lobster ravioli and stays open late so you can have a glass of holiday cheer after the relatives clear out. Cost: Prices vary. 4 p.m.-4 a.m. Christmas Day.

Lockwood, 17 E. Monroe St.; 312-917-3404. Do it up buffet-style at the **Palmer House Hilton** with a spread that includes cheeses, chilled seafood, carved meats, desserts and more. Cost: \$65; \$50 for seniors; \$25 for kids younger than 12. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Christmas Day.

Mercat a la Planxa, 638 S. Michigan Ave.; 312-765-0524. Celebrate Spanish-style at this new-in-2008 South Loop spot with a multicourse holiday-themed tapas tasting from 5-7 p.m. The regular a la carte menus are offered at breakfast, lunch and dinner. Cost: \$55. 6:30 a.m.-11 p.m.

NoMi, 800 N. Michigan Ave.; 312-239-4030. Soak up the Michigan Avenue ambience—without freezing your ears off—from the 7th floor of the Park Hyatt. NoMi's buffet features brunch dishes before 2 p.m. with more added in the evening. Holiday classics such as seafood and prime rib are served throughout the day. Cost: \$130; \$35 for kids 5-12. 11:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Christmas Day

SushiSamba Rio, 504 N. Wells St.; 312-595-2300. Keep things interesting with a decidedly non-traditional holiday meal at this River North spot, where the four-course tasting menu includes black beer-braised short ribs and an assortment of sushi. The regular menu is also available. Cost: \$45, \$75 with sake pairings. 3-11 p.m. Christmas Day.

Metromix dining producer M. Kathleen Pratt contributed to this report.

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