JET-SETTER MIAMI LAS VEGAS LOS ANGELES NEW YORK CITY CHICAGO BY AMBER GIBSON



The glitzy modern Ritz-Carlton is the most festive place for a holiday shopping getaway along Michigan Avenue. Pastry chef Toni Roberts hosts gingerbread workshops for kids every weekend in December, leading little ones as they decorate gingerbread men with piped icing and candy décor. Adults can indulge in holiday afternoon tea with cranberry mascarpone roasted turkey finger sandwiches, potato leek quiche, warm scones, macarons, and eggnog choux pastries. For the ultimate winter relaxation experience, sink into a plush chair for a peppermint pedicure with silky body butter to increase circulation and soothe sore muscles. 160 E Pearson Street, ritzcarltonchicago.com



CHI-TOWN CHIC

Local female-founded boutique Alice & Wonder recently opened a second, much larger location on Southport shopping corridor in Lakeview and released a new Sweet Home Chicago line of sweatshirts, tees, ball caps, and home accessories inspired by the Windy City. Fun retro stripe ringer tees and brightly hued, super soft pullovers are made from premium cotton and printed in Chicago, putting a fashionable new twist on the "been there, done that, got the T-shirt" catchphrase. For the holidays, there's an all-new winter collection of in-house beanie line Mad Hatter. 3542 N Southport Avenue and 956 W Webster Avenue, aliceandwonder.com



DR. SEUSS COMES TO LIFE

Interact with whimsical characters from nine beloved Dr. Seuss books at a new Dr. Seuss Experience exhibit at Water Tower Place. From The Cat in the Hat and How the Grinch Stole Christmas to The Lorax, this nostalgic and colorful escape from reality is medicine for the entire family. Look for the Circus McGurkus carousel in the Michigan Avenue window and enter the wonderous world of Dr. Seuss starting with a maze made of thousands of suspended balloons. Few fictional worlds resonate with as big of an audience and have such poignant social messages.

835 N Michigan Avenue. experienceseuss.com

TRIUMPHANT TAPAS

Nearly two years after it was announced, the Midwest outpost of buzzy tapas eatery Jaleo finally opened its doors in Chicago's River North nabe this summer. The brainchild of

Nobel Prize-nominated chef José Andrés, the colorful Spanish concept with locations in D.C., New York, and Las Vegas is famous for its vibrant shareables, from cured meats and upscale Spanish cheeses to tableside-presented paella and fresh seafood. Embutidos include cured acorn-fed pork sausage, Ibérico-cured meats served with picos, and a delicious spreadable cured sausage from the island of Mallorca made with Ibérico pork and Spanish pimentón served with honeycomb and toasted bread. Come thirsty, as sangria is sacred here. 500 N Clark Street #465, jaleo.com

PINS AND NEEDLES

This new holistic health practice in trendy West Loop is the most stylish and spa-like setting for acupuncture services in Chicago. Moon Rabbit Acupuncture is named after the mythical Moon Rabbit, who in Chinese folklore pounds the elixir of life for the moon goddess Chang'e. Chinese-American founder Gudrun Snyder may not promise immortality, but through a combination of acupuncture, cupping, qua sha, herbal medicine, and massage therapy, she and her team of board-certified acupuncturists, herbalists, and massage therapists keep clients feeling happy and healthy. Snyder takes a holistic approach to health with traditional Chinese medicine philosophies, but she is not afraid to spice things up with modern touches like Swarovski ear seeds and heart-shaped cupping cups. 1111 W Madison Street, Suite 2, moonrabbitacupuncture.com

