

Chef's Choice: 28 oz. rib-eye chop. *Entrée prices*: \$14-\$34. *Extras*: Carry-out, bar, outdoor dining, private parties, catering. M-Th 4-10, F-4-11, Sat noon-11, Sun noon-10. *Reservations*: Yes.

MAGGIANO'S LITTLE ITALY - 240 Oakbrook Center, Oak Brook. 630 368-0300. Classic re-creation of New York pre-war "Little Italy" dinner house. *Capacity*: 400 at 80+ tables. *Yrs in bus*: 14. *Chef's Choice*: Chicken giardiniera. *Entrée prices*: \$12-\$32. *Extras*: Two bars, outdoor dining, valet parking. M-Th 11:15-10, F-Sat 11:15-11, Sun 11:15-9. *Reservations*: Yes. Additional locations at 1847 Freedom Dr, Naperville, 630 536-2270; and 1901 E Woodfield Rd, Schaumburg, 847 240-6055.

MAJEAN - 30 S Prospect Ave, Clarendon Hills. 630 794-8900. Classic 1920s French-inspired bistro featuring seasonal offerings, including a large variety of fish. *Capacity*: 100. *Yrs in bus*: 1. *Chef's Choice*: Steak. *Entrée prices*: \$18-\$32. *Extras*: Bar, extensive wine list, valet parking on weekends, outdoor dining, carry-out, catering. T-Th 5-10, F-Sat 5-11, Sun 4:30-8:30. *Reservations*: Yes.

MARION STREET GRILLE - 189 N Marion St, Oak Park. 708 383-1551. Steaks, chops, ribs and fresh seafood in a friendly, neighborhood atmosphere. *Capacity*: 60 at 26 tables. *Yrs in bus*: 13. *Chef's Choice*: Sautéed frog legs. *Entrée prices*: \$12-\$26, Avg: \$18. *Extras*: Bar, outdoor dining, banquets, carry-out, martini hours T-F 4-6. T-Th 5-10, F-Sat 4-10, Sun 4-9. *Reservations*: Yes.

MAYA DEL SOL - 144 S Oak Park Ave, Oak Park. 708 358-9800. Casual, yet upscale New World Latin dining. *Capacity*: 175. *Mths in bus*: 8. *Chef's Choice*: Calabaza. *Entrée prices*: \$12-\$25. *Extras*: Bar, outdoor dining, private dining. Lunch M-F 11-4, Sat-Sun 10-4; Dinner M-Th 4-10, F-Sat 4-11, Sun 4-9. *Reservations*: Yes.

MCCORMICK & SCHMICK'S - 3001 Butterfield Rd, Oak Brook. 630 571-3700. Fresh seafood with an upscale ambiance *Capacity*: 408. *Yrs in bus*: 1. *Chef's Choice*: "Fresh List" selections. *Entrée prices*: \$6-\$33. *Extras*: Bar (open 1 hr later), outdoor dining. Lunch M-F 11-4, Sat-Sun noon-4; Dinner M-Sat 4-11, Sun 4-10. *Reservations*: Yes. Additional locations at 5320 N River Rd, Rosemont, 847 233-3776; and 1140 E Higgins Rd, Schaumburg, 847 517-1616.

MCNALLY'S IRISH PUB - 201 E Main St, St. Charles. 630 513-6300. Traditional Irish pub with pub grub in a friendly and lively atmosphere. *Capacity*: 500. *Yrs in bus*: 10. *Chef's Choice*: Corned beef and cabbage. *Entrée prices*: \$5-\$23. *Extras*: Bar, private parties, live music F-Sat. M-Th 11:30-9, F-Sat 11:30-10, Sun noon-8. *Reservations*: Yes, for 8 or more.

MESÓN SABIKA - 1025 Aurora Ave, Naperville. 630 983-3000. Authentic Spanish dining in an art-filled Georgian mansion. *Capacity*: 500. *Yrs in bus*: 18. *Entrée prices*: \$15-\$30. *Extras*: Banquets, carry-out, bar, outdoor dining, flamenco dancer & guitarist on F, family friendly. M-Th 11:30-10, F 11:30-11, Sat 5-11, Sun 4:30-9, Sunbrunch 11-2. *Reservations*: Yes.

MILL RACE INN - 4 E State St, Geneva. 630 232-2030. Classic American fare in a converted 1842 blacksmith shop divided into five distinctive environments, from dining room to pub to open patio, overlooking the Fox River. *Capacity*: 465. *Yrs in bus*: 75. *Entrée prices*: \$8-\$39. *Extras*: Bar, valet parking, outdoor dining, gazebo, carry-out. Lunch M-Sat 11:30-3; Dinner M-Th 4:30-9, F-Sat 4:30-10, Sun 2-9; Sun brunch 10-2. *Reservations*: Yes.

MON AMI GABI - 260 Oakbrook Center, Oak Brook. 630 472-1900. Classic French bistro featuring steak and fresh seafood. *Capacity*: 220. *Yrs in bus*: 8. *Chef's Choice*: Skate fish. *Entrée prices*: \$10-\$30. *Extras*: Outdoor dining, banquets. Lunch M-Sun 11:30-3; Dinner M-F 5-10, Sat 3-10, Sun 3-9; Sun brunch 10:30-3. *Reservations*: Yes.

MORTON'S - 1 Westbrook Corporate Center, Westchester. 708 562-7000. Steaks and seafood in an upscale American steakhouse featuring an à la carte menu. *Capacity*: 135 at 35 tables, with 5 private boardrooms. *Yrs in bus*: 22. *Chef's Choice*: Porterhouse steak. *Entrée prices*: \$26-\$47, Avg: \$36. *Extras*: Bar, valet parking, lounge, private dining. M-Sat 5:30-11, Sun 5-10. *Reservations*: Yes. Additional locations at 1751 Freedom Dr, Naperville, 630 848-3200; 9525 W Bryn Mawr Ave, Rosemont, 847 678-5155; and 1470 McConnor Pkwy, Schaumburg, 847 413-8771.

NICHE - 14 S Third St, Geneva. 630 262-1000. Contemporary American cuisine including seasonal and local foods in a warm atmosphere. *Capacity*: 72. *Yrs in bus*: 2. *Chef's Choice*: Daily specials. *Entrée prices*: \$25-\$40. *Extras*: Wine list, bar. T-Th 5:30-10, F-Sun 5:30-11. *Reservations*: Recommended.

NOSH - 211 James St, Geneva. 630 845-1570. An eclectic breakfast lunch spot with an urban atmosphere that also features small plate dinners some nights. *Capacity*: 80. *Yrs in bus*: 1. *Chef's Choice*: Shrimp avocado salad. *Entrée prices*: \$7-\$13. *Extras*: Carry-out, outdoor dining, children's menu, beer,

THIS MUST BE THE PLACE

New Lemont restaurant combines casual dining with live music

CASUAL DINING AND FINE MUSIC are the attractions at This Must Be The Place, which opened recently at 206 Main St., Lemont (630 243-1500).

"We offer a full menu including prime rib on weekends," says Dan Farnesi, who co-owns the place with Bill Moffett. "That's a popular dish. Mom's stuffed shells also are a big mover." Entrées average around \$14. The restaurant, which boasts a full bar, is open daily, except Monday, starting at 11:30 a.m. until midnight Sunday-Thursdays and until 1:30 a.m. Friday-Saturday.

Live entertainment — mostly bands playing rock-'n-roll, blues, jazz and folk, plus occasional solo artists — appears on weekends at 9:30 p.m. "Never karaoke," says Farnesi, adding that weekday concert bookings are also in the works. Cover prices vary but music fans can check the schedule online at www.betheplace.com. The Adam OTrio is on the bill for Saturday, March 7, while Michael McDermott, who blends Irish music with American folk rock, is in the lineup for Saturday, March 28.

The Place seats 52 in its dining room, 80 in a party space and about 60 in the lounge.

— T.R. Witom

SHINTO

Fine Japanese dining in Naperville

NAPERVILLE GREETED the new year with the arrival of Japanese restaurant Shinto, which opened its doors in mid-January and held a grand opening February 7 at 1778 N. Aurora Rd. (630 637-8899).

The 300-seat restaurant and bar is an offshoot of one that originated in Strongsville, Ohio, a Cleveland suburb.

"We're the first in DuPage County to feature hibachi tables with smokeless-hoodless grills," says manager Philip Addressi. Diners can order from an extensive sushi menu as well as a range of other entrées such as filet mignon, lobster tails, yellowfin tuna and chicken teriyaki, among others.

Addressi says the average dinner tab is about \$25. Shinto, which has a well-stocked bar, is open Monday-Friday for lunch from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Saturday noon to 3:30 p.m.; and Monday-Thursday for dinner until 10 p.m., Saturday until 11 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 9 p.m.

— T.R. Witom



MORGAN'S CHARHOUSE

New steakhouse takes over old Viking space in Winfield

THE STEAKS HAVE BEEN SIZZLING since late December at Morgan's Charhouse, 27W150 Roosevelt, Winfield (630 588-0500). "The opening followed 11 months of remodeling," says manager Angelo Pyroulis, a food service veteran with some 30 years' experience in Chicago and the northwest suburbs.

Morgan's, which occupies space that previously housed the Viking Restaurant, specializes in steaks, particularly certified Black Angus aged at least 28 days, Pyroulis says. The well-rounded menu also includes hamburgers, sautéed chicken, fresh seafood and a few pasta dishes. Soups and salad dressings are made in house.

Entrées average \$18 to \$20 and come with soup or salad, potato or vegetable. Morgan's has a full bar, accepts reservations, accommodates private parties and seats some 300 diners. The place boasts a cozy fireplace and a woodsy ambiance. Food is served Monday-Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Saturday, 4 to 11 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 9:30 p.m.

— T.R. Witom