

TEMPT YOUR TASTE BUDS

ENJOY SEASONAL BEVERAGES FROM AROUND THE WORLD WITHOUT LEAVING CHICAGO

Article courtesy of ExploreChicago.org — the City of Chicago's Official Tourism Site

Raise a glass with family and friends, or treat yourself to delicious seasonal beverages that represent holiday traditions from around the world, without ever having to leave Chicago!

Sip German glühwein at Christkindlmarket in the Loop

Celebrate Christmas German-style with a visit to Daley Plaza for some shopping, a plate of hearty German food and a drink of glühwein at Chicago's Christkindlmarket, a month-long holiday market. What is glühwein? It's a hot mulled red wine made with spices in the German style. At Chicago's Christkindlmarket, this warming beverage is served in a ceramic mug shaped like a boot, which you get to keep as a souvenir. Christkindlmarket is also home to Chicago's official Christmas tree and, if you have tots in tow, Santa's house. Christkindlmarket continues through Saturday, Dec. 24.

Enjoy a hot mug of Swedish glögg at an Andersonville bar

The holiday season just wouldn't be the same without the first hot mug of glögg at Simon's Tavern in Andersonville. Known for its potency, this traditional Swedish winter drink involves mulled wine and brandy, carefully selected spices, and sometimes even small slivers of almonds, orange peel or raisins added to the glass before serving. Simon's has been carrying on the tradition of serving this delicious beverage for decades. You'll know the season is truly upon us when you spy the neon sign in their window declaring "It's Glögg Time!" Simon's starts pouring glögg on Nov. 23, and it will be available until they've declared that winter is over.

Enjoy Mexican hot chocolate at Big Star in trendy Wicker Park

If you want to make your holiday errands just that much more fun and a little more green, pick up a Christmas tree while visiting Big Star, which serves gourmet tacos, tostadas and more in Chicago's trendy Wicker Park neighborhood. Starting Nov. 25, you can purchase a tree (or wreath, lights, and more), from City Tree Delivery, which sources their trees locally. While at Big Star, enjoy a hot cup of champurrado, a Mexican drinking chocolate flavored with cinnamon and thickened with fresh masa. It's up to you whether you add a shot of bourbon to your hot chocolate, as the bartenders at Big Star recommend.

Enjoy seasonal brews from around the world at Bucktown's The Map Room

Riding high off their recent 19th anniversary celebration, The Map Room, in Chicago's Bucktown neighborhood, is just getting started with channeling their holiday spirit. Year-round, this cozy bar offers an array of beer on tap and in bottles from countries around the world. As the holidays get closer, they'll start pouring cups of Christmas cheer in the form of seasonal ales and beers from Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and Canada, in addition to beers from Chicago breweries like Piece and 5 Rabbit. The Map Room is open every day (except Thanksgiving and Christmas Day), and beers are served from 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Sunday-Friday and 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Saturdays. Cash only.

For even more holiday dining and drinking options, view or print detailed Google maps and neighborhood guides, at www.ExploreChicago.org/neighborhoods



Known for its potency, glögg, a traditional Swedish winter drink, involves mulled wine and brandy, carefully selected spices, and sometimes even small slivers of almonds, orange peel or raisins added to the glass before serving.

