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## **Champaign-Urbana Area Restaurant Week Returns for Eighth Year with Highest Participation to Date**

*Champaign, IL* – The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Champaign-Urbana Area Restaurant Week, presented by Experience Champaign-Urbana, returns with a record number of participants. The nine-day celebration of our award-winning culinary scene, held January 26–February 3, 2024, includes options for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and dessert at 49 locations across 47 local restaurants.

The event encourages residents and visitors to discover new restaurants, flavors, and dishes during the week. Over the past seven years, the event has continued to grow from the initial 17 restaurants in 2017 to 47 in 2024.

“This event has been well embraced by our local restaurants because our residents truly support our culinary scene,” states Terri Reifsteck, Vice President of Marketing & Community Engagement from Experience Champaign-Urbana. “With high local support and many visitors coming in to discover our award-winning restaurants, each year we see more restaurants that see the value in highlighting their cuisine during this nine-day event.”

Menus for participating restaurants are available at [curestaurantweek.org](http://curestaurantweek.org). “Regardless of your tastes, there is a menu for everyone, from a variety of international flavors, farm-to-table, pizza, BBQ, vegetarian dishes, and so much more,” explains Reifsteck. “Whether you want a meal with your young family or you’re planning a date night, we have something for every price point and every palate. We’re also excited to feature restaurants outside of Champaign-Urbana including Savoy, Mahomet, St. Joseph, Rantoul, Monticello, and Paxton.”

Diners can also participate in an Instagram contest, sharing their pictures and experiences with #CUREstaurantWeek for a chance to win a \$100 gift card to their participating restaurant of choice.

Restaurant Week provides a much-needed boost to our local restaurants during the winter months with tens of thousands of website views during the month of January, including a surge at the start of the event. Diners are strongly encouraged to make reservations where available or dine at off-peak hours. “This week does draw a lot of diners so one tip is to make reservations where available on the two weekends, or dine during off-peak hours,” says Reifsteck.

Participating restaurants include: 83 Vietnamese Cuisine, A Taste of Both Worlds, BakeLab, Baldarotta’s Porketta & Sicilian Sausage, Big Grove Tavern, Billy Barooz, Café Sababa, Chophouse on Main, Dee-Dee’s Beef, Esquire Lounge, ET’s Downtown, Forage Kitchen, Guido’s, Hamilton Walker’s, Hopscotch Bakery, Houlihan’s, Industrial Donut, Jupiter’s Downtown and Jupiter’s at the Crossing, Just Yolkin’, Kohinoor Indian Lounge, La Bahía Grill, La Paloma Food Truck, The Literary, Maize at the Station, Martinelli’s Market, Nando Milano Trattoria, Neil St. Blues, Pekara Bakery & Bistro, Pizzeria Antica, Po’Boys Restaurant, Project 47 Smokehouse, Punch!, The Ribeye, Seven Saints, Silvercreek, Smith Burger, The Space, Stango Cuisine, Sticky Rice, Sun Singer, The Main Scoop (all locations), Watson’s Shack & Rail, The Wheelhouse, Wood N’ Hog Barbecue, and Ye Olde Donut Shoppe.

Diners can find information at [curestaurantweek.org](http://curestaurantweek.org) or on Experience Champaign-Urbana’s Facebook event. For more information, contact Terri Reifsteck at 217-351-4133 or [terrir@experiencecu.org](mailto:terrir@experiencecu.org).