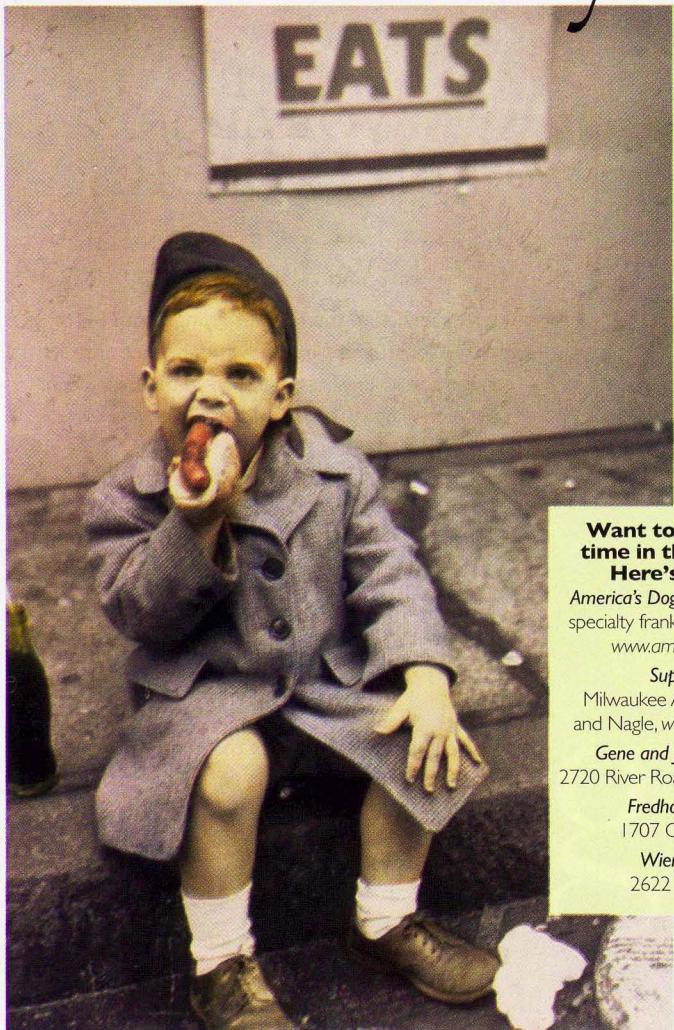


# frankly speaking



Chicago's hot dog hot spots pack flavor into every bite

If you fancy a fancier frank, Chicago knows how to groom your dog. It's comfort food that merits a journey. The Navy Pier, Shedd Aquarium and Art Institute are but bonus features for those visiting the Windy City. Founded 30 years ago by Ken Wojcicki, who still dishes out dogs, **WOJO'S** ([www.wojosmenu.com](http://www.wojosmenu.com)) offers 16 varieties of hounds served with mustard, relish, onions, cucumbers, tomatoes, pickles and celery salt. Treat your sweet tooth to one of more than 60 milkshakes.

**PORTILLO'S** ([www.portillos.com](http://www.portillos.com)) started in a trailer in 1963 and now boasts 34 locations, including two in California. Try a Chicago dog with all the goods in a steamed poppy-seed bun or a char-grilled Maxwell Street Polish—a kielbasa with mustard and a mound of grilled onions—and don't forget to grab extra napkins at the counter. You'll need them.

At **HOT DOUG'S** ([www.hotdougs.com](http://www.hotdougs.com)), the names of the regular offerings change with the times. The spicy Keira Knightley, a mighty hot fire dog, used to be called the Jennifer Garner, and the Britney Spears before that. A recent dog from the list of weekly specials featured antelope sausage with cassis crème fraîche and Danish fontina cheese. Fridays and Saturdays bring French fries cooked in duck fat. —**SEÁNAN FORBES/STEVE BRISENDINE**

**Want to spend more time in the doghouse? Here's a hot list:**

*America's Dog*—a tour of national specialty franks—several locations, [www.americasdog.com](http://www.americasdog.com).

*Super Dawg*, Milwaukee Avenue at Devon and Nagle, [www.superdawg.com](http://www.superdawg.com).

*Gene and Jude's Hot Dogs*, 2720 River Road at Grand Avenue.

*Fredhats and Fries*, 1707 Chestnut Ave.

*Wiener's Circle*, 2622 N. Clark St.