

WHERE TO STAY

theWit 201 N. State St., 312-467-0200 Centrally located in the downtown Theater District, this modern boutique hotel offers a

swanky rooftop bar with

a killer city view and a hip Italian bistro, Cibo Matto. Rates start at \$229 per night. Special summer packages include dining credits, museum openings and tickets to the Tony-winning "Billy Elliot." thewit.com

OUTDOOR FUN

New York City: Central Park, Prospect Park. Chicago: Millennium

Park, Grant Park.

Chicago is bike-friendly.

studded lineup for Lollapalooza 2010 (Grant Park, 500 S. Columbus Dr., 888-512-7469). Aug. 6-8. Iollapalooza.com In Millennium Park (55 N. Michigan Ave., 312-742-5222), don't miss the "Made in Chicago: World Class Jazz" concerts from July 29 to Sept. 2. While there, check out your warped reflection in the mas-

sive steel sculpture "Cloud Gate."

millenniumpark.org

Lady Gaga headlines the star-

FOOD

New York has so many buzzworthy pizza, burger and brunch joints. So does Chicago.

Brunch

Wishbone (three locations) offers a healthy take on soul food. MSN's Simply Chic blogger, Chicago-born Kristin Larson, 41, loves the salmon cakes, spicy Bloody Marys and "the best cornbread on this side of the Mississippi." Most entrees are \$10 - \$15.

Burger

Larson's votegoes to Jury's (4337 N. Lincoln Ave., 773-935-2255) in the Lincolnwood neighborhood. For only \$7 you get a half-pound of top-grade sirloin on a house-made bun served with homemade, steak-cut fries.

Pizza

While out-of-towners flock to the original Uno's Pizzeria (29 E. Ohio St., 312-280-5120), Vines prefers the cast-iron baked deepdish at Pequod's Pizzeria in Lincoln Park (2207 N. Clybourn Ave., 773-327-1512). The crowd? "Locals who know what it is and [know] it's the best," he said.