

# Chicago Tribune

By: Phil Vettel

Wednesday, December 27, 2017

## Save the Tables: Last-minute New Year's Eve reservations at 178 Chicago restaurants

**W**elcome back to our annual Save-the-Tables feature, wherein you, the alert reader, get a shot at impossible-to-get New Year's Eve tables that I, your not-so-humble servant, have set aside.

OK, actually, the restaurant owners themselves are the generous folks who set these reservations aside. But they're all in my name. Starting, oh, *now*, find a restaurant you like, call and ask for the "Phil Vettel table," and if you're the first to call, that reservation is all yours.

Let me be specific about what you're getting. You're getting a reserved table that would be difficult, if not impossible, to get at this late date. But these aren't freebies. These aren't even discounts. These are full-freight, batteries-not-included, have-your-credit-card-ready deals. A few of these restaurants require deposits, or even prepayment, to secure their reservation(s); it seems more than fair to allow the restaurants that played my game to guard against no-shows.

My list includes more than 180 restaurants, including some of the most acclaimed dining rooms in town.

Have you ever wanted to dine at Alinea? Spiaggia? I've got reservations at both. Two Michelin-star restaurants Acadia, Oriole and Sixteen? Check, check and check. Up-and-comers George Trois and Temporis? They're on board.

You want tiny, intimate and off-the-charts cool? I've got mfk, Mi Tocaya and Mott St. You want big? I've got the Crystal Gardens bash at Navy Pier, and parties at Fremont, SteakBar and Vol. 39.

I've got late tables for those who want to be out at midnight, and early tables for those with dine-first, party-later plans. (Start your evening with 5:30 p.m. cocktails at The Aviary, for example, and see where the rest of the evening takes you.) Because New Year's Eve is a Sunday this year, I have a handful of NYE brunches as well. I've got the city, and I've got the burbs.

And now, the fine print: Unless noted otherwise, listed prices are per person and do not include beverage, tax or tip. Menus and prices are subject to change.

Just because this story hit your driveway or inbox at 6 a.m., do not assume that operators are standing by. Operators are very likely still asleep. Do not assume that you're the first caller unless a real, live person tells you so. Participating restaurants have sole discretion in determining the first caller. Several restaurants can be reached only via email.

If the table is for four and you're a party of three, call anyway; some of these offers are flexible. If the Phil Vettel table has been claimed already, don't despair. Other tables, perhaps at other times, might be available.

Limber up those dialing/texting/emailing fingers, and best of luck.

**\$100 to \$174**

Steak 48, 615 N. Wabash Ave. Table for four at 7 p.m. and two tables for two at 8 p.m. Regular menu. 312-266-4848.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/dining/ct-food-save-the-tables-1227-story.html>

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**FOOD & DINING**

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SAVE THE TABLE 2017

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## Save the Seats

Want tickets for "Wicked" or "Beautiful"? Tribune has tickets saved for those and other big shows. **See today's A+E.**

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TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Table No. 81, with the best view in Carrie Nahabedian's restaurant Naha, is being held for a party of four at 9:30 p.m. New Year's Eve.

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