

Chicago Is Now the Leading Destination for AAA Five Diamond Dining

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AAA Chicago Announces 2007 Five Diamond Establishments

Chicago added two to its list of AAA Five Diamond rated restaurants bringing the total to seven -- the most of any city in the nation. Chicago is also home to three AAA Five Diamond rated hotels. These restaurants and hotels join an exclusive list of just 56 and 93 respectively nationwide that hold the hospitality industry's highest rating: the AAA Five Diamond Award.

Making their debut on the 2007 Five Diamond restaurant list, Alinea in Lincoln Park is becoming known around the country for its innovative tasting menu and Avenues, located in the Peninsula Chicago, is well known for its exquisite menu.

"AAA is thrilled to add these two impeccable restaurants to the Five Diamond rated properties," said Brad Roeber, Regional President, AAA Illinois/Indiana. "All recipients undergo rigorous review and meet the highest standards in quality and service to earn AAA's exclusive, top Diamond rating."

Chicago's 2007 Five Diamond rated restaurants: Alinea (1 year), Arun's (5 years), Avenues (in The Peninsula) (1 year), Charlie Trotters (13 years), Everest (11 years), Seasons Restaurant (in the Four Seasons Hotel) (7 years), Tru (7 years).

Chicago's 2007 Five Diamond rated hotels: The Four Seasons (17 years), The Peninsula (5 years), and The Ritz-Carlton (A Four Seasons Hotel) (2 years).

These establishments will be honored at a luncheon in the spring to celebrate their 2007 Five Diamond rating.

The prestigious AAA Five Diamond rating helps establish Chicago as a premier tourist destination as just 0.25 percent of establishments evaluated this year by AAA attained the Five Diamond designation. To become AAA Diamond rated, hotels and restaurants undergo a thorough inspection by one of AAA's 65 full-time, highly trained professional evaluators. Five Diamond establishments complete a more extensive review that includes a series of inspections and final committee review.

AAA first started listing accommodation information in its travel publications in the early 1900s. In 1937, the first field inspectors were hired to inspect hotels, motels and restaurants. In 1963, AAA began to rate all accommodations as good, very good, excellent or outstanding. The Diamond rating process, introduced in 1977 for hotels and 1989 for restaurants, continues to be recognized as one of the most trusted rating process for North American travelers.

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