

# Fulton Market, Chicago

This month we head to one of the Windy City's coolest districts – a hotbed of bougie boutique hotels, pan-global nightspots and cult clothing brands

Words by Delle Chan



Once a gritty industrial hub, today the Fulton–Randolph Market District – Fulton Market for short – in Chicago's Near West Side is as hip as they come.

As its disused warehouses have been made over into modern businesses and jazzed up with street art, the neighbourhood has established itself as a great dining postcode, with some of the city's trendiest spots for a night out. Tech giants like Google and Dyson are also headquartered here, while a giant seven-storey WeWork is drawing creative types. Adding to the hype are big names like Time Out Market and Nobu, both slated to set up shop this year – further cementing the district's cool credentials. [choosechicago.com](http://choosechicago.com)







GETTY IMAGES; ANJALI PINTO; LUCY HEWITT; NOTRE LLC/CHRISTOPHER LEH; COURTESY RANDOLPH STREET MARKET



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**MUNCHING**

> For a leisurely start, **Beatrix Fulton Market (1)** is just the ticket. The wood-clad, plant-strewn space dishes up hearty breakfast fare such as quinoa cakes and spicy chicken tinga, alongside brunchy cocktails like mimosas. Later in the day there are super seasonal salads and other wholesome tidbits. Cheery staff are a huge plus.

[beatrixrestaurants.com](http://beatrixrestaurants.com)

> With four restaurant concepts and counting, celeb chef Stephanie Izard has practically colonised the neighbourhood. **Girl & the Goat (2)** has the longest waiting list – justified by sublime small plates such as wood oven shrimp, crispy beef short ribs, duck tongues with tuna and black bean poke, and crispy wontons.

[girlandthegoat.com](http://girlandthegoat.com)



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**BROWSING**

> **Notre (3)** carries a tight edit of menswear and accessories from cult brands such as Comme des Garçons and Acne, all displayed against a backdrop of brick and concrete. There's a selection of books and indie magazines (like *Kinfolk* and *Subsequence*), too.

[notre-shop.com](http://notre-shop.com)

> Snag some bargains at the sprawling **Randolph Street Market (4)**, which is typically held on the last weekend of the month. Here, over 300 vendors hawk everything from vintage clothing and jewellery to ephemera; there's also a food section where you can pick up spices and sweet treats.

[randolphstreetmarket.com](http://randolphstreetmarket.com)



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the neighbourhood



**DOING**

> It's all too easy to spend hours on end at **Punch Bowl Social (5)** – an arcade, bowling alley, restaurant and bar all in one. Get in a few games of bocce, before smashing some high scores on the Pac-Man machine. There's grub like burgers and tacos to keep you going.

[punchbowlsocial.com](http://punchbowlsocial.com)

> **Carrie Secrist Gallery (6)** moved into Fulton Market long before it was cool. It celebrates both emerging and established artists; currently on show is *The Storytellers* (until 17 August), with paintings, drawings and installations themed around narrative art.

[secristgallery.com](http://secristgallery.com)

**SLEEPING**

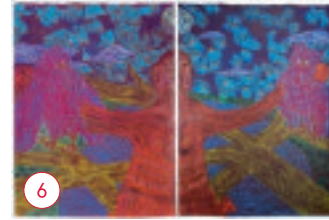
> An, ahem, ace bet is **Ace Hotel Chicago (7)**, which flaunts Bauhaus-inspired interiors: all clean lines with bright pops of colour. It draws a hip crowd in part thanks to the Waydown, which (contrary to its name) is a buzzing rooftop bar with widescreen views of the cityscape. [acehotel.com](http://acehotel.com)

> The 12-storey building that's home to **The Hoxton Chicago (8)** was formerly a meatpacking facility. However, it's decidedly cushier in its new incarnation, with pastel-hued rooms kitted out with Mid-Century furnishings; a basement speakeasy; and an enticing rooftop pool – the latter a first for the Hoxton brand.

[thehoxtton.com](http://thehoxtton.com)



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**Fulton Market in a nutshell**

**In three words**  
Energetic, edgy, forward-thinking.

**Beers, wine, cocktails?**  
All three – this 'hood is chock-a-block with watering holes, after all.

**Dress code**  
Suitably stylish. This is a place to see and be seen.

**Friendly locals?**  
Yes – Chicagoans in general love a good conversation.

**Claim to fame?**  
Randolph Street, dubbed the city's Restaurant Row for obvious reasons.

**Budget**  
€€€€

**PARTYING**

> Grant Achatz's high-concept cocktail bar **The Aviary (9)** is a theatre of sorts, with tipples like Passion of the Ice (a medley of orange, allspice, scotch, rum and passion fruit) concocted in elaborate tableside contraptions.

[theaviary.com](http://theaviary.com)

> Pair beers, sakes and cocktails with spicy tuna maki at **Booze Box**, a speakeasy-style izakaya hidden away in Sushi Dokku's basement. The soundtrack is dominated by hip-hop, with a DJ dropping the beat on some evenings.

[sushidokku.com](http://sushidokku.com)

