

more news: [chicagotribune.com](http://chicagotribune.com) [chicagosports.com](http://chicagosports.com) [classifieds](#): [jobs](#) [cars](#) [apartments](#) [shopping](#)



Reader Reviews  
Read about other peoples' favorite spots around town.

Home | Restaurants | Bars & Clubs | Events | Movies | Music | Dating | Theater | Critics' reviews | TV

### find it fast

Search the entire site.

### find things to do

Pick a category

- Today
- This weekend
- Next 7 days
- All dates
- Specify date(s) below

to  
Example: 11/16/04

### find a place

Neighborhood  
CITY DOWNTOWN  
- Grant Park...  
- Greektown  
- Loop

Place Type

### the pie's the limit



From turkey to desserts, find the best Thanksgiving dinners.

### photo gallery



They're sizzling: New Chicago nightspots.

### daily dose

Check out:  
• [Horoscopes](#)

## metromix.com search

E-mail story |  Printer Friendly

### Lose the wait

Ditch the long lines for these spots that stay lively without the lines

By Claire Zulkey

With the city cracking down on bars that exceed their capacity limits, the trendiest nightspots have a new feature: long lines. But you can avoid the waiting altogether at these substitutes that are equally cool but won't leave you out in the cold.

**Instead of:** [Sonotheque](#)  
**Head to:** [Eau](#)

High-concept, minimalist lounges and hordes of hipsters tend to go hand-in-hand, but expect speedier service at [Eau](#), located above [Aubriot](#), arguably Lincoln Park's best French restaurant. Get your chi chi on in timelier fashion and in a comfy atmosphere that doesn't sacrifice the cool. Bonus: A lounge menu of tapa-sized dishes offers an inexpensive taste of chef Eric Aubriot's cutting-edge cuisine.

**Instead of:** [Sugar](#)  
**Head to:** [Spring](#)

Satisfy your sweet tooth at the bar at [Spring](#). Enjoy high-concept desserts -- like the chocolate dome with chestnut mousse and vanilla foam -- and soak up an atmosphere that's equally chic but a bit more "refined" than that at [Sugar](#). The best part: There's rarely a wait at the bar, while those who want a table at this trendy Wicker Park restaurant will have to wait an eternity for a prime-time reservation.

**Instead of:** [Lion Head Pub](#)  
**Head to:** [Red Lion Pub](#)

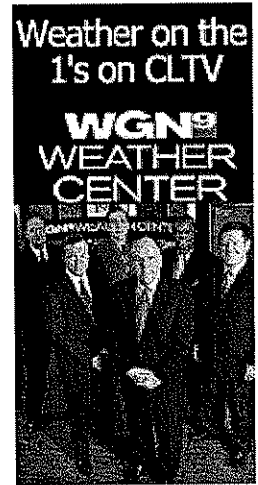
A long line can turn the most mild-mannered bar-goer into a disgruntled soccer hooligan. At peak times, you're sure to find a line at [Lion Head Pub](#), Lincoln Park's newest English tavern. Walk down the street to the [Red Lion](#) instead, where you'll find an impressive array of drinks and eats from across the pond, along with a gritty, yet cozy interior.

**Instead of:** [Hogs and Honeys](#)  
**Head to:** [Carol's Pub](#)

Sure, there's a lot less T&A, but for a real honky-tonk experience, you can't beat this Uptown joint. The Southern hospitality is real, not imported from New York City, and the country band on stage has more sass than any gyrating bartender.

**Instead of:** [Estelle's](#)  
**Head to:** [O'Callaghan's](#)

By the time you fight your way into [Estelle's](#) after-hours on a weekend night, you'll probably wish you were home in bed. [O'Callaghan's](#) has a 4 a.m. license as well, but here you'll find shorter lines, plus the drinks are cheaper, which means you can save a little money while enjoying a nightcap (or five).



[Advertising Information](#)

