



"Royster with the Oyster" takes place under a tent across from Shaw's in River North. (Photo: Shaw's Crab House)

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FRIDAY

If this is your weekend to get away for a short trip, you'll be in amazing company if you head up to the **Abbey Resort & Spa** in Fontana, Wis. The third-annual *Great Chefs at the Lake* weekend package (\$219 a person) includes a two-night stay, starting with a Friday evening wine reception with the guest chef, cooking demo and signature four-course dinner prepared by the featured chef. The series kicks off tonight with **Cibo Matto/Roof** executive chef **Todd Stein**, who'll be whipping up modern Italian cuisine through Sunday. Upcoming events include **Dudley Nieto** of **Eivissa** (Nov. 6-8) and **Jimmy "Tasty J" Madla**, chef/co-owner of **Coobah** (Nov. 13-15). Get more info [here](#).

What is it about oysters that drives people crazy? Oh yeah, never mind. If you'd like to see the effects at full force, head to the annual *Royster with the Oyster Festival*, taking place at Chicago seafood icon **Shaw's Crab House**. Just think about what could possibly happen when more than 5,000 oyster lovers gather under a tent that's bursting at the seams with live blues, gallons of Goose Island beer and a no-hands "slurp off" (an oyster slurping contest, of course). The party's \$10 to get in, with a portion going to the **Shedd Aquarium** and **Alliance For The Great Lakes**. 3-10pm.

SATURDAY

If you frequent River North and River West, you're quite familiar with **Blommer Chocolate's** overwhelming aroma as it permeates the air in the area, but have you ever tasted their goodies?! Now's your chance as the **Lockwood** lobby bar hosts the *Blommer Chocolate Lounge* every Saturday through Dec. 26. Pastry chef **Fabrice** and students from the **French Pastry School** create signature desserts for your eating pleasure, so you can dig into unlimited sweets (plus coffee, tea, cappuccino, espresso, a glass of wine, champagne or a beer). 9-11pm. \$35 for full chocolate experience or \$5 for individual desserts.

You don't get many Saturday nights when you can dress up your dog in his/her finest and take him/her out on the town. So get it together for *Wine, Wags & Dog Tags!*, happening at **Bice Grill**. You'll meet celebrity dog coach **Tamar Geller**, whose clients include **Oprah Winfrey**, **Larry King** and **Ellen DeGeneres**, plus chow down on Italian

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