



VIRGIN HOTELS CHICAGO BRINGS UNIQUE CULINARY EXPERIENCES TO THE WINDY CITY

Executive Chef Moosah Reaume Offers Exceptional Food & Beverage Programs for Hotel Guests, Locals

CHICAGO, Ill. - In January 2015, Virgin Hotels made its property debut with the opening of **Virgin Hotels Chicago** in the city's Loop neighborhood. At that time, the hotel brand, which was founded in 2010, joined a stellar portfolio of hospitality companies led by Virgin Group and its founder Sir Richard Branson. The property continues to offer the same excitement, heartfelt service and smart innovation that Virgin is known for across the board.

With hospitality at its core, Virgin Hotels Chicago offers hotel guests and locals alike a variety of unique experiences through diverse food and beverage outlets located throughout the hotel including **Commons Club**, the hotel's flagship second floor restaurant, bar and lounge; **Miss Ricky's**, the hotel's All-American diner; **Cerise**, the swanky rooftop bar and lounge; **Two Zero Three**, the first floor coffee shop and wine bar and **Upstairs** the intimate live entertainment venue.

Virgin Hotels Chicago's culinary outlets are led by Executive Chef Moosah Reaume, who joined the team in August 2017.

Moosah Reaume, Executive Chef

Chef Moosah Reaume began his career in the kitchen at the young age of 13. During his early career, Moosah worked as the Executive Chef at Gumbo's Louisiana Style Café in Austin, Texas in 1999 and was also responsible for opening multiple new branches throughout the nation. Moosah then became the personal chef for NBA Superstar Carmelo Anthony in 2004 before returning to the restaurant world joining Landry's Restaurant Group in 2006.

In 2008, Moosah attended the French Culinary Institute in New York to expand his culinary horizons after becoming inspired by Marcus Samuelsson's fusion techniques and Jean-Georges Vongerichten's mastery of French cuisine. While attending the Institute, Moosah had the opportunity to work for one of his culinary muses at The Mark Restaurant by Jean-Georges.

Moosah moved to Chicago in 2010, and quickly made his mark on the culinary scene in the city working up the ranks at many of the city's most renowned hotels. Prior to joining the Virgin Hotels Chicago team, Moosah was the Chef de Cuisine at The Lobby at the Peninsula Hotel Chicago, the Executive Chef at Soho House Chicago and most recently served as the Executive Chef at Public Hotel Chicago.

In August 2017, Moosah joined Virgin Hotels Chicago as Executive Chef. In this role, chef Moosah continues to offer the brand's unrelenting dedication to hospitality and restaurant service for all of Virgin Hotels Chicago's culinary outlets.

Commons Club

At the heart of Virgin Hotels Chicago is Commons Club, a dynamic restaurant, bar and lounge that offers a full-service dinner experience with an open kitchen concept, including an exclusive chef's table, and an inventive Contemporary American food menu crafted by Chef Moosah Reaume. The vibe is one of a private members club, without the fees, where guests and locals alike are invited to nosh, imbibe and mingle.

Nestled within the second floor of what was once the historic Old Dearborn Bank Building, Commons Club offers a mystique and dramatic approach with intimate spaces. Featuring the original grand staircase and the stunning coffered plaster ceiling, unique accessories with oval champagne velvet hand-tufted sofas, the space is reminiscent of classic deco style. Past the eclectic bar area, views of an open kitchen will entice patrons' appetites and curiosity in a delightful, theatrical fashion.

Chef Moosah offers an eclectic menu with his reinvented takes on familiar American fare. Inspired by his Thai and French upbringing, Chef Moosah uses bold, layered flavors such as fish sauce, chilis, aromatic herbs and citrus, which are woven throughout the palate-pleasing menu. Chef Moosah's culinary creations are driven by clean, seasonal ingredients sourced from local farms and purveyors. Guests are encouraged to flirt with the menu and indulge in the various cultural influence dishes.

All dishes are perfectly paired with handcrafted cocktails, wines by the glass and a variety of local beers. The beverage program highlights many eco-friendly, naturally and locally produced spirits and beers alongside some more popular and iconic marques to appease the international traveler. The cornerstone of the cocktail menu emphasizes variations of classic cocktails, offering familiarity, while also introducing newfangled creations to pique the curiosity of the serious cocktail geek. Commons Club features a select wine-by-the-glass program with offerings of well-known producers and varietals, as well as more esoteric selections that are highlighted in the Club of 13, which features an array of 13 "uncommon wines at uncommon prices" which rotate weekly, in tune with Chef's seasonal menu changes.

For weekend fun, guests can also enjoy an unconventional, boozy spot of tea at Commons Club's Upside Down Tea Party every Saturday and Sunday from 1-4pm. A perk for hotel guests, Commons Club also offers a Social Hour nightly from 5-6pm for guests to enjoy complimentary libations, top shelf included, in the beautiful bar area.

Hours of Operation: Daily 11am – 11pm | Dinner Experience: Nightly 4pm – 10pm

Miss Ricky's

Miss Ricky's, the hotel's all-American diner, offers a modern casual dining experience with a warm and welcoming flair. From all day breakfast and lunch to boozy weekend brunch, Miss Ricky's combines comfort food with a delightfully playful approach. Locals and hotel guests can enjoy Chef Moosah's take on classic diner staples with a twist including, Chicken and Waffles, The Miss Ricky's Burger, Short Rib Sloppy Joes and many more.

The Casting Room, Miss Ricky's private event space, offers a more intimate feel for group dining or small events complete with curtain-covered walls, velvet lounges and vintage gold stage lights.

In the warmer months, Miss Ricky's eclectic patio opens for guests to enjoy their fare al fresco a swing-set table, cozy lounge seating and plenty of dining space, making it the ideal spot for breakfast meetings, lazy lunches and boozy milkshakes.

Hours of Operation: Daily 7am – 2:30pm

Cerise

Cerise, Virgin Hotels Chicago's rooftop bar and lounge located on the 26th floor, boasts breathtaking sights, perennially-cool music and exceptional cocktails and bites while always satisfying a deep-diving, fun-loving, hard-partying crowd. Cerise welcomes a diverse mix of rotating DJs and live music highlighting an array of genres, global at times and local at others. The sprawling indoor-outdoor space features uniquely designed rooms and gardens set against stunning skyline views, and offers an eclectic assortment of libations and a selection of delicious "drunken" canapés by Chef Moosah.

The beverage menu offers unique seasonal cocktails, wines by the glass or bottle and a selection of craft beer from local Chicago breweries and beyond. Chef Moosah's menu of "drunken" canapés includes shareable snacks such as his signature coconut shrimp toast, chermoula grilled lamb ribs, charcuterie and more savory options.

The lively atmosphere creates a sense of creativity and curiosity, where locals and travelers alike come together to unwind and embrace the unexpected.

Hours of Operation: Closed during winter months; reopening in Spring 2018

Two Zero Three

Named for Virgin Hotels Chicago's landmark address, the hotel's coffee house pours locally brewed coffee by Dark Matter Coffee and offers a grab-and-go station with muffins, scones and other breakfast pastry temptations, coffee favorites and a full juice bar menu featuring health-conscious light bites. At night, the space transitions into a wine bar, serving a light menu of cheeses and charcuterie to be paired with a rotating selection of wines.

Located on the first floor of the hotel, Two Zero Three provides plenty of space for lounging day or night with communal tables, comfortable banquettes and power outlets at every seat.

Hours of Operation: Daily 6am – 6pm

Upstairs

Tucked away on the 25th floor, Upstairs is Virgin Hotels Chicago's speakeasy meets live entertainment venue. The intimate space is complete with a full service bar, stage and gorgeous outdoor terrace perfect for a private dinner or a breath of fresh air. Laced with live music, craft cocktails and mischievous nightly acts Upstairs offers an eclectic mix of entertainment with regular weekly and monthly programming including DJ sets, comedy shows and pop-up performances from nationally acclaimed artists including Eddie Vedder, Chance The Rapper, HAIM, Win Butler of Arcade Fire, QuestLove and Whitney. Virgin Hotels Chicago makes live entertainment accessible to everyone with almost all shows open to the public and free to attend.

In addition to scheduled entertainment, Upstairs can accommodate private events seating up to 60 guests indoors and 30 guests outdoors.

Hours of Operation: based on performance schedule, visit The Marquee for upcoming shows:
<https://virginhotels.com/chicago/step-inside/events/>

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About Virgin Hotels Chicago:

Virgin Hotels Chicago is the first property from Virgin Hotels - the lifestyle hospitality brand that combines heartfelt service, straightforward value and a seamless, personalized hotel experience with the track record of innovation and smart disruption that Sir Richard Branson's global Virgin Group has pioneered for over 40 years. The property mixes a passion for food and beverage with music and culture, fusing with the local landscape and providing a vibrant and inclusive environment for travelers and locals alike. Located in The Loop on Wabash Avenue, Virgin Hotels Chicago features 250 Chambers and Grand Chamber Suites across 26 floors; multiple dining and drinking outlets, including the brand's flagship space, Commons Club; Miss Ricky's - Virgin's modern diner concept serving breakfast and lunch; Two Zero Three coffee shop; numerous meeting spaces; and Cerise, the property's rooftop bar and lounge. The hotel's event space is designed to assure flexibility and diversity, with state-of-the-art technology, and menus of fully customizable options. Virgin Hotels Chicago is located in the old Dearborn Bank Building at 203 N. Wabash Avenue, serving as neighbor to many cultural attractions in the area, such as Millennium Park and the Art Institute of Chicago. Virgin Hotels Chicago, which was named the "#1 Hotel in United States" by Conde Nast Traveler's Readers' Choice Awards 2016 and "#1 Hotel in Chicago" by Conde Nast Traveler's Readers' Choice Awards in both 2016 and 2017, is now open and accepting reservations at virginhotels.com.