



Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

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Lino's Restaurant Honored with "Enjoy Illinois: Delicious Destination" Award

Illinois Office of Tourism celebrates restaurants that are authentically Illinois, attracting visitors and locals to state's diverse communities

Rockford, IL – The Illinois Office of Tourism (IOT) and Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau today announced Lino's Restaurant, located in Rockford, is a recipient of an "Enjoy Illinois: Delicious Destination" award, which honors local food establishments around the state that are beloved destinations for visitors and locals alike. Lino's Restaurant is among a select group of Illinois establishments to receive the unique designation from the tourism bureau. All award winners will receive a certificate from the state and a window cling to inform diners of the state designation.

"From family-owned restaurants with long and storied histories to the hottest new cuisines in the world, Illinois has emerged as a premier culinary destination for both domestic and international visitors," said Jen Hoelzle, Illinois State Travel Director. "The 'Enjoy Illinois: Delicious Destination' award honors those restaurants that are authentically Illinois, making a trip to the state unforgettable."

Lino's Restaurant is locally-owned and operated and has served the Rockford Region for over 40 years. This Italian eatery has a full menu of pasta, pizza, veal, chicken and fish with nightly specials. They also offer weekly live music and a family-friendly atmosphere. "Come Home to Lino's" is their tagline, and with a high level of customer service the family and staff ensure their customers always feel right at home while dining in or carrying out.

"We couldn't be more proud of our community partners at Lino's for receiving a Delicious Destination award given by the Illinois Office of Tourism. This family-owned eatery is loved by our locals and a top recommendation to folks visiting the Rockford Region," states John Groh, president/CEO of the Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau. "We are fortunate to have them in our community and thrilled they are now named as a top culinary destination in Illinois."

Many travelers come to Illinois because of the state's flourishing restaurant scene. According to a 2013 D.K. Shifflet & Associates Study, nearly one third of leisure travelers to Illinois reported participating in a unique "culinary experience" as a key part of their vacation, proving culinary offerings are a key motivator for travel.

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To be considered for an award, restaurants must be nominated by a Convention & Visitors Bureau, community member or Enjoy Illinois social media fan. The nominee must be a one-of-a-kind restaurant that is authentic to Illinois and an established part of its community. Only restaurants located in Illinois will be considered for the “Enjoy Illinois: Delicious Destination” award, which is chosen by IOT.

For more information about the state’s culinary offerings and “Enjoy Illinois: Delicious Destination” awards, visit **EnjoyIllinois.com** or **Facebook.com/EnjoyIllinois**.

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The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Tourism manages industry efforts that result in sustainable and significant economic and quality-of-life benefits for Illinois residents.

*The Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau drives quality of life and economic growth for our citizens through tourism marketing and destination development. **gorockford.com***