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**nightspots**

weekly nightlife section in 

# the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in  
WINDY CITY TIMES

## SAVOR Presidio

BY ANDREW DAVIS

**Presidio** (1749 N. Damen Ave.; PresidioChicago.com) is pretty much a perfect fit for an increasingly trendy Wicker Park neighborhood.

The space itself is pretty intriguing, with a huge lounge area in the front of the restaurant, and dining tables in the back. I can definitely see a group of friends hanging out here, knocking back various cocktails in decor influenced by Northern California and the San Francisco Bay Area (and, yes, there's a pic of the Golden Gate Bridge).

However, that particular geographical influence extends to the drinks as well. Presidio classics include Pisco Punch No. 1 (with Thai chili-infused pisco), Flash in the an (gin, grapefruit, lime, tart cherry, black pepper and mint) and the Presidio Old-Fashioned (with Sotol, rye whiskey, tamarind, mole bitters, angostura bitters and dried orange). Moreover, Presidio serves multiple versions of fern-



**Pappardelle (left) and pierogis at Presidio.**  
Photos by Andrew Davis

et, an Italian type of amaro that's very popular in the Bay Area.

What might intrigue others regarding the drinks, however, is a current line of cocktails inspired by urban legends and myths. For example, there are The Babysitter and the Man Upstairs, Mad Henry and the Wickerman's Punch (which I savored)—a delicious blend of aged rum, bonded apple brandy, black tea and lemon topped with a butternut squash garnish.

The cuisine isn't necessary influenced by the Bay Area—but don't be dissuaded by that; in fact, a few of the items are the best I've had in a while. The pierogis were simply fun, while the polenta

(with mushroom ragout and ricotta salata) was solidly savory. I actually could've consumed the crispy broccoli (with pickled blueberry) all night—it was that good. Another appetizer, Hokkaido scallops with chestnut, fried sage, parsnip and apple—had a nice mix of flavors and textures.

As for entrees, I thoroughly enjoyed the pappardelle with pork belly as well as the royale with cheese (a fancy name for a cheeseburger that had me recalling Pulp Fiction), which proves that simple can be wonderful. Regarding dessert, definitely try the pumpkin cheesecake mousse.

So definitely check out Presidio—that is, after you're done shopping at the trendy stores nearby.

## Many Chicago connections at Mr. New England Leather Weekend, November 18-20, in Provincetown

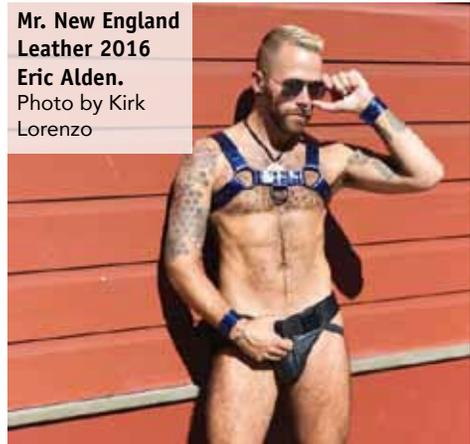
Hosted by the Provincetown sibling of Full Kit Gear's flagship store in Andersonville, Mr. New England Leather weekend in Provincetown, Mass., will have many Chicago connections this year. Chicago's own **Leather Archives & Museum** will be mounting an exhibit honoring leather history in the New England region. Part-time Chicago resident **Eric Alden** will be stepping down from his title as the current Mr. New England Leather. Chicagoan **Jon Krongard** will be master of ceremonies and **Rick Storer** will be a contest judge. Many friends from the Chicago area will be in attendance for the weekend of fun and education, including the Mr. New England Leather contest, held on Saturday night.

The Mr. New England Leather 2017 title winner will go on to compete at International Mister Leather (IML) in Chicago in May 2017. As lead sponsors, Full Kit Gear and host hotel The Crown & Anchor will be making the weekend possible and guarantee the winner a prize package to include airfare and hotel to compete at IML, a title sash and back patch along with custom gear and accessories.

Rounding out the offerings will be Saturday afternoon workshops, the expanded exhibit by the Leather Archives & Museum, and a silent auction running throughout the weekend, benefiting the AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod.

A full schedule of events, contestant applications & discount travel options are available at [www.MrNewEnglandLeather.org](http://www.MrNewEnglandLeather.org).

**Mr. New England Leather 2016**  
**Eric Alden.**  
Photo by Kirk Lorenzo



**Congratulations to Big Chicks on being inducted in The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame! Owner Michelle Fire (third from left) accepts the honor, Wed., Nov. 9, at the Chicago History Museum.**

Photo by Kat Fitzgerald



**ELECTION NIGHT @ SIDETRACK**

Remember how happy people used to be? Here's proof of it.  
Photos by Jerry Nunn

## nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN  
YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

**Barlesque:  
Get Hammered with Thor**



**Wed., Nov. 16**  
**Kit Kat Lounge,**  
**3700 N. Halsted St.**

Thor (Russell) will put the hammer down with epic drink and food specials. Raffle for tickets to see the Victory Gardens Theater production of Roz and Ray. Special performances by Kit Kat Lounge Diva Lila Martinez. Proceeds go to Russell's fundraising goals for Barlesque 9.

**Barlesque:  
Thanksgiving Dry Run**



**Thu., Nov. 17, 7-10 pm**  
**Progress Bar,**  
**3359 N. Halsted St.**

Join Barlesque 9 contestants one week before Thanksgiving in a fundraising event that will get you well prepared for your own Thanksgiving. Whether the holiday is pleasant or stressful, our contestants are here to get you prepared, all for a good cause.

**Kinetik**



**Fri., Nov. 18, 8 pm**  
**minibar**  
**3341 N. Halsted St.**

A UV-reactive dance party and glow lounge. Dress to impress or glow under black light area. No cover, drink specials, sexy male and female go-go dancers, glow swag giveaways, and killer beats by Chicago's finest, DJ X-tasy, DJ Zel and DJ Demon. Hosted by Debbie Fox.

**Barlesque:  
King Reza - OTTER Takeover**



**Sat., Nov. 19, 9 pm**  
**The Sofo Tap, 4923 N. Clark St.**  
Category is: DC Universe - Justice League of America! Come in your favorite super hero attire. Moose the DJ will get our furry asses moving on the 1s and 2s. \$10 suggested donation. Raffles for tickets to see Roz and Ray. Cash tips go to King Reza's fundraising goals for Barlesque 9.



"So, when I'm alone, I do masturbate a lot. I don't know why. It's like you have those days where it's just like, I have a ton of writing to do, or a ton of reading to do, and you're just like, OK, I'm going to be on the couch all day or in bed all day just doing that. ... I tend to have a four- or five-time day."—James Franco reveals how he spends his free time.

Here we are, days after the election, and everyone is trying to make sense of it all. Since it's my job to entertain you, let's start with a fun fact: Our new first lady, **Melania Trump**, will not be the first wife of a U.S. president that we've seen naked. Nope, that honor goes to Hustler cover girl of August 1975, **Jackie Kennedy**. Prior to this explicit "spread," some of the photos had been featured in newspapers around the world under the headline "Billion Dollar Bush." Allegedly, Aristotle Onassis was trying to dump Jackie and tipped off photographers as to where they could catch her naked. He even gave them a map—to her swimming spot, not her bush!

Just when you thought you'd heard enough political news comes a story regarding hunky **Aaron Schock**. The former congressman resigned under suspicion of various crimes—which I believe is de rigeur for any politician from Illinois. Days after the election, Schock was indicted on 24 counts, including mail fraud, theft of government funds, wire fraud and six counts of filing false federal income-tax returns. But at least he's released his returns!

In a story which Schock may be interested in, Norway just became the first country to offer PrEP for free to anyone with insurance—which, by the by, is anyone since they have national health care. The president of HIV Norway, which has advocated this movement, said, "Condom use is on the decline, and we are happy that PrEP now is an integrated part of the public health service." It's a sad day when we're behind the Norwegians. That reminds me—I was behind a Norwegian once ... but that's another story.

Last week, I finally went to Rockwell Table & Stage in Los Angeles to see The Unauthorized Musical Parody of Hocus Pocus. This is the eighth in a series of sold-out "unauthorized musical parodies," championed in large part by producer/writer Kate Pazakis. And it was one of the most entertaining, imaginative, and immersive things I've ever seen—led with a firm hand by Tony-winner **Marissa Jaret Winokur** as Winifred. Next at Rockwell is The Unauthorized Musical Parody of Home Alone—presumably without a cameo by Donald Trump. That show opens Dec. 1, and you can get tickets at Rockwell-LA.com.

It's been announced that **Elton John** is working on his autobiography. According to some reports, he is being paid upward of \$7 million by Macmillan for a book that is scheduled to be released in 2019. In discussing the project, Elton said, "I'm not prone to being a nostalgic person. I'm often accused of only looking forward to my next gig or creative project. It's come as quite a surprise how cathartic I am finding the process of writing my memoirs. As I look back, I realize what a crazy life I have had the extreme privilege of living."

When I look back on my life, I suspect I'll regret every moment spent watching Logo's reality dating show **Finding Prince Charming**. But, as a completist, I am obliged to tell you about last week's reunion. First off, we found out that there



James Franco has free time on his hands. Photo by Jesse Korman

was some sexual activity amongst the suitors—surprise, surprise. **Sam** confirmed that he hooked up with **Chad** on the first night. Sam said, "I was open to love with anybody, and I was horny, and I wasn't into Robert, so fair game for me, baby. All's fair in love and war. And he loved it." Chad did not confirm if he loved it, but the news didn't surprise me. After all, Chad is the same guy who allegedly came onto **Eric** also on the first night.

Speaking of Eric, the "winner" (a dubious distinction at best) and **Robert** are not a couple on any level. Robert said he's moved to LA and that they are "exploring this relationship"—while poor Eric sat there like a medicated Stepford wife. The two barely made eye contact, didn't hold hands and showed almost no outward signs of affection. But, that's not surprising. In fact, that's been the problem with the whole show. The most we ever got from anyone all season was some tense, closed-mouthed kisses and a few bits of physical contact that wouldn't be out of place in a Jane Austen book! The entire series was so sanitized and nonsexual, I really felt like it ended with Robert and Eric poised to go on a first date rather than find love. I daresay Robert's previous "clients" got more affection than Eric has—but, then again, those clients paid! In fact, Robert's shampoo bottle got more action, as you can see on BillyMasters.com.

Our "Ask Billy" question from Kevin in Chicago straddles both topics of the election and nudity: "In the Will & Grace election special, they mention **Viggo Mortensen's** dick in 'Eastern Promises'. WOW—it's huge. Has he been nude in anything else?"

If this endless election season brought us nothing else, it did deliver Viggo's dick. While I might be bold enough to suggest that Mortensen's career can stand on its own, so can his penis. Without question, the bathhouse fight in Eastern Promises gave you a good glimpse of it swinging about. But in this year's Captain Fantastic, you get a much better view of it in a less chaotic scene. I'm happy to deliver both to you on BillyMasters.com.

For those of you who are ass men, there's certainly no bigger ass than Prince Philip—at least, as depicted by **Matt Smith** in The Crown. Yes, he acts like an ass, but he's also happy to show his off. Twice we've seen him lying face-down on the bed with his buttocks rising up like the Rock of Gibraltar. Oh, it most certainly is a sight to behold—as you can see on BillyMasters.com.

When we've got nude spouses to both presidents and sovereigns, it's definitely time to end yet another column. And this queen is mighty happy about that. Perhaps I could have done without Philip asking Elizabeth for a blow job, but I chalk that up to literary license—a license I regularly invoke on BillyMasters.com, the site that will make you royally flush. If you have a question, send it along to me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Hilary Swank announces that her next movie will be Billion Dollar Bush! So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

**WEDS NOV 23** **THANKSGIVING EVE** **OPEN 3PM-2AM NO COVER**

**DANCE PARTY**

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 VITAL BRIDGES CENTER ON CHRONIC CARE  
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