**Café Info -Sifted from Social Media & Web**

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# Bohemian Neighborhood

## WICKER PARK

### Wormhole Coffee

*1462 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, IL 60622*

*Wicker Park*

[*http://www.thewormhole.us/*](http://www.thewormhole.us/)

*(773) 661-2468*

Total Reviews: 1040

Overall Score: 4.5

Reviews:

1. This place brought me back to my childhood with Nintendo's, movie posters of awesome 80s movies and just a funky vibe! It's the only coffee shop I've ever been to where you can just be you and you won't be judged by anyone! The staff are very friendly and kind and that's the main ingredient to a great coffee shop! It should be like you real home, not your second home.  
     
   Their coffee is...well, let's just say you won't be disappointed! Brought to you from halfwit coffee roasters, so you know it's good stuff, but it's just made with a lot of nerdy coffee love and I guess that's what makes this place such a cozy hangout spot for the all time fans of the 80s or for those who just wanna go somewhere cool and just being themselves.   
     
   I had a special latte called A shot in the dark (not sure if it's a reference to the movie) but it was might good! (5 stars)
2. I love this place!! My only complaint is that it's difficult to find a place to sit.   
     
   All you 80s babies will get real nostalgia vibes from this place - from the decor, music and even the coffee titles.   
     
   The coffee is able to match the cool ambiance. My personal favorite is the Peanut Butter Koopa-Troopa.. smooth and creamy peanut buttery goodness.   
     
   It is in a cute area and there are some awesome thrift stores near by that are worth checking out! (4 stars)
3. Edgy coffee shop! Great music, knowledgeable baristas, and fast service!   
     
   It has a lot of nostalgia in terms of 80's and 90's movie memorabilia! Ghostbusters, Gremlins, Aliens and more!   
     
   I got my iced soy chai latte: I was impressed! 5 stars!   
     
   There is ample seating inside and plugs for all your devices to charge! There is also outdoor seating as well.   
     
   This will be my office for the morning! (5 star)
4. This coffee shop is the MF bomb and I love it! I love the vibe here! Not sure if it's because it reminds me of Brady street coffee shops in MKE or if it's because it has that cool hipster vibe Bay View has but I dig it and I continuously find myself here whenever I'm in Wicker Park. They have a delicious latte called the Koopa Troopa that I highly recommend getting.   
     
   I'll be back here for sure whenever I'm in the windy city. Give this place a try! (5 star)
5. Wormhole is definitely a trendy/hipster modern day spot where they bring back memorabilia from the 80s. They even have a model size Back to the Future car and a old school Macintosh computer. They have alot of cool signature drinks on their menu. However - keeping with my standard - you have to try their hot black coffee or cold brew to determine if their coffee is on point. I opted for the cold brew since it was a hot summer day. I would have to say I am relatively disappointed. The cold brew fell really flat. No flavor whatsoever and way too much ice. Dissapointing.   
     
   Cool coffee shop concept - need better coffee. (3 star)
6. This place has plenty of character, and at least a few unique options for coffee drinks. I had the 'Cool But Rude' and it delivered a pleasantly memorable coffee experience with strong hints of ginger and curry sauce. Health concerns aside, the overall taste was better with whole milk versus skim milk.  
     
   It's also worthy to note that the decor inside the place was fantastic for any vintage 1980's fan. From the DeLorean from Back to the Future to the original Game Boy to an original Apple computer, there are plenty of bits of eye candy. Overall, I'd certainly recommend trying this place at least once. (4 star)
7. Not your typical starbucks, this place is one of a kind.  
   I love all their 80's movie theme decors/menu, it really made the place more hip. Cute spot to chill. ( 4 star)
8. What a cool coffee shop! I love, love, love the decor! Takes me back to my childhood.  Want to take a picture with Keanu Reeves...head on over. Also love that there is a couch seating area in the back with old video games.  Totally creates a great ambience. What a gem in Wicker Park!   
     
   Close to blue line on Milwaukee it is also quite convenient to get to.  
     
   Coffee and service is great as well.  Will surely be back.  Seems to be pretty crowded but surely it's for a good reason.(5 star)
9. Cozy old school coffeehouse.   
   The vanilla bean and peanut butter koopa troopa were both excellent. Decandent and good enough for both satisfying my coffee and dessert urge.   
   Only wish they had more pastries available though. (4 star)
10. I'm not a coffee drinker, but I would go to any length to get my paws on a peanut butter latte: the KOOPER TROOPER.   
      
    WH is a trendy, hipster modern day wormhole that transports you to the 80s/90s, and everything old that people love to resurface. Like, an antique Macintosh. I do not belong in any of these sentences, yet I was still welcomed with the smiles and aroma of some quality coffee. Hop on over, even if you aren't a coffee drinker!  
      
    Spacious enough for personal space or group parties! NOSTALGIA, anyone?? ( 5 star)
11. My SO fell in love with Wormhole's coffee. I tried their Honey Bear latte and I have to admit that it is one of the best tasting coffees that I had I  Chicago.   
      
    Drinks:  
    Honey bear latte: a slightly hint of honey and latte. Very nice and good under a rainy day.   
      
    Koopa troopa: peanut butter mousse mixed in as a latte. My SO likes it but definitely not my fave. I like my peanut butter in solid form.   
      
    Ambience:   
      
    Very very cool ambience. A very 80s feels with a back to the future car in the back. Furbies, POP figurines and cat paintings on the wall. Definitely a sight to see.   
      
    Coffee bean:   
      
    Bought several types of coffee beans here. They ate roasted by HALF WIT roaster and we gotta say it's pretty good (espresso wise). A local chicago roaster and we will be ordering more online!  
      
    Ps. They can do a little more work on their latte art. Lol :) (5 star)
12. Pretty cute spot with video game and movie references, lounge area seating, and tasty drinks.   
      
    Most of my friends and I ordered the Peanut Butter Koopa Troopa lattes, while one ordered the Honey Bear and one ordered the Cool but Rude latte.   
    I was hoping the Koopa Troopa would have more chocolate flavor (not too much of a PB fan) but it did not. Nonetheless I still liked it and it wasn't overpowering. I tasted the Cool but Rude and would have liked that better I think.   
      
    I would probably come back to this place if I'm in the area to check out their next specials and have a pastry! (4 star)
13. If you are a sci fi movie fan from 1980/1990s, Wormhole is a must-stop!  Buy some Half Wit toast coffee while you are there. And did I mention....THE BEST LATTE I HAVE EVER HAD. Cool but rude latte with ginger and curry. Outstanding. Bottom line, they had me with Alien facesucker on the Millenium Falcon. You rock, Wormhole! ( 5 star)
14. Back to the future car, 80s music, old movie posters, first macintosh, floppy disks PLUS really yummy caffeine concoctions so what is there not to like?! Order Koopa Troopa or Vanilla Bean and hangout and you're are set! ( 5 star)
15. Came here on a Sunday around 11AM to meet a friend from out of town and instantly loved this place as soon as I walked in! the ambience is super cool and they have a variety of unique coffees.    
    They have lounging chairs, couches, and table/chair options.  They also have a cool spot in the back where you can play video games!  
      
    The service was super good and the workers were friendly as well.  I had the honey latte and it was super good- i would definitely recommend it / get it again. The orange blueberry scone was also very very good.  The flavor was rice and it was a nice size.  I spent about $10.50 for these two items.  
      
    They also do offer milk subs such as almond/soy.  
      
    Very cozy atmosphere with a hint of retro!  
      
    There is street parking (free on Sundays).  It did take me about 10 minutes to actually find a space and still had to park 2 blocks down - but not terrible!    
      
    I would definitely recommend this place and cant wait to come back!  I wish it was closer to my house. (5 star)
16. Fun 80's themed coffee shop in the heart of Wicker Park.  Where else can you grab coffee and see a DeLorean (like the one from Back to the Future)?  They also have old Nintendo games you can play to transport you back in time.  There are many tables and seating options throughout the shop and also outside. The drinks are pricey, but no pricier than a Starbucks. The $5 Cool but Rude ginger & curry sauce latte I tried was delicious. Both the ginger and curry flavors were subtle, but present. The honey bear has a fancy name, but it's a simple coffee drink that's delicious in a simple way.  There's paid street parking, but may be hard to come by. Free on Sundays. ( 4 star)
17. Wormhole is such a cozy coffee shop with a very friendly and attentive, great regular and iced coffee, and rotating specialty drinks.  
      
    There are a number of different seating options, even a couch with video games. Plenty of outlets, as well. ( 5 star)
18. Hi, my name is Casey and I'm a caffeine addict. It doesn't matter where I go, I make sure to get my fix in. Anyway, during my last trip to Chi-town, I came across this awesome coffee shop.   
      
    The chai latte that I ordered was delicious and I'm a sucker for latte art so they get bonus points just for that. Definitely my favorite coffee shop in Chicago not just for the drinks but for the atmosphere. If you're looking for a chill, hipster, 80's/90's vibe, this is the place for you. They've got a DeLorean on display, Nintendo games on an old tubular tv and decor such as ET, Sesame Street and lunchboxes.  
      
    If I didn't have to pay for parking, I probably could spend the whole day there. I would definitely find myself back to this place the next time I'm in Chicago. ( 5 star)
19. What a great find! My boyfriend and I happened to walk by this coffee shop and I'm so glad he convinced me to check this place out. Walking into the coffee shop, we immediately loved the 80's and 90's decor with the Delorean from Back to the Future, the old school Apple computer and floppy disks, and all the movie poster paraphernalia displayed everywhere. I ordered the cortado and my boyfriend ordered an iced mocha. Our coffee came out extremely fast and I loved it! The cortado was strong (just the way I like it). My boyfriend also enjoyed his iced mocha. In addition, the staff are super friendly. I will definitely keep this place in mind the next time we're in town. ( 5 star)
20. A coffee shop gem that is right around the corner from my new spot. Lucky me!  
      
    My go-to is their lavender mint latte with oat milk and activated charcoal. What's amazing is I don't even have to be boujie, (or however you spell it), they're already boujie themselves! #win  
      
    The inside is decked out with old school movie props (I'm never familiar with this sort of thing since I haven't seen nearly enough movies). They also offer a ton of free stickers with fun quotes.   
      
    The only reason I give them 4 stars is because you can't come here when you're in a rush, like before work. Sometimes that's a great thing but it's too bad because now I can only enjoy them on a weekend. ( 4 star)

**KEY WORDS**

espresso, coffee, latte, mocha, bakery, food decoration, style, seating, picture, lighting, community, quietness, music, space, tables, outlets, wifi, “vibe”, event mural, art, signage, relationship to public transit /Metra/ L station / bus stop/ subway, graffiti, neighborhood/community festival, event, farmers market/flea market/ seasonal market, friends, studying, meetings, children, hang out, dating, meeting, working

**WORD FREQUENCY**

**coffee 39**

**latte 17**

**friend 6**

**future 6**

**seat 6**

**80 6**

**Décor 5**

**delicious 4**

**video 4**

**DeLorean 4**

**flavor 4**

**cozy 4**

**school 4**

**vibe 4**

**ambience 4**

**Macintosh 3**

**hipster 3**

**couch 3**

**service 3**

**music 3**

**Nintendo 3**

**nostalgia 3**

**memorabilia 2**

**space 2**

Overview: Majority of reviews mentioned something about the quality or type of coffee. Secondly,they focused on ambiance/café physical space. For example, future (in reference to the vibe of the café), décor and 80s (as in the decade being paid homage to with the café décor). The often mention of friend can be attributed to the ambiance of the café as well, saying it is a good place for socializing.

### Gallery café

*1760 W North Ave, Chicago, IL 60622*

*Wicker Park*

*https://www.gallerycafechicago.com/*

*(773) 252-8228*

Total Reviews: 166

Overall Score: 3.5

Reviews:

1. Cute cafe that made a nice strong cortado. Friendly staff and great looking sandwich menu ( 5 star)
2. I thought this cafe was okay. I got the matcha latte (iced) and felt like I was just drinking light green milk. It didn't seem to have too much flavor (not terribly sweet, and the matcha flavor wasn't that strong).  
     
   The latte art for their hot drinks was cool though. Almost looked like a honey comb of sorts. I've never seen that at any other coffee shop and I've been to a lot!  
     
   The ambiance was okay. Our table was a bit wobbly so it was hard to work on for long periods of time. The lighting was mostly from the window, but it was a bit overcast that day so it wasn't extremely bright. ( 3 stars)
3. Big fan of this place! Love the kahlo breakfast burrito. I also like the iced mocha and cold  
   Brew ( 5 stars)
4. Good neighborhood place for breakfast sandwiches and nice place to sit for a while. The prices are bit high though, and it's difficult to find a spot on the regular because the space is small and customers park for a long time to use wifi. ( 3 stars)
5. Great way to cool down after a walk along 606 is to have an iced tea from Gallery Cafe. Their staff is cheerful and helpful, the artistic and laid back vibe also adds to the charm of the place.   
   Free wifi and they hold events. (4 stars)
6. Superb little cafe. Great atmosphere and the Kahlo breakfast burrito (add sausage) is amazing! Will be back to try more of their breakfast and lunch offerings. (5 stars)
7. Honestly, I'm surprised by the reviews. I typically only order plain coffee at coffee shops. This time was no different, so I can't speak to their specialty drinks. However, the dark roast drip coffee was superb.  
     
   Some coffee shops are pretentious. The Gallery Cafe isn't one of them. It's a chill, cozy environment. Good energy. The staff was attentive. When I walked in, I was asked to wait for a moment. I didn't mind. I appreciated the communication.   
     
   The staff member who waited on me was a quirky guy. I'm a little quirky, too. Great! The menu said that high fives were free with purchase. I wasn't going to pass up that opportunity. I paid, then asked the barista for my high five. He completely understood and proceeded to lift his hand about head height. I then proceeded through with a high five motion. I think it was a good high five. I can't speak for the barista's experience.   
     
   The price was fair. I sat in the shop so I went ahead and paid for a coffee refill with my original purchase. The barista applauded my proactive method which made me feel like I could really tackle the day. Thanks for that.  
     
   Overall, good experience. I was pleasantly surprised but not necessarily wowed. The tile floor and bathroom decor could use an update, but hey, the energy was on fleek. Thank you Gallery Cafe. You made my day a little better. I'll return the favor my donating a high five to someone in need. (4 stars)
8. Rad little neighborhood coffee shop with a decent collection of artists and thinkers that frequent it. My favorite drink is the Rothko; the Claudel is pretty spicy so be warned if that's not your style. I've been known to frequent this spot for the coffee, the conversations and the local art/music events (5 stars)
9. Cozy cafe with friendly service.  Dropped in for a quick bite on a weekday and tried the Rodin sandwich (Chicken, bacon, avocado and more) served with chips...will be back!  Crowd at noon on a Monday was small, a handful of people talking, working, or in my case enjoying my food while people watching our the window.  A steady stream continued to come through for coffee. (4 stars)
10. I really liked the folks working here.  They were pleasant and made my first trip a nice experience.  Not to bash the great vibe, but my sandwich--The Klimt--was not very filling.  It was ok but underwhelming, both in portion and just the general taste.  It was also a tad pricey, as were a lot of their sandwiches.  The glass plates resembling artist palettes were cute, but the rest of the place felt more student lounge and less quaint cafe.  That's not a bad thing, just an observation. ( 2 stars)
11. I usually come here and the service is great but last time I came I ordered my usual and was waiting for about 17 minutes after that I asked the lady if they have started on my order and just answered "Omg" come to find out they forgot about my order had to get my money back and gave me a few free coffee coupons but i don't even drink coffee Came for a smoothie today and it's taste was a little off . (2 stars)
12. Power Monkey Smoothie, The Klimt sandwich, art and the staff = a perfect day And watch the coffee beans roast right in front of your eyes. GC rocks my world! (5 stars)
13. This is such a cute spot! I stopped by with a rather large group to get some work done and the location and spot was perfect. Cute set up , great service, and awesome place to work. I had already eaten that day, but I went with the blueberry tea. Yummy! I'm not a fan of coffee so can't give you much insight into that, but everyone else seemed to be enjoying it. Next time I stop by I'll try out their sandwiches. The girl next to me had one and I was eyeing it. :) (5 stars)
14. Wonderful service along with great coffee how can you beat that!  And I really love that they serve the wonderful nearby Kitty cat cafe! ( 5 stars)
15. This place is a great location for studying! Also, they seem to have some amazing artwork hanging around that adds to the relaxing environment. The owner Geno is super friendly, and he is super passionate about his coffee selection! (4 stars)
16. Great coffee roasts!   
    We use Gallery as our roasters for our office and they provide great service and the coffee tastes great.   
    Its nice to have a local coffee versus ordering from larger company. ( 5 stars)
17. I absolutely love gallery cafe! Always have good coffee drinks, the donuts are amazing!!  They also have really good lunch menu items vegan muffins and good options for smoothies!  Always my go to cafe in wicker Park. If you're an artist of any sort come support local artists since they donate to aspiring artists! (5 stars)
18. The cafe looks and feels stale. The service isn't awful but is a little too snotty for comfort. The coffee is alright and the sandwiches, while they taste good, seem a bit light for what you're paying. I never feel comfortable hanging out here for any amount of time.  
      
    It's not a horrible experience coming here but the vibe here is always kind of poor and I'd rather go down to Milwaukee Avenue and drink coffee at one of the places there. (2 stars)
19. I think I'm the only person that comes to this coffee shop for the smoothies, but they're legit! Made with 100% fruit, they're my personal favorite on the menu.  
      
    I've had the coffee before and I think it's a little too bitter. Also, it's always extremely hot in here, not sure if the air is broken or what's going on. 3 stars for a decent ambiance with no frills but no complaints either. (3 stars)
20. The staff here are always such a pleasure and their smoothies are simple and delicious. Perfect for a quick and simple bite to eat as well. Also a great place to bring your laptop and chill while getting some work done or just hanging out. (5 stars)

**WORD FREQUENCY**

coffee 23

cafe 12

service 6

gallery 5

staff 5

art 4

experience 4

roast 3

vibe 3

barista 3

local 3

artist 3

taste 3

wifi 2

neighborhood 2

cozy 2

ambiance 2

environment 2

energy 2

tea 2

latte 2

event 2

extreme 2

location 2

quirky 2

Overview: Majority of reviews mentioned something about the quality or type of coffee. Secondly, they focused on the service of the café and the ambiance of the café itself through mention of the staff, service and the presence of the gallery.

### Volumes bookcafe

*1474 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, IL 60622*

*Wicker Park*

*https://www.volumesbooks.com/*

*(773) 697-8066*

Total Reviews: 95

Overall Score: 4.5

Reviews:

1. It's about time I write a review for this place. I go here almost every day to work and get tea. My to go is the Matcha Latte with Oat Milk for the morning, and the Molly Weasly (this awesome chamomille/honey tea drink) for night.   
     
   The book selection is really good and they have cute little nick nacks. They sell some pastries and the staff is super friendly.   
     
   Good wifi, comfy blue chairs in the corner, and great coffee and books. That's pretty much all you need to know. ( 5 stars)
2. Regardless of the SJW crap all over their windows, these owners purposely contribute to increasing homelessness!  
     
   In addition to and in direct contradiction to the extremist signs on their windows, claiming that "billions of women" have "no voice" in America which is EXTREMELY obviously untrue, this business DIRECTLY propagates, promotes, and participates in the disenfranchisement of a HUGE group that actually IS oppressed...   homeless people.  This sign claiming that all human beings are not human beings, and therefore are not allowed to even pee according to this business, causes huge problems to and discrimination against not only homeless people, but, in the case of any such business in many areas of Chicago including Wicket Park, this also disenfranchises, dehumanizes, and heavily discriminates against, anyone who is from regular suburbs and in fact even anyone who lives in a slightly different area of Chicago, such as say, downtown, since for them as well it is also impossible for them to go home just to pee.  This business has several other antagonistic signs up to hurt and harm people.  It is obvious that this business should not be patronized. (1 star)
3. I first heard about Volumes from a friend, then another friend, then another friend, and knew I had to go. It's a great bookstore/cafe, which really enhances the study vibe I was hoping for. They also have a whole section of Harry Potter themed drinks - I had the Molly Weasley which is AMAZING. The barista was super nice and patient as I spent 10 min trying to figure out the Ritual app (where you can pre-order items from different places around the city and get points) too.  
     
   The space itself is also incredible. It's nice to be able to walk around and get inspired by all the books, plus the tables on the wall are high enough to do some standing work when you need to stretch. I will 100% be back! To try all of the other menu items as well as go to one of their many book-related/fun events! ( 5 stars)
4. Volumes has easily become one of my favorite Chicago spots. They have both coffee AND books - two of my favorite things.   
     
   The bookstore is not huge, but they have always had the books that I want and if they don't, they will order whatever book you'd like for you to pick up. At night, they have weekly and monthly events, including book clubs.   
     
   Monday: Weekly Trivia @ 7:30  
   1st Wednesday: Open Mic @ 7  
   2nd Wednesday: Storytelling Series @ 7  
   Last Wednesday: Ladies' Comedy Night @ 7:30  
     
   Book Club categories include Book of the Month, Sci Fi, Feminist, and Trans & Gay and you can just show up for them  
     
   They also make good coffee - the oat milk honey latte that I had recently was to die for.   
     
   There are usually tables and plugs available to work on your computer or read. Highly recommend this spot! (5 stars)
5. Came here to do some work on a weekday and was happy with my choice. Cool bookstore to browse through with unique books and gifts available. The vanilla latte was delicious and the chocolate with peanuts muffin went well despite it being a bit dry. Such a great find; definitely planning to return ( 5 stars)
6. My bookstore/cafe in Wicker Park.   
     
   Love this place. Staff is always friendly and helpful. Cafe items are great! Wish they had more sales or a discount program better than save 10 when you spend 100, but 10% off is better than nothing. And as a graphic novel guy, I wish their selection was a bit bigger, but still...very cool place in a great neighborhood.  
     
   Free WiFi. ( 4 stars)
7. Raspberry mocha coffee drink with a ton of beautiful books around me. Love this place and the service is so nice! ( 5 stars)
8. Volumes has a great atmosphere and because of it, it's an awesome place to sit and read (hence "book cafe"). Nonetheless, it's a good choice to have some quiet time for a few hours.  
     
   And now, the coffee. It's relatively cheap for an upscale-ish place. The serve metropolis coffee if that means anything to you. Their special beverages and pastries are quality too. I enjoyed a chai latte. It was (how you say) aesthetically pleasing and tasted great.   
     
   They also have a wide selection of books to choose from. I, myself am not much of a reader so I can't say much about the selection. However, I would come back for some of their open mics and other events! ( 4 stars)
9. This is easy. Volumes is a one of a kind experience in this city, and I don't just mean because of the book/Cafe hybrid. It's because of their insistence on being a part of this community, and making sure that anyone who walks through the door feels like they belong there.  
     
   The book selection isn't vast like a Barnes & Noble, but it is very intentional and specific. If the is a book you want, they will gladly order it for you. I will say, I love their poetry section, add the kids section is pretty dope too.  
     
   The coffee drinks are mad inventive, always tasty, and often book themed. The Molly Weasley is a personal favorite, but you can't go wrong with any of the Bronte sisters. Oh! And they have boozy coffee drinks and alcoholic codes and beer if you want something stronger.  
     
   They often have readings, performances, and workshops, and the team here makes it a point to find ways to give back to their community and Chicagoans in general. Plus, Rebecca, the owner, is just a cool person.  
     
   I highly recommend. ( 5 stars)
10. I came through for Wicker Park Fest and this place has arrived since I last visited the hood.  I wish I lived right by here because this is an awesome reading/studying space with a hydrid bookstore/caffeine infusion station.  It's not quite a traditional bookstore: the selections are more curated/limited but they have a lot of interesting contemporary selections (most that you don't see in other bookstores), not as many classics.    A good mix of new and used, plenty of things to browse. (4 stars)
11. Love this coffee shop/book store/Knick knack shop! WiFi is great and there's plenty of large tables and outlets if you need to get some work done. Plenty of unique and interesting curios for gifts. And best of all BOOKS, real physical pages of ink and paper!! There's an adorable back corner for children to read and relax. Looks like they have lots of neat events all the time (yoga, book signings, education, etc). Their drinks are reasonably priced, caffeinated and alcoholic, and the muffins are scrumptious, will definitely be making this a regular spot! (5 stars)
12. Friendly staff, great coffee (Metropolis is the best), small bookstore, and open seating right off Milwaukee Ave in Wicker Park. ( 5 stars)
13. One of my favorite places in wicker park. Curl up and read a book. Participate in the readnings from local authors, have a coffee or a red wine whichever you prefer. Volumes has a great collection of books, especially their scifi section(my fav). They also reward you for your loyalty with a points system that helps you to save a few bucks. LASTLY, you can sell back gently used books for book credit!! (5 stars)
14. Really love this spot! There is a great selection of current titles + some autographed copies! I snagged Electric Arches by Eve L. Ewing and was stoked. They also have coffee. (I didn't have any so I can't comment on it at all.) The owner was super nice. I plan on swinging by again next time I'm in Chicago. (5 stars)
15. Legit giving this place 5 stars because of the matcha latte itself. There are so many cafes in Wicker Park I feel like Volumes is somewhat underrated. Volumes is 80% bookstore and 20% cafe. The cafe is just a little counter with a small selection of drinks but their matcha latte is the best matcha latte I have ever had. It's definitely more creamy and sweet but that's why I love it so much!   
    The space is super cute as well. You can grab a book and sit there and read. There's even a children's nook just dedicated to younger consumers. They also have a lot of non-mainstream books supporting local authors or poets as well as unique greeting cards. I will always come here for their matcha latte! ( 5 stars)
16. This is really a place where you can take some time out of your afternoon and have a cup of coffee.  The staff works fast on making your coffee and they let you do your own thing.  Now, they have a pretty expansive book selection with categories that you wouldn't find at a lot of places.  I picked up the cocktail manifesto and having the cafe a few feet away to sit and read it at was great!  I only wish they offered a more expansive sweets section.  Great neighborhood spot. ( 5 stars)
17. Such a cute little bookstore in Wicker Park! It's really well organized, perfect for people like me who walk into bookstores and feel overwhelmed by the sheer amount of literature in them.   
      
    They have lots of options for drinks in their cafe section, they even have 3 tea lattes named after Harry Potter characters! I got myself the Ginny (an iced matcha goodness) and sat myself at one of the tables with one of the books I picked out. It's a great place to catch up with friends or rest up after digging through so much vintage. ( 5 stars)
18. I love spending time here. Not only do they have good coffee, seats, and wifi for getting serious work done, they also have a delightful collection of books, cards, and general souvenirs for readers. Having grown up buried beneath books at local bookstores (in a foreign country), this place feels strangely nostalgic and even a bit home. (4 stars)
19. Love this Bookcafe. It's got plenty of table space for you millennials to work at. And coffee and drinks at a reasonable price. I love love loved The Ginny, which was a Matcha Peppermint Latte that was $4. Never thought of matching up peppermint with matcha but it worked soooo well. It inspired me to buy my own peppermint tea bags to try to make it at home.   
      
    They also have alcoholic lattes which I thought was unique. ( 5 stars)
20. Bookstore cafes are my favorite kind of cafes. It just makes sense. Some people go to a cafe to read (especially if it's cold outside) and you want a nice cup of tea or coffee in a nice warm atmosphere. This is the place to go! Plus, it already comes with the books.  
      
    They have one of my favorite matcha lattes in the city! I rarely get a grainy powder matcha texture that quite a few places give me. Before I found Volumes, I was only limited to Starbucks for a Matcha that was not overwhelmingly bitter.   
      
    I also love that they have readings and talks there, too. You are able to sit in the cafe during a talk, but you have to stay quiet. So don't be afraid to go in and have a look. ( 5 stars)

**WORD FREQUENCY**

book 29

coffee 17

bookstore 10

latte 9

drink 9

cafe 8

friend 7

tea 5

Wi-Fi 4

event 4

community 2

bookstore/cafe 2

neighborhood 2

Overview: Majority of reviews mentioned something about the books present at the café, identifying an importance place on and a value given to the dual nature of the coffee shop and book store. Secondly, they focused on the type of and quality of coffee and drinks served at the café. The next highest work trend is the presence of “friend” which identifies a level of socialization that is taking place within this café. Also note that the some lower scoring words are simply different variation of higher scoring words. Example: bookstore/café was another phase/usage of how to say bookstore.

### Intelligentsia

*1609 W Division St, Chicago, IL 60622*

*Wicker Park*

*https://www.intelligentsiacoffee.com/wicker-park-coffeebar*

*(773) 516-5833*

Total Reviews: 80

Overall Score: 3.5

Reviews:

1. Good coffee, but slightly steep prices. This is definitely a coffee shop where you pay a bit more for quality and nicer ambiance. They're doing something right here because this place is continually busy and has a steady influx of customers coming in. Despite the busy atmosphere, this coffee shop is a well run ship and drinks are served quickly and tables are kept clean. You'll see a combo of studiers/people who linger here as well as people who just stop by for a quick drink. This cafe has nice big windows that lets in lot of natural light and the minimalistic table and chairs are just comfortable enough to get some work done without wanting to be here all day. There are also ample plugs all around the shop for those who need to recharge their laptops or cell phones. Again, this is set up in a great area and caters to multitude of people looking for a quick stop for coffee or looking for a busy coffee shop atmosphere to do some work. They also have a small outdoor seating area for those with pets or wanting to enjoy some fresh air with their coffee. (4 stars)
2. Like every coffee shop in Logan Square, only entitled 20-somethings work here and have no clue how to properly serve food and coffee. And of course, as conformist-entitled-20-somethings who think they are "woke" (they definitely aren't woke), they don't give a flying f\*\*k about their job or you, the poor-but-paying customer.   
   You place your order and then the guessing game begins:  
   Sometimes, the barista places your coffee at the bar on the right and sometimes its the bar on the left; sometimes they hand it to you straight away, but if you have to wait, they will only call your order if its been sitting on the counter for 5 minutes; the hot coffee has to get cold before you are made aware of your order being ready, apparently.  
   Even though the smug faces of the employees remind me of American genocide, I'll still go here because its the closest coffee place to my house. (2 stars)
3. Ah, 7 months after my Chicago trip and I'm finally doing a review on Intelligentsia.. whoops.   
     
   My boyfriend and I arrived in Chicago around noon time from what I remember, but we weren't able to check into the airbnb till 3pm so he looked up this coffee place in order to kill time. And my boyfriend is a coffee nut so Intelligentsia interested him with the good reviews.   
     
   Our Lyft driver dropped us off here and luckily the place wasn't packed with people so we were able to chill off to the side of the store with all our luggage. I ended up getting their matcha latte while my boyfriend opted for their coffee and we were able to use the free wifi offered here in order to look up more places to visit in Chicago.   
     
   The people working here were friendly and didn't seem annoyed that we were dragging in hella baggage which I'm grateful for because it was a cold day and if they had kicked us out... well, damn. But they didn't so yay.   
     
   My latte was a bit more bitter than what I was used to so I was a bit meh on it, but my boyfriend seemed to really enjoy their coffee. He even bought a few bags of their coffee bean when we went home to California, lol. (4 stars)
4. My old review needs an update.    
     
   Service speed has improved dramatically over time, which was a major gripe.  Service is usually pretty friendly, and I do like the layout of the store.  But seats aren't very kind to your tush, so don't plan to camp out too long. The outdoor space that the city plopped on Milwaukee is pretty cool and is a nice place to camp out when the weather is nice.  
     
   Coffee and pastries are good.  For sure a step up from Starbucks, but coffee is definitely not in the top 3 in the city.   
     
   If you are feeling decadent, have the milkshake.  Its out of this world. (4 stars)
5. So apparently Intelligentsia is all the rage and I had no idea there was one 2 blocks from my apartment (I think paying for coffee is stupid). We were walking to the Starbucks on Division and my boyfriend stopped dead in his tracks when he saw there was an Intelligentsia.   
     
   His drink: Mocha Latte with a cute heart shaped pattern thing (whatever that is called)  
   My drink: Chi Latte  
     
   Vote: His was better right off the bat. I didn't care much for mine so I stuck it in the fridge and it was GREAT as a cold latte (I tend to like my caffeine cold anyway)  
     
   Consensus: Maybe I'll be back but again, I have a hard time justifying paying $5 for a coffee when I have my k cups at home. This is no dig on the establishment just not really my thing. But this place is ALWAYS busy which means they are doing something right. (4 stars)
6. I'm not a coffee drinker so my review might be a bit skewed since it's a coffeeshop.   
   Instead of coffee I got a match latte which was gorgeous but the flavor was a lacking. It wasn't that sweet and an almost overpowering matcha taste which gave it a bitter aftertaste. I did end up drinking it all because it cost $6.  The place itself is very cute however. Great for getting some work done with big windows that let in a lot of natural light. It's smaller and quieter like most coffee shops and despite the latte I would definitely come again! (3 stars)
7. Bad customer services good coffee. Really like the decor.   
     
   Bread is pretty good. Cold brew coffee is my go to (2 stars)
8. There is no better coffee in the world than Intelligentsia. I'm sure that Kopi Luwak is great, but I don't wanna pay $100 to eat monkey poop. The absolute best is Flecha Roja, which is normally in season around may thru December. This coffe is so delicious, it has a sweet finish that requires no sugar or cream to bastardize perfection.  
   The Barisatas are all helpful when you want to try new bean selections, and they make the perfect espresso.  
   The location is steps from the Division St Blue Line, and they also have parking. The inside is a beautiful combination of glass, cement, and wood interiors. More importantly, they have free wifi, and plenty of seating to lounge around. (5 stars)
9. I can't believe I just paid $4.50 for a middle-of-the road ice coffee . This place would do well to charge more reasonable prices. (3 stars)
10. $9 for a 12 oz drip and a pastry.    
    I could get a full diner breakfast, omelet,  hash browns, toast and a bottomless coffee for $10. And don't cast me off as someone who just doesn't get coffee culture. I get it. ( 2 stars)
11. I love their space. But I am just not into the fact that I have to pay above $5 for coffee. Once I got a cold matcha and I nearly paid $8 with tips.   
      
    In term of the drinks, I had better ones elsewhere.( 3 stars)
12. Loved the interior design, friendly and quick service. Some coffee beverages can be improved over others though.  
      
    Ordered a 12oz Soy Latte and loved it! The foam on top was light and fluffy. The Soy Milk shined through the espresso flavors wonderfully. The Latte was smooth and just warmed me up perfectly! I enjoyed my Soy Latte until the very last drop!   
      
    The Cold Brew we also ordered was just alright. It wasn't as strong as the others we have had at all. Even before the ice melted, the cold brew was already very diluted and just didn't pack the punch like other cold brews. The flavors weren't very robust, but it was refreshing! This cold brew was more easy to drink in comparison to others, so if that's what you're looking for, an iced coffee, then this is for you. (4 stars)
13. You really can't call Intelligentsia pretentious just because the baristas have dark rimmed glasses and beards.  Or because the coffee is $4.00+ per cup.  Or because the seating area has a minimalist, void feeling.  You just can't.  
      
    The baristas are nice and properly described the seasonal mocha to us, which was made with a little bit of malt powder.  They also answered my friend's 1,000 questions about where they buy their white coffee cups, and what could she order to get her drink in one?  
      
    The seasonal mocha was outstanding.  Coffee here is made with TLC.  The chairs in the seating area are deceptively comfortable.  The pistachio croissant was okay, a few dollars too expensive, but damn I was hungry.  
      
    I felt a proper caffeine buzz several hours later.( 5 stars)
14. I had a mixed experience here today. I got a latte, which was VERY good. Zero complaints on that (except that the latte art wasn't as impressive as other Intelligentsia locations, but that's total nitpicking and has nothing to do with the great taste). We also were able to find seating right away in the middle of the day on a Saturday, which is something that's usually pretty difficult to do in Wicker Park. Additionally, we were in close enough distance to an outlet to plug in. Score!   
      
    However, there were a few issues, the largest of which was that it was very cold inside. Today was warmer than it's been most of the winter so far (about 40 degrees), so I wonder if they thought they didn't need to have the heat on anymore due to it being relatively warmer. Whatever the case was, it was very drafty and uncomfortable. Maybe we had the worst of it being under some kind of vent with a fan, but we had to wear our coats inside for the few hours we spent here while working on our laptops. I noticed that the people sitting next to us also had their coats on. Also (and this isn't as big of a deal), but the space is sort of cramped and awkward particularly when power chords are involved. There were two women in there with strollers and I had to unplug my chord so they could get by. I'm not quite sure why the outlets aren't underneath the tables.   
      
    All in all, it was an A-OK experience. Assuming the cold temperature was just a one-time, irregular time, then I would totally come back. My latte was honestly fantastic, and being able to find a seat with ease something I really value. If the temperature is all good the next time I return, then I'll update my review. (3 stars)
15. Supposedly decent coffee but terrible rude service and inconsistent delivery. Would probably give even fewer stars were it not for their reputation. (3 stars)
16. Visiting Intelligentsia has become a routine on my days off from work.    
      
    I discovered this location when I was looking at several properties in the West Town/Wicker Park neighborhoods.  If you often feel the ones in the loop area are too crowded and lack sufficient seating, this Intelligentsia has along-the-wall indoor and outdoor bench seating, a plenty of lighting through large windows, and friendly and gregarious baristas.    
      
    Their iced chai was done right, so was Daddy J.'s Americano.  This probably is my favorite Intelligentsia location, for its conveniently located within walking-distance from the CTA Division Blue Line station, #9 (Ashland), #56 (Milwaukee), and #70 (Division) buses.  Therefore, north-siders, west-siders, and south-siders are all certainly welcome.    
      
    Their decors and choices of furniture are simple, modern, and space-conscious.  Come, enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, and relax your mind!  Patronizing Intelligentsia is the most inexpensive retail therapy one can have in the city: all you need is $5. ( 4 stars)
17. Without a doubt this is my favorite coffee shop in Chicago. I love their iced oat milk lattes! The baristas are the best; they remember my order and exactly how I like each drink I order from there. The iced matcha with oat milk and honey is another great option if you don't want coffee! (5 stars)
18. First time stopping by and I must say it will be my last the red head cashier was just plan rude not friendly at all! ( 1 stars)
19. A coffee shop in my neighborhood (Wicker Park) with a parking lot? Count me in!   
    I started visiting this place based on the simple fact that they had a place for me to park and it has quickly a weekly visit for me.  The folks that run this location are attentive, friendly and always care to ask me how my day is going no matter how busy they are.  It's nice to see this level of personalism with a company like Intelligentsia that has really blown up exponentially over the years.  If you get here early enough to get a spot (seating is slightly limited), it's a nice space to to do work - their interior is really inviting and warm.  I love this spot. ( 5 stars)
20. I was so excited to finally try Intelligentsia coffee after hearing about them for years.  I arrived early Sunday morning on Mother's Day and they were giving away a free flower to all women ... Either to recognize them as mothers or to give it to their mothers.  This is a thoughtful touch. The cafe itself is bright, open, and have a few tables and chairs to sit.  In general, great atmosphere and their service was friendly enough.   
      
    The barista helped me choose the right coffee for me as i described my preferred type... Medium Bold with low acidity.  I got the coffee and walked out the door when I took my first sip.  It ... Was not good.  It was quite confusing.  It was heavily diluted while still having a strong vinegar note and a slight bitter note.  I gave it to my friend to try and seeing their reaction, I knew this wasn't my imagination.  I attempted to drink it again and couldn't.  I eventually opened the cup and noticed there was a decent amount of grinds and yet somehow the coffee was light in colour.  I'm sure this was a mistake ... I ended up throwing it away after the 2 sips.  We ended up going to gaslight roasters down the street.  They had a good coffee but their service wasn't good.  
      
    Perhaps I'll give intelligentsia another chance next time but it's hard when you have Bowtruss and Caffe Umbria as its competitors. (2 stars)

**WORD FREQUENCY**

coffee 45

latte 13

friend 9

service 7

location 5

cup 5

space 4

matcha 4

interior 3

atmosphere 3

chair 3

mocha 3

experience 2

outlet 2

neighborhood 2

ear 2

Wi-Fi 2

seat 2

improv 2

decor 2

espresso 2

Overview: Majority of reviews mentioned something about the quality or type of coffee. Secondly, the next highest word frequencies are focusing on the ambiance with talking about the social environment (“friends”) and welcoming environment (“service”). There must also be some value placed on the location of the café with respect to other cafés because there was a high number of reviews that used the word “location”

## BUCKTOWN

### Ipsento 606

1813 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, IL 60647

Bucktown

https://ipsento.com/

(872) 206-8697

Total Reviews: 192

Overall Score: 4.5

Reviews:

1. Went here on a hot day after walking the 606. The iced vanilla latte and nutella latte were exactly what we needed. They were made right in front of us and tasted delicious.  
     
   The staff was quite nice, one of them talked us in to trying their mini donuts (spoiler: they were delicious). We tried the cinnamon sugar and the orange lemon. Super small, but they are called mini donuts. If you go after 4pm, they're half price as well!  
     
   The atmosphere is really cool in there. Most people had their laptops out and were working by the open windows. Limited seating, but we found a place at the bar. I highly recommend. (5 stars)
2. Jacking'em up to a four star because at the end of the day i like them and real happy they're in my hood.  
     
   Still question their level of hygiene. Last week went there twice. Both my dog and I liked what we got (he got croissants) ...  
     
   Coffees reasonably good, and done nicely.  
   Staff, very nice.  
   Location fabulous. ( 4 stars)
3. Really great vibes here! It's a great space with warm dark wooden finishes and lots of natural light- great for getting work done. The only thing to keep in mind is that it gets loud! They blast the music so it was a little hard for me to hear myself think, even though I usually love doing work at coffee shops.   
   Aside from that, the coffee is great! I had an herbal-tasting latte with almond milk which was very good. They also have mini donuts! I usually don't like donuts at all but these were made from sweet potato and I had to try. I think the one I tried was orange with cardamom and it was super soft and a perfect texture.   
   What's cool about ipsento is that it has a bar too! It's a great place to come hang or catch up with friends, but when it comes to working, only come if you're able to drown out loud sounds! (4 stars)
4. Some of the best coffee Chi-town has to offer.  This particular location is right next to a great little park and Bloomingdale Trail.  Very convenient for a relaxing morning! ( 5 stars)
5. Ipsento has great coffee with creative latte options and AMAZING mini donuts. The staff was really nice and it has a chill atmosphere. I brought my laptop to do some work on a Sunday afternoon where it was really packed. There is limited seating where I had to wait a little bit before I was able to sit at a table.  
     
   I ordered the rose cardamom latte and half a dozen mini donuts. I want to be able to tell you what my favorite flavor donut was but each one was just so good. The latte? So good. A part of me wants to be fancy and be able to describe the amazing aroma/delicious flavors but you know what? Unnecessary because it was just so. very. good. You just need to try it for yourself. I highly, highly recommend this coffee shop and I am definitely coming back. ( 5 stars)
6. This place has great chai latte made with whole milk of course. Also has a friendly vibe from the staff that is very welcoming.   
     
   The ambience is also nicely laid out with plenty of tables to do work and strong wi-fi. ( 5 stars)
7. Best latte I've ever had. Treat yourself with their Nutella almond milk latte. There's space to work or meet with a friend. They have cocktails too if you want a first date spot. Right underneath the 606 so you can walk after. (5 stars)
8. Overall this was one of the nicer cages I've been to around Chicago. This is one of their few locations in the city featuring their mini bitesized doughnuts in several flavors.  
     
   I decided to try their seasonal basil mint mocha drink and I was very surprised by how well everything mixed together and tasted. The latte art was prime and looked very well crafted. Overall one of my hands down favorite cafes I've been to around Chicago.   
     
   The actual scene was quiet more in the early afternoon, but got more louder as more people came in. Seating was pretty rough and got pretty crowded. There wasn't too many spots to sit to get work done but the wifi had pretty good speeds. The cafe got pretty loud and somewhat distracting but this was a Saturday afternoon/evening. ( 5 stars)
9. It is the best latte I've ever had. The roast on the coffee is full bodied, smoky and mellow. Good dairy, chunky ice cubes and a jar.  
   Peaceful, groovy vibe inside the join (5 stars)
10. Very good coffee drinks and breakfast sandwiches served by unhelpful people who don't smile. (3 stars)
11. Ordered a mocha from here. It was very creamy and delicious. One of the best mochas I've tasted! The atmosphere is great for working or even just socializing with friends. (5 stars)
12. One of the absolute cutest coffee shops I've been to in Chicago!  
      
    We came at happy hour and both really enjoyed our drinks. I got one with beets and my friend got a twist on a mojito. I really liked the spices in mine and appreciated the subtle beet taste. The mojito was also great and so creative!   
      
    We also tried the mini donuts. This is the only thing I didn't absolutely love. We got the Ipsento and the chocolate but they were both too spiced for me.   
      
    However I definitely still look forward to coming back and trying more creative coffee drinks or cocktails!! (4 stars)
13. Wow! This place is a must go. My friend took me here after an amazing reflexology session and I was already in a good mood but this place's latte made my day even better.   
      
    I decided to go with the Nutella latte, because who can resist that? My friend had the ipsento latte and we got two mini donuts that were the donut versions of our drinks. The Nutella latte was nothing short of amazing; it was sweet and tasted just like Nutella and gave me the perfect afternoon pick me up kick. I tried the ipsento latte and it too was delicious. It is made with cayenne and coconut and the combination creates a smooth and slightly spicy and slightly sweet taste. The mini donuts were also sooo good. I just wish they were bigger!   
      
    The atmosphere of this place is clean and modern and they also serve beer and other alcoholic beverages. Many people were studying while we were there.   
      
    The cashier who took care of us was friendly and helpful and not pretentious at all, which was great, since this seemed like it might be the place for pretentious people.   
      
    The only small complaint I have is that in  the restroom that I used the hand dryer wasn't working. Other than that, I was in love with this place! (5 stars)
14. I'm dropping two stars, yes two, because of Ipsento's "no laptop rule" after 7 p.m. I would respect the Ipsento team so much more if they allowed me to be in a social environment and work and drink wine on a Friday night - as sometimes one must do. It's very unusual to prohibit your customers from enjoying your space in a way that makes them comfortable! Sometimes, forced trendiness disappoints.   
      
    That in mind - Ipsento has great coffee, there is no question. And if you are dropping in to grab a latte to go, you won't be disappointed. If you're looking for a spot to sit down and read or do some work, there is sufficient seating considering the size of the shop, however it's not comfortable. Only one of the tables has chairs with back support - all other seating options are stools. Not a huge deal, but worth keeping in mind when weighing your coffee shop options. (3 stars)
15. What Ipsento is doing in the city of chicago is pretty awesome. They are bringing the coffee to the people literally and allowing people to be a part of their success by crowdfunding their hopeful expansion.   
      
    This location is very close to their other one, but offers a much more modern feel. The other a lot more cozy and I'd say more conducive when you're trying to get work done. Each cup of coffee here can be made in the style that you prefer. Really nice that it's nearby the 606, I only wish I discovered it when the weather was warmer. Luckily, that seems to be around the corner. Very much recommend this place to coffee lovers, also check out their lil mini doughnuts. ( 5 stars)
16. Based on one visit:  
      
    Good coffee but super slow service. It took nearly 10 minutes after ordering to get my cappuccino. Not worth it for me. (3 stars)
17. Being a fresh meat in chi city, I was the classic hipster looking for the best coffee in the city. I was so happy to found Ipsento 606.  
      
    Amazing selection of coffee - each cup stands up for itself and there is a wide variety of good coffee.  
      
    \*) The nutella latte had the perfect amount of nutella sweetness without overpowering the taste of coffee.  
      
    \*) The ipsento latte is no standard latte. I love that they spiked it with spices for a unique kick.  
      
    \*) Cold brew is my go to work coffee and Ipsento's did not disappoint. It's refreshing with the perfect amount of acidity - just perfect for my taste.  
      
    I have to give honorable mention to their donuts. They are in adorable mini size, with the perfect amount of sweetness. My favorites are the earl grey and maple donuts.  
      
    I live on the opposite side of Ipsento, but because they are the kind of coffee shop that are equipped with both the love of coffee and the passion for community, I can't help but to find an excuse to swing by. (5 stars)
18. Conveniently located at a 606 entrance, this coffee shop has plenty of stools available Sunday at midday, and the line was only 2 people deep! Prices are reasonable for a coffee bar, and they do serve food till 4pm, desserts, and alcohol! No laptops after 7pm, and the music is a bit loud to be listening to lectures, otherwise I will definitely come back when studying!  
      
    Most importantly, their coffee selection is fantastic, and they do have pour overs till 3pm! Definitely check this place out! I loved my Ipsento latte, a perfect blend of sweet and spicy (it's just a touch of cayenne), well done! (4 stars)
19. Great coffee- chill vibe where you're not overwhelmed with picking what coffee/espresso to order-   
      
    Friendly staff who really cares about their coffee craft. Enough tables to go around for you to grab you laptop and work while enjoying your coffee.  
      
    Cute little donut treats for $1 each and couple of pastries as well.   
      
    I tried their pumpkin patch latte (now available)- you can taste the pumpkin come through (no artificial flavors) and no need to add anything else. Sweet enough to perfectly balance the pumpkin and latte flavors come through.   
      
    My boyfriend always orders the Western (ice coffee with some orange essence flavor)   
      
    It's not a quick in and out like a Starbucks but you wait for good coffee- patience is key. It's worth the wait! ( 4 stars)
20. I came here with a friend around 1PM on a weekday, and it was quite empty. I got a hibiscus berry cold tea and an ipsento donut. I also had half the hibiscus donut. The tea was quite average but good, and the donut was really small. Flavor could have been bolder for sure for the donuts; the frosting on the hibiscus didn't really taste like anything. It was also really expensive; each tiny donut was $1 and the tea was $4. And lots of ice in the cup. They serve the tea in jars though which is nice. I do like the ambience of the place! (3 stars)

**WORD FREQUENCY**

**coffee 31**

**latte 23**

**donut 19**

**work 15**

**friend 10**

**laptop 5**

**atmosphere 4**

**tea 4**

**delicious 4**

**creative 3**

**space 3**

**modern 2**

**comfortable 2**

**study 2**

**ambience 2**

**community 1**

Overview: Majority of reviews mentioned something about the quality or type of coffee or pastry (coffee, latte, donut). Secondly, the next highest frequency is placed on ambiance. The words “work” and “friend” highlight the importance placed by consumers on the café’s conducive atmosphere to doing work and meeting up with individuals to be social. The prevalence of the word “laptop” also implies a similar idea about the café ambiance.

### Gaslight Coffee Roasters

2385 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, IL 60647

Bucktown

<https://gaslightcoffeeroasters.com/>

Total Reviews: 265

Overall Score: 4.0

Reviews:

1. Gaslight - the coffee shop designed for the everyday poet! I'm not kidding, this is probably the only coffee shop in chicago where you feel like you just want to write the book you always wanted to write. That's what their coffee will do to you - it'll make you creative with tons of inspiration flowing in your brain as you slowly drink their delicious coffee.  
   The scenery is also very inviting and the staff are very kind and helpful.   
     
   If you do come here, I strongly suggest you start with their latte. I've chosen to call it: the cheerful poet! Because you always feel like writing something cheerful as you drink it. :) (5 stars)
2. This place has very great service!  
     
   It's at a very convenient location and the tea is awesome. ( 5 stars)
3. It's good coffee but it's a little bit overpriced. We're in Logan Square, what can I say, if ya can't beat em, join em. The coffee is just well prepared at Gaslight, right down to the soda-water accompaniment.  
     
   I've had many almond milk lattes and double espressos from here, and the water is the right temperature, and the milk is perfectly frothed (almond milk is notoriously difficult to froth amiright?).  
     
   Just check it out and if you don't like it you don't have to come back. But they care, and so so I. ( 4 stars)
4. Hands down one of my favorite coffee shops, ever. The baristas know their stuff, make a good cup of coffee, and are so nice.   
     
   The decor is super cool too. It's a good place to get work done, read a book, or just people watch.   
     
   They have a limited food menu, but it's all good! I recommend anything on it.   
     
   If you're in the area, stop in, get an Americano, and enjoy what this shop has to offer. (5 stars)
5. I tend to hold cafe's to a higher standard, I'm from Brooklyn (of the New York variety) and I would be arrogant enough, yet justified in saying, we have the best coffee shops in the world. I believe the success of a cafe can be attributed to a few rudimentary but greatly overlooked qualities - it's just coffee, not magic. I meannn what is the hiring process at THIS coffee shop? There must be stipulations in order to be employed as a hipster barista here, you must 1. Be apathetic to anything and everything, 2. Be so soft spoken and quiet that people could only hear you by summoning demons from the Necronomicon and ask them WTF you just said, 3. Detest any and every MALE that walks into the café who isn't, Anton LaVey, H.P. Lovecraft, or Barbra Streisand, and 4. Practice witchcraft daily. What is it that we all love about coffee shops? It's really simple actually, strong but delicious coffee, good music, a warm and welcoming atmosphere with interesting and/or attractive people. The "coffee" could vaguely be called as such because it tasted more like someone who just drank real coffee peed into a cup, which mind you was only equally as warm but not nearly as flavorful. And although the awkward mortuary like atmosphere in this shop encourages absolute funeral-like-silence and stillness, you are made to stand up, walk over to the counter (with the judgmental barista overlooking their work like Rasputin above the Gulag) pick up the urine-like-substance, and as if you are a monkey on a circus tightrope, carefully walk back to your micro sized table meticulously carrying an overly full cup of said pee-coffee, clanking and spilling all the way back. All this whilst, of course, everyone stares at you in disgust and disdain, a problem perhaps easily solved if the music wasn't going on and off as if the Witch baristas were in a collective seance communicating with dead customers who had previously drank their pee-coffee, but instead only managed to channel terrible MGMT songs through a sound system that someone donated to goodwill in 1997. I have certainly been gaslighted, I left questioning my own sanity, like Macbeth being called by the coven of WITCHES, as well as feeling like I was severely molested (and ironically I happen to be catholic). (1 stars)
6. Came here to get some work done after an online article recommended it. Cheap coffee, definitely hipster, and good for work if you don't need WiFi. WiFi is horrible. (3 stars)
7. Coffee shops in Logan Square are a dime a dozen, much like bars around here. However, because of it's easy to find location, Gaslight stands out which gave me enough of a reason to stop by and take a load off.   
     
   Very great tasting coffee here, at an affordable price. A lot of seating too, although it's always fairly crowded here, so good luck finding a seat! This is not the best cafe to do any work, as it can get a little loud up in here. (3 stars)
8. What I like about it:  
   - Quiet atmosphere but not so quiet that if you are talking with a group of friends, you will be uncomfortable. Just be sure you're not talking super loudly and disturbing people.  
   - Natural light (sometimes can get too bright)  
   - OK coffee (nothing to write home about, but not bad at all)  
     
   What I dislike about it:  
   - The pastries look good, but are not actually very good. The croissant we got was not flaky but rather kind of hard and brittle. It looked like it was a little old. (4 stars)
9. Sophisticated, unique and expensive beans in simple prep (meaning no crazy syrups and lattes).  Plenty of seating that is easily filled with few turn around.  Humans warming the light grey steel seats with their laptops. (ToT) Some park their bikes inside.  Got lock?  
     
   SERVICE is quick, attentive and fool proof.  Clean and organized VENUE.  
     
   NOTE:  Rust inside washable tin WATER CUP is a design style.  My heart skipped a beat.  It's fully glazed/sealed and you don't feel the bottom rust at all.  A life (water) and death (rust) concept in a cup? (5 stars)
10. Wow! What a lovey coffee joint in the middle of Logan Square. I saw this place from the Blue Line as I as riding from the airport during a delay and had to stop in for a coffee.   
      
    The store is located on a great corner street with huge front windows overlooking a great street view. Not only that, the interior is chic and modern with a hipster twist. Their menu is professional and thorough and their baristas are skilled.   
      
    I enjoyed a great pour over while I relaxed and passed some time. Stop in and enjoy this place! ( 5 stars)
11. Awesome decor, awesome seating, awesome latte.   
      
    I really loved hanging at this coffee shop, but I will say my overall impression was on their quality roast. I loved how smooth their coffee/latte's were! I was super impressed with the whole experience and the neighborhood.   
      
    Also, found free parking! SCORE.   
      
    The music was a little loud as others have stated. (4 stars)
12. Excellent coffee and environment, great taste and flavor.  One of our favorite stops when going back to Chicago.  No wonder the Chicago Tribune featured them in today's newspaper.  One of Chicago's finest, check it out! ( 5 stars)
13. Cool coffee shop, interesting loft design, good looking latte.  
    Friendly staff, cute pastry (though I didn't have any but they look delicious!) good ambient music. Great place to escape home to read a book.  
    Thank you for supporting 2A (5 stars)
14. The ambience here is very modern and pretty. It's a really nice place to sit and enjoy yourself...if you can find a seat. Can be pretty hard to find a seat on the weekend.   
    The baristas are always friendly, and the coffee is good. But I think my favorite aspect is the food menu. It's very unique, not what you normally see at coffee shops. I think the menu may change sometimes, but one time I was there we actually had a small charcuterie plate. Pretty cool for a coffee shop! (4 stars)
15. By far the best coffee shop I've ever been to. The baristas are NOT your stereotypical mean coffee hipster snobs - they are SO NICE. I love this place... (5 stars)
16. Great beans, fast service, and a beautiful spot with lots of natural light and seating space! We picked up some beans to bring home with us - love the packaging with the wax seal! ( 4 stars)
17. I'm a bit of a coffee shop snob after having explored so many in Brooklyn while I was studying for my MCAT, and since moving back to Chicago, I've been searching for my favorite spots. Well let me tell you, this happens to be one of them. Not only does Gaslight roast their own coffee in house, but their small food menu and selection of pastries is quite enticing.  
      
    I've gotten lattes, drip coffee, iced coffee, and iced tea here, and I haven't been disappointed. The only disappointment is the price, but that's pretty common for a small local shop. They do have free WiFi with outlets and it's a great spot to get some work done if you can snag one of the tables near the outlets ;) I also ordered a grilled cheese and tomato soup the other day, and the tomato soup has a really pleasant spice to it and the grilled cheese came on a really delicious parmesan-encrusted bread with perfectly melty cheese on the inside. It's definitely pricey at $14 for a grilled cheese and tomato soup, but the portion is large, the depth of the soup bowl makes for easy dipping, and it was more gourmet than your standard can of Campbell's with white bread/american cheese grilled cheese.  
      
    The service has always been good - fast and friendly. And you can tell this is definitely a neighborhood spot, with lots of regulars, and lots of employees high-fiving each other and the patrons that come in! Great experience overall.  
      
    You can see pictures/stories on my Instagram @afoodiegoescleanish (5 stars)
18. Wow!!! Let the discerning rejoice. This Chicago highlight has all the 3rd wave coffee goodness you crave with a total neighborhood feel. This is the perfect marriage of roasters and baristas who know what they are doing. Though I will say more, if you are trying to pick your one stop for coffee in Chi-town look no further.  
      
    Let's start with the ambience. Right when you walk in you feel like you are right where you want to be. Cozy wood colors, lower light (but not dim), appropriate levels of music and the steady singing of steam wands and high end grinders. With about 6 or 7 individual tables, two bar areas and a shared community picnic style table, there is plenty of seating.   
      
    And get this - FREE WIFI AND POWER OUTLETS. All the snobby goodness of the coffee with no one glaring at you for posting up for a work day (but do the right thing and keep buying coffee the longer you sit).  
      
    The baristas were kind, engaging and helpful. Their recommendations were spot on (my Colombian Chimex was spot on!!!).   
      
    The place was super clean, had two spotless bathrooms and a steady (but never overbearing) stream of customers.   
      
    They offer a drip coffee, but if you have the time spring for the Chimex. The espresso drinks are also killer and expertly executes. Tea? Hot chocolate? Yes! They can accommodate you.   
      
    Get here. ( 5 stars)
19. Good coffee shop studying location, lots of seating areas consisting of long communal bench, numerous small tables to share w/ one other person, and counter seats. Lots of outlets around the area to charge your laptop. WiFi is a tad slow. The place is a bit dimly lit but it has lots of natural lighting coming in. Thus, once the sun disappears, it can be a tad bit dark to study in, which may or may not work in your preference. Noise level is average.  
      
    Coffee is good and decently priced. Workers are helpful and attentive. Very hipster place. Love their decors. Ample street parking that are metered/free. ( 4 stars)
20. Tried this place while visiting Chicago. It's a great coffee shop, as others have described, very spacious which makes it a nice coffee shop for studying.   
      
    It has a variety of table arrangements which are even suitable for larger groups.   
      
    My latte was perfect, didn't need any sugar or anything added to it which is always a good sign.   
      
    Kitchen closes early (at around 3pm) so if you want food, be sure to order it early ( 4 stars)

**WORD FREQUENCY**

**Coffee 42**

**shop 19**

**place 11**

**baristas 7**

**hipster 5**

**Wi-Fi 5**

**latte 4**

**service 4**

**location 3**

**neighborhood 3**

**cafe 3**

**book 3**

**atmosphere 3**

**tea 3**

**laptop 2**

**experience 2**

**modern 2**

**quality 2**

Overview: Majority of reviews mentioned something about the quality or type of coffee. The next highest frequency was given to the word shop which implies importance placed on the shop/ purchasing opportunities offered by the shop. The importance of the words “barista, hipster and Wi-Fi” highlight the consumers’ importance placed on store ambiance and service.

**ambience 2**

Corporate /Utilitarian Neighborhood

## LOOP

### Intelligentsia

Monadnock Building, 53 W Jackson Blvd, Chicago, IL 60604

Loop

<https://www.intelligentsiacoffee.com/monadnock-coffeebar>

Total Reviews: 1136

Overall Score: 4.0

Reviews:

1. I'm a big fan of Intelligentsia and this is one of my favorite locations of theirs. Tucked into a historical Chicago building it has awesome old timely ambiance. That is until you go to order and are met with all the latest trends in artisan coffee.   
     
   They certainly don't disappoint with their beverages. A beautifully crafted coffee, an oat milk chai, iced tea, and other treats. You can't go wrong. (4 Stars)
2. Anytime I come to Chicago, usually a stop to an Intelligentsia happens. While it is one of the larger 3rd wave coffee chains, I still find they produce a great cup of coffee and are consistent.   
     
   Stopped here for a quick cup to go and was not disappointed. They have a two pour over options and only one brewed ahead of time. Good variety of beans, Ethiopian, El Salvador, and a Kenya. (4 stars)
3. Excellent coffee, good atmosphere.   
   Quality food.. what more does one want before they start the day:)  
   Will be back. Thanks for great service (4 stars)
4. Was in Chicago for a conference and went to Intelligista in the mornings for a coffee and pastry (3 visits).  I've been to other outlets mainly in Los Angeles and intelligista is one of my favorite specialty coffee chains.  
     
   My rating is based on the following:   
     
   Coffee: 4.5 stars  
   Coffee beans: 3.5 stars  
   Service and atmosphere: 5 stars  
   Food: 4 stars  
     
   I tried the chocolate croissant as well as the ham and cheese pastry. Of the two I would recommend the ham and cheese pastry.   
     
   I am a black coffee drinker and had the pour over with what ever beans they were brewing on hand that day.  During that time period it was mainly beans from the South American region. I prefer African beans with more acidity and fruit flavor to the smooth and nuttiness of a Columbian coffee.   
     
   Coffee as in other locations was good and the staff is friendly and helpful with recommendations. Given   
     
   I purchased beans both the Peru and Persephone blend.  Can't really recommend these beans. They aren't bad per say but nothing special and was a bit disappointed when I started using these at home. ( 4 stars)
5. Stopped by after coming in on the train, looking for some yummy coffee to warm me up. This place delivered! The art on my mocha was beautiful and the mocha tasted delicious! The taste is a perfect balance between chocolate and coffee! (5 stars)
6. I think the staff are really nice and knowledgeable. That brought me from a 3 Star to 4 Star experience. I had the La Tortuga, which was smooth and not too acidic. Almost a hint of chocolate taste? I could be totally wrong, but it's what I personally taste. Was it phenomenal? Not really... Would I come back? Maybe if I was in the area and needed a casual coffee fix. It's a chic place with a nice ambiance. (4 stars)
7. TLDR: Was great for a quick coffee.  
   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
     
   Waiting for breakfast a block away dropped in here for a coffee while I waited  
     
   I'm basic, so I always go with a vanilla latte. I actually forgot to add vanilla to it and they were kind enough to add it later and didn't up charge me. Super cool of them. I think they make the vanilla in house - it was a super good and well done latte.  
     
   Nice wooden shelves (bar) with wooden stools. Cool decor. They had really cool art . The posters were like a maze where you have a start and finish and also snapshots of famous sites around town. (5 stars)
8. We came here because we had time to burn before Halal Guys opened for lunch a couple blocks away and I'm glad we picked up coffee at intelligentsia. My vanilla latte was perfect--no complaints. Baristas here know their stuff! The interior is also really cool--a lot of people chilling here with laptops or reading books.   
     
   Only downside is that it's expensive! But...it is truly well-executed coffee.. (4 stars)
9. I got the tea which tasted great but over all there weren't many options and it seemed a bit over priced. It's cute, but it's not much. (3 stars)
10. Very good coffee but the barista take his job very seriously leading to long waits for your drink (4 stars)
11. I was visiting Chicago for work and decided to try this place out on Saturday morning. I heard they have a Geisha coffee, which is rare to find, so I walked the two miles from my hotel to try it out, only for the barista to tell his manager that he doesn't feel like making it.  There was no explanation as to why he didn't want to do it, and there wasn't a line, as I know that pour overs can be a time consuming process. They fumbled to make an alternative suggestion, but I simply left in frustration.  Plus one star for the unsuccessful attempt. (2 stars)
12. This matcha latte was $8 (& some change) :( yes I get it, it was probably good quality matcha and they encouraged me to try it with oat milk but I just cannot justify $8 for a SMALL portion of matcha. I would prefer an extra large steaming hot cup that I can sip on for an extended period of time, not this shooter glass. Also because of this price I was discouraged to get a pastry and to be completely honest I walked straight into Dunkin' next door after this and got my usual wake up wrap and iced coffee because I felt so unfulfilled. Got a good insta story tho! (2 stars)
13. Great place to get a coffee and snacks. I was super curious about the name. I had a butter croissant, Havana cold brew and chai mata latte. I loved taking a little break from exploring the city. The coffee was good and was much needed. Stop by if you see one :) (4 stars)
14. Consistently great coffee at all Intelligentsia Coffee cafe!  
      
    Rich, intense, aromatic and smooth flat white. Just the right balance of milk and coffee. Their barristers never failed to make my day with their coffees! Beautiful in execution, balance and presentation. (5 stars)
15. Got the cold brew. It was good, but not great.  
    I am nitpicky with my cold brew. For me, it needs to be smooth without much acidity while having nutty caramel notes.  
      
    The acidity of the cold brew left an unsatisfying aftertaste in my mouth.  The coffee just needed some more milk before I could enjoy it. If cold brew require's milk to ease the acid, then cold brew is not the best IMO. (4 stars)
16. If you are looking for good coffee but willing to pay a pretty penny for it, come here. The menu offers your staples and some more adventurous drinks. The only milk alternative available is oat milk, first I was scared but actually was pleasantly surprised. There's an assortment of treats and pastries that taste as good as they look. Overall this place feels as smart as the name makes it sound. (4 stars)
17. I absolutely love their Limelight! It is a seasonal drink, but boy does it have a nice tangy kick to it! Never knew coffee and lemon could be a great combination. The cafe is small and inviting. Noticeably great for work/studying as it was quiet and had several tables. Will be back for my limelight when I'm in the area! ( 5 stars)
18. Solid coffee shop with a cool vibe. Open space with room for studying or reading--it probably seats around 25 people. Outside seating is available. Overall good experience. The coffee itself was pretty good--they roast their own beans which is always a plus, considering they have control over their flavors. The only reason I gave it four stars is because I've had better coffee from other roasteries. With that being said, if you're just looking for a good cup of coffee, this will be a good experience. (4 stars)
19. I think Intellegentsia is the best coffee in the world. The spaces are always so cool and the baristas are beyond knowledgeable. This location is no different! The cool vibe inside matched the baristas. It may seem a little expensive but in my opinion its totally worth it. Once you try the vanilla latte, it'll be hard to go elsewhere.... ( 5 stars)
20. I was so impressed with this coffee joint. My friend and I came here while waiting to be seated for brunch close by, and I wanted a coffee. There was a fairly long line when we got in, and the store itself isn't too big so there's not much moving room.   
      
    My usual order is a vanilla soy latte, but the cashier recommended me oat milk so I decided to try that instead. Their coffee is SO good. I could definitely tell the difference in quality and the vanilla added the right amount of sweetness. My friend got a hot tea which came in a mini pot and a bowl to pour it in. It was so cute!  
      
    The only negative thing was that my coffee came out to $6 which is quite steep, but I didn't mind too much since I was on vacation. I don't know about spending that much on coffee on a regular basis though. (5 stars)

Word Frequency

coffee 41

brew 8

milk 8

latte 7

### Dollop

55 W Monroe St, Chicago, IL 60603

Loop

<https://dollopcoffee.com/>

Total Reviews: 47

Overall Score: 3.5

Reviews:

1. I work right in the building but I'm always here when there's a super long line so once I saw there wasn't a line then I went right in!  
     
   I know of the design studio (Firebelly Design) who branded this shop so I was already in love with the aesthetic.   
     
   I'm always on the search for coffee shops that offer great matcha. This one I can add to the list! They told me straight up that their matcha is unsweetened, but they have flavors that can sweeten the drink. There's a list by the cashier. I got ended up getting hazelnut. It was tasty.  
     
   It's nice that there's unsweetened matcha so if I am not feeling like sugar then I can get it without sugar. There's tons of places whose matcha is too sweet and I need to drink some water after to clear the sweet taste from my mouth. I didn't get that here! So bonus!  
     
   Overall, definitely worth going to! (4 stars)
2. This place has a lot of mosquitos inside, strangely enough.  
     
   Not kidding, during the day in the summer there are dozens of mosquitos swarming around inside around the tables where customers sit. You can see smashed mosquitos on the wall, and other mosquitos trapped(?) somehow hanging out. It's disturbing and disgusting. I've been here half a dozen times in the summer, and it's always the same. Never would have thought that MOSQUITOS would keep me from going to a coffee place. ( 1 stars)
3. Ok super annoyed with this place. Their coffee is fine not amazing not terrible.  
     
   I'm giving them 2 stars because of their stale ass bread.  I gave them a free pass the first time it happened. I got a sandwich and the bread was clearly toasted in an attempt to hide the staleness of the bread.  Today I got a bagel and again it was hard and stale and absolutely disgusting.  Went straight to the trash.  
     
   Thanks for ruining breakfast, Dollop. (2 stars)
4. I love Dollop Coffee. Why the two stars? This particular location is a HOT mess. Here's a few examples of why I feel this way and unfortunately, have to say goodbye to my every day spot...  
     
   They are continuously out of things, and by things I mean even basic necessities likes cups and lids. I order through my company's Ritual program, and if my order is not canceled because of something being out (why they keep things they are out of as an option on Ritual I don't know) it is given away to someone else. TWICE last week, I walk in and ask if the latte sitting there unattended is my latte (they don't speak to you unless you speak to them even if you are obviously waiting for quite some time) and was told that the person before me "stole" mine. A guy even walked back and gave me my drink after leaving. The barista didn't offer to remake it, ugh soooo gross! You would think they would check before someone takes a drink to make sure it is correct, but again, they don't communicate.   
     
   If my order hasn't been canceled or "stolen," it's not even made. I waited 15 min one time to finally get the barista's attention to ask about my drink. She said it was canceled, and then another barista checked to see that it was not. The helpful barista (at the register because the other was on her phone) finally made it, but all-in-all I lost almost 20 min on a latte that I ordered ahead of time. How the barista didn't notice me standing right there for that long trying to get her attention is beyond me, but I guess it has something to do with her constantly staring down at her screen in between drinks? I'm not the type to raise my voice or interrupt a conversation, but that must be the only way to get properly served at this location when ordering Ritual.  
     
   Today, my order was canceled twice. I didn't see the second cancellation and waited for 10+ min before I walked up to the barista at the register because the other barista was on her phone, per usual. I got a drink I didn't necessarily want, but honestly just wanted to get out of there. Got coconut milk, it was 100% SOUR and I guess another thing to add to the 86 list? I had to throw it away because it tasted like a mix of pool cleaner and the nail salon (idk, lol I was trying to figure the taste out but my body was like this super sour chemical liquid is bad news so I tossed it).   
     
   With all this being said, today I FINALLLYYYY decided to find another location. I know, I know. It took me long enough. I really wanted to brush these instances off because I love Dollop so much and it is so close to work, but with their lack of friendly customer service it is hard to overlook when it happens multiple times every week. You'd think I'd get a "sorry about that" but nah, lol. So, I've got to say farewell and sadly,... you won't be missed 55 W Monroe.  
     
   If you decide to stop by, don't use Ritual to do so and make a mental note that they might be out of a lot on their menu. Also, bring your own straws, cups, etc because there's a chance they will be out of that, too. ( 2 stars)
5. Dollop is an order at the counter coffee-shop with multiple locations south of the river in downtown Chicago. There are many coffee options including drips, pour-overs and an Impressive tea collection as well.  
     
   I had a drip coffee which was bold enough, though I still haven't had my fantasy dark, bold, non-acidic, not too bright coffee in Chicago.  
     
   My wife had the green jasmine tea which compared to the one she had yesterday which had a more jasmine/floral presence, this one was heavy on the green and not so much on the jasmine / floral. She remarked she could have just ordered a "green tea".  
     
   They have Vegetarian quiche available (which excite me) along with a veggie dandwich, and a Brie Sandwich with fig jam (also enticing to me a s vegetarian), but with biscuits on the menu, that's automatically the direction I default to. I had the egg and cheddar biscuit. I asked if they could make it with egg whites and they said "no", they get the eggs this way so it was a bit disappointing to me to learn the food was essentially not made to order. It also tasted a bit-reheated which is kind of obvious to tell with biscuits. It was also too hot when I received it...the cheddar cheese on it was over-melted and didn't have much of a taste. It tasted like I was getting biscuit and egg. Cheddar on a biscuit should be not quite so melted so the cheddar flavor shines through.  
     
   I'd give the place another try if I'm back in Chicago...but with so many options downtown it wouldn't be top on the go-to list. ( 3 stars)
6. I like the two Dollop locations in Streeterville and Gold Coast. This location was very disappointing - coffee was bitter, service was super slow, seating was minimal and uncomfortable. One of our drinks was handed over to us while leaking from the bottom and the barista could not be bothered to change the cup. (2 stars)
7. This is the second time I went and again they got my order wrong. When I told this the lady at the coffee machine she was even more upset with me complaining than I was with the messed up order.   
   I'll take the longer walk and go back to. Intelligentsia ( 1 stars)
8. Not he best coffee shop, first they got my order wrong and then  i got a spilled over espresso ( 2 stars)
9. Perfect. A cute and mostly comfortable coffee shop. I had a maple latte that was perfect in every way: taste, texture and temperature. It was just pretty. The standard coffee however was a bit bitter and crazy hot. I would likely return to give those bagels a try and I've heard great things about the chai latte!( 3 stars)
10. My first visit was last week. There was a problem with my order. Rather than post a negative review on Yelp, I contacted them. To my surprise, they responded immediately. And they made it right.   
      
    A sign of a place that cares about its customers. I will return.   
      
    Thanks Dollop. Much appreciated. ( 5 stars)
11. Poor service.  Ordered a pour over coffee today along w/ a 12oz bag of Kenya single origin.  I was told that I would get a free coffee with a purchase of a bag of beans.  I ended up getting charged the full amount for the pour over coffee.  I at least expected a credit for a small drip coffee.  The "barista" also did not know how to pour a cup of pour over coffee.  She probably poured 100 grams of water and then let it sit for over a minute.. helped customers.. poured another ~100 grams... let it sit for 2+ minutes.... and then came back and finished it off.  I feel that Dollop is not really a place for specialty coffee... ( 1 stars)
12. Stopped in and had a small latte. Very well executed. The only drawback is that it's served in a paper cup. I know it's part of the American culture but will never be able to get used to that. Ambiance is relaxed, nice view of Chase plaza from high stools, however,  not comfortable. Stools are made for a kindergarten, not even half of my buttocks fit on it and I'm not considered a big person. Maybe that's the strategy of the place, in and out. ( 3 stars)
13. Coffee was fine but they don't recycle anything! So much trash that doesn't need to be thrown away. Come on guys it's 2018 just get two cans. ( 1 stars)
14. This used to be one of my favorite places. The coffee is still pretty decent though a tad overpriced. But the real winner was he blueberry tea that they carried. Delicious just sweet enough blueberry tea. Dollop has wrongfully decided to switch to hibiscus tea. Now I normally like hibiscus but this tea was watered down and tasted like old gum that has been sitting in water for awhile. Do not get it. Bring back blueberry. ( 3 stars)
15. Oh Dollop, why must you have less locations than Starbuck's? Especially since you're incomparable. I must have you more frequently, but I guess 5 days a week will be sufficient for now.  
    But in all seriousness, Dollop is my favorite for a morning coffee run on my way to work or when I get a 15 minute break between working.   
    In a weird way, I tried to find a reason to not like this place since I don't have one close enough to home (the addiction is real).  
    The coffee is strong and the espresso is the most flavorful I have ever had. It is the only one that does not taste stale or burnt compared to the competitors. Also, this is the ONLY place I have ever ordered a latte from and it tasted more like espresso than it did milk. Heavenly! Which again, is why it is incomparable to any other coffee shop I have found in Chicago. I get withdrawals on Saturday and Sundays. ( 5 stars)
16. I craved a chicken pot pie one week. I settled for frozen. Unhappy with this, I moved on with my life. I went into this Dollop for a coffee as it is down the street from my office. I spotted chicken pot pie on the menu. I was shocked. I was upset! I had settled for frozen crap to get my fix. Alas, I was not hungry on this day. So I returned on another and got my pot pie of chicken. The meat, so fresh! The crust, so buttery! I've gotten it twice. I force myself to eat the side salad because I'm still hungry after guzzling the pie. But the salad is good too. I recommend this item!! ( 5 stars)
17. I needed a break from traditional coffee places in the Loop (i.e Starbucks and Dunkin) and stopped in at Dollop to give it a try. The hazelnut latte immediately caught my eye and I gave it a try. It was delicious! The coffee can be a little pricey, however it was nice to try something new.   
      
    The best part about Dollop is that it doesn't give off the chain vibe. Their baristas are super friendly and always seem to be striking up a conversation with the customers.   
      
    The location is great and the layout is different. The shop faces the street, which allows the shop to be well lit, while providing customers a chance to people watch. ( 4 stars)
18. Coffee is disquietingly sour and watery.   
    Quite too big for espresso and cup was super dirty. ( 1 stars)
19. Best thing to happen to 55 W Monroe in years - Dollop moving in! Staff is super friendly, knowledgeable and efficient. Your implementation of Oat Milk is the bees knees in my Honey Cinnamon Latte. Love chatting with the baristas in the afternoon about nothing in particular - and using the Ritual app in the morning to get my drink and go. I don't even have to leave the building! :) ( 5 stars)
20. I visited on a Tuesday afternoon.  The place was hopping with downtown employees and folks on their computers.  I ordered a cortado, one of my favorite drinks, and really enjoyed it.  The service was fast.  While I waited for my drink I struck up a conversation with who turned out to be the manager of this location as he straightened up items in the store.  Super nice and friendly guy :) This location has the equipment, coffee, and friendly and trained staff to make any visit a good visit. ( 4 stars)

Word Frequency

coffee 28

dollop 14

place 13

drink 11

location 10

latte 9

barista 9

## STREETERVILLE

### Dollop

345 E Ohio St, Chicago, IL 60611

Streeterville

https://dollopcoffee.com/

Total Reviews: 422

Overall Score: 4.0

Reviews:

1. The honey cinnamon latte is my favorite drink here. I recently got the Nutella mocha and was slightly disappointed by that one. It just wasn't as rich as I was hoping it to be.   
     
   They also have some food options, such as sandwiches, bagels and pastries. It's a great place to just stay all day to do some simple work.  
     
   I love that there is plentiful seating and many outlets for charging. The seats are a little bit uncomfortable, I have to admit. It is a little loud (with chatter and music), so maybe not the best place to go if you really want to concentrate. But it seems like a great place for group meetings, or if you like some buzz in the background while you work.   
     
   I love the large windows, the bright and cozy feeling interior. It's also great that they still open until 7 even on weekends. ( 4 stars)
2. My new favorite spot to get things done!  
     
   Dollop's bright and airy interior has made this my new favorite place to get things done on my laptop. There are tables, a couple comfy chairs, and a high top bar along the window. I was a little thrown off by the WiFi asking for a password, but the password is listed on a very small sign by where you pick up your drinks.   
     
   As for the coffee, it's a little too strong for my tastes. I got the honey cinnamon latte so many other people have raved about, and after one sip I was like WHOA coffee!   
     
   But if you're a big coffee lover, totally check this place out. Or if you're nearby and looking for a place to work for a few hours, Dollop is a million times better than all the neighborhood's Starbucks. (4 stars)
3. This cafe came CLUTCH. I flew into Chicago on a workday at 7 in the morning. Was stuck in a Lyft for 1 hour on back to back conference calls. After dropping my luggage off at our hotel, my fiance and I walked a couple of blocks down and came across this place.  
     
   We were tired, hungry, and desperately needed a place to plug in for work. This place met all the criteria. The vibe was a bit slow, which I needed. The coffee amazing. Service was awesome - the baristas were cool and dressed so cute! And the food was amazing (every sandwich comes with a pickle and a really yummy potato salad).  
     
   Lastly, the internet connection was seamless. Im happy my fiance recommended this place.   
     
   Super happy we came here. ( 5 stars)
4. This Chicago only quasi-small chain has some amazing coffees!  I indulged in an espresso and cold brew this morning and both were outstanding.  The baristas were super friendly and very knowledgeable.   They roast their own beans at another location, and it's noticeable.  Kudos Dollop! ( 5 stars)
5. I happened to pass Dollop on my way to Yolk the other morning and it looked cool from the outside, bookmarking it because of the four-star average rating... but, sorry, can't agree with the overall assessment.   
     
   The drip coffee:  Not anything out of the ordinary and not particularly strong. (The complimentary Illy dark roast being served in my hotel lobby was far better.)  
     
   My banana nut muffin:  Looked enticing, but had a dense, gummy consistency with a bad mouth-feel.    
     
   The service: Aloof. Let me offer one word of advice - if you don't say hello or thank you, you also shouldn't put a payment screen in front of me asking for a tip.   
     
   The plus is the tall open space, with seating you can hang out in for a while - but, otherwise, seems like Dollop could use an extra dollop of something. ( 2 stars)
6. This is my go to spot for quick work meeting. I always get the honey cinnamon latte with a little less honey otherwise its too sweet for my liking. It's the perfect afternoon pick me up. It's a little pricey but it's comparable to other places in the area. ( 4 stars)
7. Love this place! So much natural light, big and spacious, interesting artwork, and amazing coffee/tea and pastry/sandwich selection. Glad to have discovered this coffee shop in my neighborhood. They have free WiFi and plenty of study space so plan on spending a few hours here :) (5 stars)
8. Best coffee shop in the city. Great ambiance and character. There wasn't a line when we got there, but for the 45 min or so we were there the line was to the door. I got the cinnamon hunny latte which was fantastic. The everything bagel w/ cream cheese and avocado is to die for. Great service, do yourself a favor, next time your in the city check this place out you won't be disappointed. ( 5 stars)
9. I've been twice and ordered the breakfast sandwich both times. The BREAD is a piece of heaven. I wanted to order another one after I finished, but I have this conflicting goal of being in shape. I shall return again when my daily calorie allowance lets me! Great matcha too! ( 5 stars)
10. I love dollop but be warned that this location is super slow in the mornings. They only have two people working and they do all orders, coffee and food. I probably spent longer getting a latte here than my taking a my bus from union station. Definitely a lot slower than other locations. Good place to do work though hence the three stars. ( 3 stars)
11. Good location, just a few blocks off of Michigan.  Friendly staff and a very open feel.  Music cast a funky vibe to the atmosphere.  
      
    Coffee was delicious and they offer multiple sandwiches and danishes if you are looking to eat.  
      
    I will be back for more. ( 5 stars)
12. Good simple restaurant like starbuck, were students work while sipping coffee.  
      
    Food is good even if choice is limited.  
    Not expensive excelent coffee, good and quick service.  
      
    Bon resto simple un peu comme starbuck ou les étudiants travaillent en sirotant un café !  
      
    La nourriture est bonne même si le choix est limité. Pas trop cher, bon service et le café est excellent ! ( 4 stars)
13. Overview: amazing food and drinks, great prices, good atmosphere.  
      
    Our group got a variety of drinks from hot tea to iced coffee and they were all extremely delicious.  The make your own bagel is great with several different bagels, including garlic, herb, plain and more, spreads, goat and regular cream cheese, and toppings like avocado, tomatoes and cheese to choose from. The herb bagel is delicious and their portions are awesome. I got a garlic bagel with cream cheese, regular cheese and onion. It was really good!  They also sell lunch sandwiches all day and it comes with a pickle and a very small but yummy side of potato salad. They made our food and drinks pretty quickly and were able to wrap them up to go. The atmosphere was very comfortable and had a typical coffee shop feel. ( 5 stars)
14. The Honey Cinnamon Latte is fantastic. It had just the right amount of cinnamon. I also ordered a breakfast sandwich which was overpriced and wasn't anything extraordinary.   
      
    The coffee prices here are very reasonable. They have lots of seating available but it was almost full by 8:30AM. This seems to be a great place to study or work remotely. ( 4 stars)
15. I highly recommend give Dollop a try.   
      
    Awesome space and location. The fresh baked bagels are great! I like to drink Chai tea. I was a bit disappointed that they chai comes out of a box but it was still decent. The latte aspect was well done.   
      
    I'll be back! ( 4 stars)
16. I believe this is a coffee shop chain in Chicago and you must go to one when visiting. They have a list of syrups for your latte - I got the Lavender Latte! Tons of room to sit, work or study! The latte was amazing - we sat on the couch and relaxed for a couple of minutes before we continued our adventure to Navy Pier. I want to try their food as the menu looked amazing - I'll be back! ( 4 stars)
17. Gr8 place to get some work done or meet up with your peeps! It does get crowded over the weekend but the coffee is bueno and the wifi is reliable. The sammies are quite good (esp the turkey sandwich). There are a number of Dollops around Chi town but this is my go to one! ( 4 stars)
18. Great spot for pour over and mexican mocha. Friendly and informative conversation with Sam. Got some info on what to check out as a clueless tourist from NYC. Cheers. Keep killin it dudettes. :) ( 5 stars)
19. I got Iced latte, the coffee was really good. The service, not so much. The person who took my order didn't even look up the entire time, and the place wasn't even that busy. Disappointing. I'd have liked to come back because it has a great vibe going on and is actually very spacious, but I won't. I like the service better in the West loop one. ( 3 stars)
20. I love the vanilla latte here! Not sour at all and tastes so good! The cold brew was also good. The location was great, and it has outdoor seating which is good for summer! I love the design and decorations of the place, very neat and in fashion. Will definitely come back for more coffee! ( 5 stars)

Word Frequency

coffee 19

latte 12

work 11

service 7

drink 6

love 6

location 6

### 

### Cupitol

455 E Illinois St, Chicago, IL 60611

Streeterville

cupitol.com

Total Reviews: 170

Overall Score: 4.0

Reviews:

1. Short and sweet review.   
     
   Came here on Saturday evening for coffee while waiting on some friends. Excellent service, excellent prices (especially for the area), and a fun spot to have a cup of coffee or tea. (5 stars)
2. This cafe is very cute and crowded. It's super packed with people and laptops on the weekends so it makes it difficult to find a table. There's even a sign on the bathroom door designating people to leave room for diners but of course not everyone follows that. The main menus is just filled with drinks. You'll have to find the food menus either online or on paper pamphlets by the cashier. Once you order, the cashier asks if you are dining in or to-go. But dining in wise, they'll ask you where you're sitting. Didn't know I was supposed to pick a seat before ordering and considering the laptop crowd, this creates a slight challenge.   
     
   On to the food -very good! I had the tuna sandwich and they put the tomato, lettuce, and pickles on the side. My friend had the butternut squash, and roast beef. Both pretty decent portions and she enjoyed both. The food came out fairly quickly and they cleaned the tables off quickly too. I wish the water cups were larger. Found myself having to get up multiple times to fill up an 5oz water glass. ( 4 stars)
3. My review is based on horrible service not the actual food/coffee...sadly!  
   I have never been to a place where the staff is shoo-ing you out because they are closing in 30 mins.  
   Saying something like "please note we are closing in 30 minutes but we hope you enjoy your coffee" would be appreciated but instead we got  
   Waving arms in the air pointing to the door telling us to get out.  
   Rude! (1 stars)
4. I came in for breakfast with my friends on a Sunday at noon (about 7 of us). It is community seating, so tables are on a first come first serve seat yourself basis. Given that, it's still nicer than a Panera to have a sit down meal with friends. We were able to find a high top table for 8 without a problem.   
     
   They have plenty of seating options for various group sizes. They also have a nice area for people visiting on their own working on their laptops.   
     
   You place your order at the counter. The menu has a nice variety of options. My friend and I split two sandwiches, the avocado egg wrap and the bacon, egg and cheese croissant plus an order of hash browns. Everything was delicious!! I liked the avocado egg wrap for a half a sandwich but I'd be bored with the flavor after that, I feel it needs just a touch more flavor to it or a light spice/seasoning. The hash browns were cooked perfectly and were the perfect portion size. The croissant sandwich was very flavorful and you can tell everything was freshly made.   
     
   They did have some issues serving our party of 7 at the same time even though we ordered right after one another. They apologized and made up for it which I appreciated so I hope they continue to work on faster delivery of food so tables can eat at the same time.   
     
   The manager/owner was visible and asking people about their experience and the staff was very friendly.   
     
   I'd definitely come back! ( 4 stars)
5. I came in around 8am on a Saturday to work. I'd never been before to "dine in", so I was excited to see why so many of my friends love coming here to get stuff done. This place got busy fast! By 9am on a rainy Saturday morning it was packed. The concept of an "all day lounge" is great, and as a non-coffee drinker I always feel obligated to get a coffee when I'm using a coffee shop for their space. I don't feel that way here because there are so many options here from food to drinks (including alcohol and pastries). My only gripe is food takes FOREVER to come out. Unless I order a coffee or a pastry from the counter by the register, I can expect to wait for my order. I waited once for a bagel to go and it took them 10 minutes to hand me my bagel and individual packet of Philadelphia cream cheese on a weekday morning when the place was pretty empty...  
     
   Didn't really put me off, but heads up - on weekends you can only sit in the back at a few reserved tables if you'll be working on your laptop. So no window seats if that's what you wanted! (4 stars)
6. Sticky bun french toast was unreal.  Our group ordered blueberry lemon pancackes, mushroom spinach omelette, hashbrowns and a sausage gravy variation on eggs benedict.  Everyone loved their food.  Quick friendly service, as well. ( 5 stars)
7. This review is after a single visit on a Saturday that had a temperature high of 96 degrees and the city was hosting Lollapalooza, so it might not have been the best time for them to provide their best service. I was there with a group that included 4 adults and 3 kids. We were given the high table at the entrance with no back- bar chairs which really wasn't the best chairs for the kids to sit properly. I'm not sure if they have high chairs for children as none were provided. They have a very simple, easy to follow menu (with calories listed as well). We went ahead and ordered upfront, and once the food was ready, they dropped them off at the table.   
     
   Food was average at best. I got their Country Benedict which wasn't presented as I'm used to at other places. The poached eggs on buttermilk biscuits were placed in a bowl of pork sausage gravy. I'm used to having a crispy base for my poached eggs, but such was not the case here. It was very hard to separate the taste as everything was mixed together in a bowl or gravy. My wife ordered the Midwestern omelette that was made with ham, bacon, Wisconsin sharp cheddar, and a side of hash browns. I tried her omelette which was alright, but her hash browns were bland and void of any seasoning. The wait for own food wasn't long at all, but the quality was underwhelming from my end.   
     
   I can see this place having an eclectic charm, but it just did not fit my needs.
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   I can see this place having an eclectic charm, but it just did not fit my needs. ( 3 stars)
9. Great place to atmosphere is absolutely amazing you sit down in a beautiful place enjoy your delicious drink very very very nice and clean environment the staff is what makes this place so wonderful you're so welcome Hank very professional they simply do what you want quick and nice with no hassle the food is really delicious they don't have great variety but whatever they have they do it well and it takes very good you should try the orange juice the mocha dice coffee as for the desert the absolutely best thing they have is the chocolate mousse I think it's what it's called easily it's on the top shelf of the food of the best pastries  
     
   And precious items the shrooms on Bluetooth is the best also been told from my family that the excellence is really good ( 5 stars)
10. I love cupitol drinks, but their pastries are really not worth your dime. Their brunch items are pretty okay but compared to some of the brunch places around it, this one is just okay. My favorite drink on their menu is the mint white hot chocolate. The place is cozy, with some high communal tables, regular tables, couches, and booths. It reads more coffee shop than restaurant to me at least. Beware coffee lovers - on the weekends, they limit the number of tables that people can work at so that the brunchers can find seating. Either come early or come on a weekday. ( 4 stars)
11. Such a soothing environment and very spacious! Ordered the Nutella latte and mocha latte but unfortunately, we were not indicated which latte was which and when a taste test was done, it could not be indicated as to which latte was which. It really wasn't that big of a deal so we continued to drink our coffee, enjoying the weather of Chicago and playing tic-tac-toe. Also ordered some sort of strawberry cake and it was quite tasty. (4 stars)
12. I came here on a weekend to study with a friend, but the vibe can be kinda weird at first. I arrived at around noon and it seemed more like a cafe with a ton of people actually eating lunch than a coffee shop for studying. But after a couple hours, all the lunch people left and the rest of the people there were just studying. It was kind of hard to get near an outlet and half the seats are really uncomfortable to sit in (think hard wood chairs). Overall, not the best coffee shop to study at but also not a bad coffee shop to study at.   
      
    My latte was really good and the food that people ordered looked and smelled really delicious! Will definitely be back even if I'm not studying there. ( 4 stars)
13. Good place to eat, not great but good. The water glasses are like shot glasses so you have to keep running up to get water. I wouldn't tip as there is no wait staff. They give you a good amount of food for the price and it is prepared somewhat well. I got the ham and it was very dry. I would come again ( 3 stars)
14. Looking for a boutique cafe with trendy coffee shop vibes ? Check out Cupitol in Streeterville near Navy Pier. It has a very European feel to it. Life is slower here. The food for a cafe is above average if not almost elite. Good mix of healthy, unhealthy, light, and hardy options. The vibe is outstanding. The service and cooking is slow - you have to know going into it is going to take 20 minutes for your food - so don't come in a rush. They do take out so if you call a head it can be ready to go.   
      
    We like grabbing brunch or lunch here. Few of our favorites: basil gnocchi, little potatoes, burgers (trust me they are good!), or even a traditional breakfast burrito. ( 4 stars)
15. I was in town to go to a Blackhawks game and visit friends.... They wanted to go to a "coffee place" for breakfast.... Why? I thought to my self. I actually want food for breakfast...   
      
    Well to make a long story short. Bang! We arrived and got our food. THE FOOD WAS AWESOME!!! I can honestly say, I have never had as good of food at a coffee place in my life. This place is a must! ( 5 stars)
16. This is a fun & classy "fancy coffee & lunch" fast-food type place, & while the drinks & food look fancy & delicious, they seriously fall short on both quality and flavor.  
      
    I was excited for my Nutella latte.. when I got it, it tasted watery with a hint of nutella. The chicken blt had watery guac.  
      
    Plus side is that the people at the counter were extremely helpful & friendly.  
      
    It has potential, but needs to step up on flavor. ( 3 stars)
17. I was visiting downtown Chicago last weekend and I stopped by Cupitol to have some coffee and charge my phone. I had the Nutella latte, and a cheese biscuit. It was good. The Nutella latte is not too chocolaty but it was good cup of coffee. The place itself is nice and clean. Unfortunately, they don't have a lot of areas to plug your phone. The service though was amazing. Everyone was so nice!! ( 4 stars)
18. Pretty disappointing. I got the non fat chai latte from here and there was just a ton of cinnamon on top and zero chai flavor. Literally all i tasted was cinnamon.... I get a better non fat chai latte from star bucks, sad to say.  
      
    I also got a cinnamon roll which I ate about half of. The frosting was a decent cream cheese frosting but the actual roll itself once there was no more frosting was dry and tasteless.   
      
    The ambiance seemed ok in there... a lot of people working and chilling, definitely seems lok e a place I could come to and get work done... but not drink any of their stuff. Needless to say... I won't be back here. ( 1 stars)
19. Everything is so good here..   
      
    -Visit #1:   
    I loved the atmosphere, spacious room, multiple levels of seats, comfy chairs and couches, perfect for studying or chilling. Regular black coffee or lattes were not my favorite here. Pecan minitart was addictive especially with black tea. Staff are pleasant. Would come back.   
      
    - Visit #2:  
    So hard to find healthy options in Streeterville neighborhood if you dine out. So me asked the lady behind the iPad and she recommended the avocado wrap. Avocado wrap has scrambled eggs, Hass guacamole, queso fresco, pico de gallo and wheat tortilla.. Portion is very well-studied, Japanese style. I really liked this wrap a lot. Coming back..  
      
    - Visit #3:  
    I tried almost everything on the menu!! I tried all the tea selections. My favorites are the cinnamon Saigon and white tea. Served with with a bottle like a French press pot, their teas are so good!. Tried the tuna sandwich and it was so good!. Coming back..  
      
    Fast forward 2 weeks of similar encounters. This place is just amazing!! They opened around spring of 2017. They're open 7 am- 9 pm. It can be very crowded on weekends. Original branch is in Evanston. The owner lived in Europe for like two decades so you can feel there is some European touch to the place.   
      
    What I recommend here is everything. My favorites are the avocado wrap, European granola berries breakfast, Saigon cinnamon tea and falafel burger!! Don't forget the freshly squeezed orange and grapefruit juice. They do have amazing croissants. ( 4 stars)
20. I love this place. They have lots of coffee, smoothie, juice and food options. They also have lots of seating and overall is bright and well lit, which makes it a good place to do work / study. The music can be a bit loud at times if you're trying to get work done, however, if they stick to instrumental music it's not bad. Overall, recommend this as a coffee shop to do work. ( 5 stars)

Word Frequency

food 25

place 24

coffee 22

friend 11

people 11

work 10

latte 10

study 8

service 7

## LINCOLN PARK

### The Baglers Cofffehouse

2461 N Lincoln Ave, Chicago, IL 60614

Lincoln Park

[thebagelers.com](https://www.yelp.com/biz_redir?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.thebagelers.com&website_link_type=website&src_bizid=IM9oq9HGTt8Q2QLQ2nevYA&cachebuster=1540403505&s=b87fc0178409752220ba12c2fcb896acf012f72d7b4b2004f775796ae2ed29f2)

Total Reviews: 285

Overall Score: 4.5

Reviews:

1. Where do I begin? I need 10 stars for this place! I had a not so great experience when I went to this shop but oh boy, did they make up for it or what?! I sent some feedback through their website and the Head Bageler, Jotam Torres,  personally took the time to write me back. He wrote: "I'm so sorry to hear that you had a tough experience at my shop. Totally unacceptable and I want to make sure that others don't have a similar experience." He then asked me to describe the person so he could personally address the issue right away. He then connected me with his Operations Director and offer me a gift card. He ended by saying: "If anything happens again that isn't to your liking no matter how small, please reach out to me directly to this email address." This is what I call caring. Due to an unfortunate event, I cannot receive the card. Upon informing him, he wrote back again!   
     
   "I'm so sorry for your loss Sandra.  
     
   Not to worry, if and when you return it will be waiting for you.  
     
   Thank you again so much for your honesty and your help.  
     
   Jotam"  
     
   Amazing! Love you guys!!! ( 5 stars)
2. 4.5 stars. GREAT bagels and cream cheese here. They were temporarily out of my usual bagel of choice (they bake throughout the day, so shortages are resolved quickly), so instead I got a piping hot chocolate chip bagel with honey nut cream cheese. Both were delicious, and they give an appropriately generous schmear of cream cheese.   
     
   My only complaint is that their chai latte, which is tea based (which I prefer!) doesn't taste very much like chai. Maybe their blend is off, but the latte tasted like a London fog rather than a proper chai. Other than that, though, it was absolutely heavenly for this bagel-lover. ( 4.5 stars)
3. If you are staying in Lincoln Park and you need an amazing but fast breakfast, you better be checking out The Bagelers Coffeehouse! I came here on Saturday morning for a quick bite and was absolutely blown away. I ordered the "The Bageler" which was a bacon, egg, and cheese with some fantastic chipotle mayo to go with it. This sandwich was a game changer, hands down the best breakfast sandwich I had in a long time (probably tied for one I had in New Orleans). The bacon was soft and crispy at the same time, the egg was tasty, and cheese was cheesy and good, and the bagels used were fantastic as well.  
     
   This place was fantastic and I would absolutely love to come back on my next trip to Chicago. If you are in the area you owe it to yourself to come and give this place a try! (5 stars)
4. Best bagel sandwich In Chicago! Consistent and friendly staff. Would recommend to anyone!! The must try is the  Bageler sandwich ( 5 stars)
5. This place as always a go to when we lived in the area.  Today we stopped in to get 2 items to go;  a bagel and a bagel sandwich.  The first bagel was with cream cheese.  They didn't even toast/steam the bagel but rather just threw it on a cold bagel.  For the Bageler Sandwich they didn't toast/steam the bagel either but just threw the fixings on it.  So it was a mix of a room temp bagel with warm toppings.  Not sure if they changed their approach on their bagels before serving them but they didn't ask us either if we needed them toasted/steamed before either making the sandwich. Disappointed in what used to be a very solid, go-to spot.   As mentioned above these were to-go so we didn't realize it until we opened them when we got in the car. ( 2 stars)
6. I feel like Yelp led my astray on the Bagelers Coffeehouse.  It's a perfectly OK establishment, but this neighborhood has so many more exciting options.  I do not understand the near perfect rating for an average and slightly over-priced meal.  
     
   I came to Bagelers for a breakfast sandwich ($6.19 post tax), which came with egg, bacon, and Muenster on an everything bagel.  The everything bagel so too salty, and the seasoning mix was not quite right.  The bagel was not the best either, and it is similar quality to what you would get from a grocery store bakery.  The egg, bacon, and cheese was all OK, but this is about the same quality of a breakfast as you would get from a Panera Bread.  I had hoped for more from a local establishment.  
     
   There were lots of people working on the free wifi so it may be more of a place you work and can eat/drink coffee.( 3 stars)
7. Super cute place! The decor and the atmosphere is so welcoming. Mostly full of college students so the wifi is excellent and the outlets are plently. However, the turnover rate is pretry low so if you see a table CLAIM IT. They don't have a large area but they do the best with what they got. Every table has beautiful local flowers on them.   
     
   As for the food, WONDERFUL. I got the everything bagel gardener sandwich and I was a huge fan. It was easily in my top 5 of bagels. Would definitely come here again, but know the line gets pretty long during rush times and you will have a wait (but oh god it's worth it). Also their lattes have the cutest art.   
   5/5 will be returning ( 5 stars)
8. They were open on a Sunday when another preferred deli was closed, so I decided to try something new. Chicago yelpers lead me astray. It was not worth the 4.5 star rating.  
     
   The bourbon vanilla chai latte was just plain chai tea with milk! No notes of bourbon or vanilla came through.  
     
   The pumpkin pie latte was weak and they didn't even mix it properly, as all the seasoning sat on the bottom.  
     
   The Fisherman's sandwich had a generous amount of salmon. The only problem was the everything bagel. Where did all the seasoning go? See pic. Otherwise, it was an enjoyable sandwich.  
     
   Overall, it satisfied my craving for a lox sandwich, but I would not return. ( 3 stars)
9. Mmmm yum. My hangover was craving so substance before my day could begin. I found this place open early on a Saturday morning and in my neighborhood and of course top rated reviews.   
     
   I did not purchase any coffee and was torn between the bageler sandwich or lox sandwich. Once I decided on the bageler (eggs cheese bacon chipotle mayo), I was ten torn between bagel (of your choice all made in house) or a croissant! I went with bagels, more filling. I waited quite a while, maybe 15 minutes. I arrived there about 8ish and while sitting waiting then eating the line was almost out the door and I'm sure those people waiting much longer for their orders.   
     
   It was delicious I would definitely go back! Cute spot kind of hidden I rode right past it ok my bike initially. ( 5 stars)
10. Great coffee and bagels. These aren't New York level bagels per se, but they're the closest I've encountered yet in Chicago. Kettle-boiled, homemade, and served warm, they pair nicely with their homemade spreads. I got iced coffee (just right and the price is right, too) and an everything bagel with chive-garlic spread. Yum! Nothing here is overpriced, and they have WiFi and art for sale on the walls. What a nice spot to hang out, study, or catch up with a friend! I'll be back to try some of their other bagels. ( 4 stars)
11. One of my favorite local places for coffee and bagels. Very nice staff and great atmosphere to hang with friends or catch up on work. Highly recommend the Farmer's bagel sandwich. ( 5 stars)
12. This is a super cute little bagel, coffee and tea place! I got the sea salt bagel with garlic and chive cream cheese along with a berry iced tea and it was all really good. They give a generous amount of cream cheese on the bagel as well, no skimping! I went around 4pm and it looks like they also put up a lunch menu too around 11am/noon or so. Super quirky and cute here. Would highly recommend! ( 5 stars)
13. The Bagelers is great! Lovely ambiance - lots of seating available - plus friendly service and tasty bagels. They were all out of the bagel I ordered so they gave me a coupon for a free bagel next visit.( 5 stars)
14. I woke up really craving a bagel and even though I've lived in Lincoln Park for a year, I wasn't sure where to go. I found this place and I'm so glad i made the 12 minute walk! I got a salted caramel coffee and an everything bagel with garlic chive cream cheese. It was all amazing. You can definitely tell the cream cheese is homemade. I took it home to eat because I was alone but I can't wait to bring my roommates back to dine in. The place is so cute. I will be back for sure! ( 5 stars)
15. While on a walk around the neighborhood on this lovely afternoon, I saw a line out the door for this bagel shop and decided to see what people were waiting for- I'm SO Glad I did!   
      
    The shop was small and cozy, 6-7 tables at the most....the sounds and smells greeting me were music to my senses...The art work was interesting to look at, and I didn't mind the wait to place my order or pick it up.   
      
    There were Large samples of chocolate chip bagels and cream cheese to try while waiting-a sweet taste of what was to come.  
      
    My go-to on the weekend is always smoked salmon and the Fisherman was a Fantastic sandwich: I chose an everything bagel to accompany the salmon, pickled onions, capers, and tomatoes- crispy, chewy, savory! I couldn't decide between the giardinara or garlic chive cream cheese, so I bought them both :) LOVED them both :) and saved some for later.  
      
    I also had the Bageler on a jalapeño bagel and it spiced up the fried egg, bacon, muenster cheese, and chipotle mayo perfectly!! It was a true breakfast sandwich (at 12 noon).  
      
    Even though it was kinda warm out, I had a luscious hot chocolate with whole milk and it was frothy, rich, and velvety--Fab!  
      
    The Bagelers Coffeehouse was An Excellent way to start my weekend, and I know what I'll be trying next: the sea-salt bagel with strawberry jam and peanut butter....mmmmm ( 5 stars)
16. Ordered 5 items on Uber Eats and only received 2 out of 5. I was very hungry so I wanted the rest of the food instead of the refund. Messaged Uber Eats who said I would receive a response within 24 hours. Then I called the restaurant. First of all the guy on the phone didn't even apologize for what happened after I explained the situation to him. Then he informed me that I had to contact Uber Eats directly to resolve the matter, even though it was the restaurant that screwed up. To top it off the guy hung up on me. Would not recommend.( 1 stars)
17. Came on a Wednesday morning and was surprised to see a good steady flow of business. These are delicious boiled bagels (NYC style), a variety of different and unique spreads to put on it.   
      
    We ordered The Bageler Sandwich on an everything bagel (bacon, egg, and cheese). It was a little thin at first glance, but still really solid and on a great bagel. ( 4 stars)
18. So far so good! I say that because I will definitely be going back.   
    Having just moved from NY, I am biased about my bagels, but these were quite good!  
      
    I recommend the honey nut cream cheese on whatever bagel you enjoy (raisin is a good mix).  
    Everyone who works there is so nice, and I like just sitting in the quiet yet friendly table atmosphere and working. ( 5 stars)
19. I accidentally stumbled upon this coffee shop, and I love it!  
      
    There are so many different bagels and pastries and the coffee selection is up there as well! I cautiously ordered the salted caramel latte and it was amazing! I let my husband try it and he couldn't stop drinking it.  
      
    Cozy little spot, has lots of seating. ( 5 stars)
20. Ate here on a recent trip to Chicago. My boyfriend and I were wandering the streets and stumbled in. We split an everything Bageler and it hit the spot! Paired with some delicious coffee, it kept  us fueled through a morning walk and trip to the zoo.   
      
    The atmosphere is cozy and there were nice little flower arrangements on the tables. Next time I'm in the area, I will return! ( 5 stars)

Word Frequency

bagel 46

sandwich 18

bageler 14

place 12

cream 11

coffee 10

back 8

work 6

latte 5

friend 5

### Bourgoeis Café

738 W Fullerton Ave, Chicago, IL 60614

Lincoln Park

[bpigcafe.com](https://www.yelp.com/biz_redir?url=http%3A%2F%2Fbpigcafe.com%2F&website_link_type=website&src_bizid=3aoCOA9tc3Nhi2swyhR-1Q&cachebuster=1540405441&s=756286e88e5ccbc3972c57b38debf758e230c280d72d909c81e1b784f52626a7)

Total Reviews: 827

Overall Score: 3.5

Reviews:

1. Absolutely LOVE this place.   
   Today was my first time going and I am quite sure I have found my new study spot!   
     
   This cafe offers coffee, tea, sandwiches, breakfast, and so much more!   
     
   They have booth indoor and outdoor seating. They also have a side of the cafe which used to be a house which they renovated. (So cute). It was cozy, quiet and bright enough.   
     
   They have both couches and table/chairs as options to sit at!   
     
   They do offer free WiFi.   
     
   I ordered the Chai Latte (recommend with coconut milk) and the Great Gatsby sandwich. Both were awesome and I'd easily get those both again.   
     
   Note: the great gatsby full size sandwich was HUGE. I was only able to finish half. I would recommend sharing or getting a half size.   
     
   The service was great!   
     
   I'll definitely be back! ( 5 stars)
2. I went there today for the first time and ordered the breakfast burrito, and it got served to me with no avocado and no cilantro.  When I went back to the counter to ask about it, the guy that took my order had no idea why it was missing those ingredients.  He asked the woman in the back - whom I could clearly see standing right there - and she didn't even look up from chopping something to say, "we're out."  And that was it.  
     
   Total cost for a coffee and a shitty burrito:  $18  
     
   No thanks. ( 1 stars)
3. Bourgeois just means too rich for their britches.   
     
   This place is a very quaint little joint to sit, sip a drink and feel special I guess. I bet hipsters love it.  
     
   Did you know bourgeois really means MIDDLE class? Not even high class, but middle class materialistic.   
     
   That's a pretty good description of this place.   
     
   I feel like my reviews are all about my frugality (read: cheapness) and irritation with over-inflated prices. This review is no different.  
     
   A breakfast bowl, iced chai latte and a scone cost me $20. \*Does a Flintstones double take\* TWENTY BUCKS for a la carte breakfast?!  
     
   The berry scone looked pretty awesome, big and crusty with chunks of fruit...but it was the most bland hunk of flour and water I've had since eating motzo.   
     
   The iced chai latte was decent but standard. Nothing wowed me about it except the $4.50 price tag (and not in the good way)  
     
   The breakfast bowl was probably the best part but again nothing to write home about. The scrambled eggs were fluffy and the avocado was fresh, but the salsa, sour cream and onion were a bit unnecessary except to inflate the price. It was tasty but nothing I couldn't have made at home much cheaper.   
     
   On a Saturday morning, there was ONE employee, who took orders and served people individually with absolutely no sense of urgency and zero multitasking skills. There were 5 people in line all standing around wondering if the place was really open.  
     
   I will not be returning. ( 1 stars)
4. Terrible experience. Waited almost an hour for mediocre food. My lunch partners' food took an additional 30 minutes. Staff was unhelpful. Would not recommend this spot and will not be back. ( 1 stars)
5. Quality of the Pig has decreased. Atmosphere remains super cool, although cleanliness is down (bathrooms can be gas-station gross, and the one has had the heat broken for a long time...).  
     
   Drip coffee sometimes seems to have sat for a while, it served less hot, and while it's drinkable, I would no longer consider it comparable to the best coffee shops in the city (La Columbe, Dark Matter, Intelligenisa, etc)  
     
   Service is also somehow shruggable. Staff aren't frustrating but certainly aren't out of their way helpful. The Pig is still one of the coolest spaces in the city, but I can't help think that if it had a bit more of its old inspiration, this place would be packed all the time. ( 3 stars)
6. Absolute gem of a spot located in Lincoln Park right by De Paul's campus. We searched the area for a good sandwich spot that wasn't too chain-esque and this place caught our eyes instantly. It is a small duplex that, on the left side, has a small food shop that has a diverse array of sandwiches and salads that are great for both meat eaters and vegetarians. On the right side is a small coffee and tea shop that smells of delicious aromas from the fresh brewed drinks.   
     
   Food: My girlfriend is a vegetarian but was in the mood for a sandwich instead of a soup or salad. She created a delicious build-your-own-sandwich with greens and a variety of cheeses on sourdough bread. It came out steaming and gooey while not sloppy; the bread was pressed and crispy on the outside yet softer as it approached the cheesy center. I ordered the Great Gatsby sandwich which was at the top of the best sellers list and I can completely see why. The sandwich came out piping hot with a mixtures of mouth watering smells ranging from the bite of the Swiss to the juiciness of the turkey and bacon. The basil pesto was an incredible touch and the avocado added that California club taste to it. I would highly recommend this sandwich the way it comes as it was absolutely divine.    
     
   Atmosphere: The restaurant itself was a cool, old school home feel that made the experience that much better. There were students working on papers and research while enjoying the sunshine and coziness of the dining area. While there is not much seating inside, it feels like an escape to a comfortable home that also serves up delicious food.   
     
   Consensus: The mouth-watering sandwiches and plentiful salads and soups makes this place a definite stop every time I'm in Lincoln Park. The cozy home feeling of the dining area mixed with the great staff adds to the all around wonderful food this place has to offer! ( 5 stars)
7. Love this cute little place, very cozy and relaxing atmosphere, can get a little noisy with all the DePaul students eating there.  The food is fresh and the menu is interesting.  Perfect place to grab a lunch with a book. ( 5 stars)
8. Service 3, Atmosphere 5, so average of 4.  
     
   LOVE the vibe of the place, came on a rainy Sunday afternoon and the cozy environment inside was exactly what we were after. The music playing was nice background music and there was a great eclectic vibe to the cafe.  
     
   We did make sure to stay in the main room, as while there were more tables in the room next door, it was library level quiet and we were there for catchups so that silence wasn't going to work for us. Luckily we could snag one of the few tables in the main room. Supposedly there is usually tables upstairs but it wasn't open when we were there.  
     
   Now service could left something to be desired. We all wanted tea, my friend wanted an English Breakfast. I couldn't see this option in the shelves of tea so I took my tea up to the counter and asked if they had English Breakfast, given that's a pretty typical tea. When I asked the woman said they did, but couldn't find it. So I asked if she could recommend which type from those available  would be closest to English Breakfast (there were Irish breakfast, Scottish Breakfast and a couple others). Her response was "I'm not a tea person" and couldn't provide any recommendations and her demeanor was just that I was putting her out. I'm not usually one to expect too much knowledge from staff about everything on the menu, but when the sign out front says tea emporium I would assume some tea knowledge from staff. So I just grabbed Scottish Breakfast and hoped it would be ok for my friend.  
     
   We then waited and waited for 3 teas to be provided (we also got a cookie and brownie but those were handed over immediately). It was surprising that they were using the espresso machine to heat up the tea hot water one cup at a time instead instead of having a kettle or boiling water tap.  
     
   When we finally got our teas they were fine (provided in paper cups) and the cookie and brownie were great and we had a nice time catching up without feeling rushed. ( 4 stars)
9. My first time here today. Came here with a friend is a big fan! Fell in love with the old world charm. There is a adjoining are for only tea and coffee also. Everything is really old wood and bricks with black and white photographs of Chicago. I had a east of Eden sandwich. It was good but slightly expensive at $14 . Will be back next time for coffee. (4 stars)
10. Utterly ridiculous.  How can a place that serves lunch close at 12:30 on a Friday? Coworkers and I ordered lunch. A sizable order and we were informed that our order was cancelled because they "wanted to close early". Huh?    
    Sorry, no way.   
    Why would we (or you) attempt to try this place when you don't know whether you will get your order or not?  
    Find some place else. ( 1 stars)
11. Love The Pig for quiet coffee meet up or a quick soup or chili.  It's cozy and the servers look like they would be my friends.  Wish they had iced tea though. ( 4 stars)
12. Ever since I've moved to lincoln park this cafe has been amazing,  
      
    Breakfast-yummy  
    Coffee-delicious  
    Lunch- great gatsby is amazing  
      
    The price relates to the portion. Some sandwixhes10$, some 6$, and it is because you get 2 huge sandwiches together such as great gatsby.  
      
    Its so convienient & I love the vibe. Its a perfect place. ( 4 stars)
13. Servers are slow, unresponsive, and generally cold and unkind. I live nearby so I want to like it, but every time I'm disappointed. ( 2 stars)
14. 3.5/5 for the coffee - only because I had to wait for my latte since the ordering system apparently  forgot about me (pretty homophobic if you ask me since it was pride month) but 5/5 for the eye candy barista. ( 3.5 stars)
15. Overpriced, regular customer service. Coffee doesn't taste as good as advertised. Won't come back. ( 2 stars)
16. I love this place!! The  sandwiches are awesome, the cookies scones and muffins are fresh baked, and I think they have the best coffee in the city. Also some of the most reasonable prices in Lincoln Park! ( 5 stars)
17. I used to love this place but recently came and the chai latte was so bad. It tasted watery and had no flavor. I asked for another one, assuming a mistake had to have been made (in the past I loved all of the drinks and food here! A friend also took a sip and confirmed something seemed wrong) the second one was also horrible.  
      
    I ended up leaving early to just get food somewhere else. ( 1 stars)
18. Cute atmosphere, plenty of places to sit, huge selection of tea, and decent sandwiches. There's a big wall with shelves of jars of loose leaf tea. You just grab the jar of what you want and take it to the counter to order it. That was something I didn't quite understand on my first visit. ( 5 stars)
19. Service -1  
    Food -2  
      
    I was so excited to check out this place. But I was incredibly underwhelmed.   
      
    I Ordered the breakfast bowl with no meat. Received it and the potatoes looked like they were the end of the barrel and had been sitting in the kitchen for an hour.  
      
    Started eating the bowl and realized the best part was missing (avocado). Went to tell the bug-eyes staff member what was missing and he says "oh we don't have anymore avocado"  
      
    You don't think that's something I should know before paying? And I looked at him just like that. And he apologized and said he forgot to mention it and continued buzzing around the restaurant.  
      
    I'll admit, they looked understaffed. But still, annoyed.  I ate two bites and decided not to make a big deal out of the poor excuse for a breakfast bowl.  I got a to go container and decided I'll take this home, buy avocado and use some of my own fresh potatoes to make this the way it should be.  
      
    Just go to Mortar & Pestle for Sunday breakfast/brunch. ( 1 stars)
20. Love the vibe in this place, very hipster-y and quaint. The coffee tastes average is priced basically like any other hipster coffee shop. I'd mostly come back here to relax and lay back. Oh yea, and terrible service. Took about 20-25 mins just to take an order. ( 3 stars)

Word Frequency

place 20

tea 14

coffee 13

breakfast 13

food 10

service 7

staff 6

look (*as in aesthetic)* 6

great gatsby 5

# Traditional/Local/Neighborly Neighborhood

## HYDE PARK

### Plein Air café

McGiffert House, 5751 S Woodlawn Ave, Chicago, IL 60637

Hyde Park

pleinaircafe.com

Total Reviews: 178

Overall Score: 4.0

Reviews:

1. The mascarpone stuffed French toast was amazing!  To be honest, I wasn't a big fan of French toast. but I fell in love with their blueberry mascarpone stuffed brioche French toast!  the refreshing blueberry sauce and the delicious mascarpone taste like a perfect harmony. It took awhile for them to make the French toast. I was almost late waiting for it, since I woke up kind of late that day. But it was totally worth the wait! I'm craving for their French toast right now! I'm back in LA right now. really miss UChicago! Enjoy while you can !   
   I also loved the environment! I really like the seats both inside and outside with little green plants! The sunshine and plants makes a perfect start of a day! Taking away all me stress and replacing it with dangerous positive energy! Plein air cafe motivated me to get up to study there, before I go to class, while enjoying a cup of latte.   
   The raspberry beignet was delightful and refreshing, when I don't feel like too much sweet or cheesy things. (5 stars)
2. \*\*\* Workspace \*\*\*  
   Being a cafe in a university compound, there is plenty of seats with equal amount of outlets. However, this also means that it's quite crowded and stays bustling through the week.  
     
   \*\*\* Coffee \*\*\*  
   Solid selection of coffee that can be brewed in several methods. I always go for the cold brew or the drip.  
     
   \*\*\* Food \*\*\*  
   Snag a hazelnut beignet when you can! You won't regret it. I also love the pie here and for lunch option, the prosciutto with sweet balsamic sandwich is my go-to.  
     
   \*\*\* Ambiance \*\*\*  
   Adorably quaint! From the white interior to the outdoor seating surrounding a beautiful flower bed. If your Scandinavian grandmother decided to open a modernize yet charming cafe, it'll come out resembling Plen Air Cafe. ( 4 stars)
3. Food: 4  
   Service: 4  
   Cleanliness: 4  
   Noise Level: Quiet  
     
   Hidden within UofC campus you'll find this cozy cafe offering bowls and sandwiches. Perfect place for a quick stop in or study sesh at individual or communal tables. You get a rustic meets European vibe by the decor. There is also a patio on warm mornings! Being here definitely takes you away from the city life.  
     
   Tuna Salad Sandwich: all sandwiches come with a side of simple salad tossed in a balsalmic vinegrette. The sandwich itself was super filling. Tuna Salad tasted homemade and not doused in mayonnaise. Very light !   
     
   Street Parking out front.  
   Wifi works great.  
   Outlets along walls.  
     
   Would I come back? Yes( 4 stars)
4. Two cafes in one morning, my goodness! But after finding  a good tea for myself we were on a quest to find a coffee worth it's wait for the coffee lovers in our family.   
   This place was another yelp find and the yelp gods did not disappoint.   
   Plein Air Cafe & Eatery had so much character and their menu of not just drinks but food were to die for. They had everything from croissants and danishes to fresh salads and sandwiches, everybody was able to find something to cater to their tastebuds here.  
   I don't know if being close to a university helps but service here too was immaculate. And the croissants were out of this world. (5 stars)
5. Beautiful little cafe on a more beautiful campus right next door to The Robie House!  Who cares what the food tastes like right?  I wouldn't expect to stop here for lunch with the family and sit down at a table/ not happening!  PACKED all the time with students with their Macbook Pro's opened up next to iphones & cups of coffee I think is the best description.  I mean I'm all about technology but what about an actual conversation?  As far as the food goes... I feel like the sandwiches always sound better in description than they actually taste/ lots of bread.  The bowls on the other hand are EXCELLENT!! (Chicken Jalapeno Bowl)  The menu in pretty extensive given the size of this joint & they offer breakfast items until 12; Sandwiches & Bowls, etc after that.  They have great coffee and all kinds of espresso drinks as well as some very good dessert items...including beignets!!  Prices a tad on the high side but as far as Hyde Park goes this is your best bet by far for lunch, trust me.  Not sure what others are talking about but the staff was very nice, probably the owner at the register even facilitating orders to customers!  Talk later ( 4 stars)
6. I like Plein Air Cafe and Eatery. I really do. The kitchen turns out simple, yet tasty food. The biscuits and housemade jams are exceptional. Baristas pull espresso shots with the best of them and the mochas are delicious. I've missed on a few food items, but overall they serve above average cafe, breakfast and brunch options.  
     
   My main gripe is the dining area service. It's kind of odd because the cashier counter is always friendly. They're patient even when the line winds out of the door. My problem is with the table bussers. Each time I've been they've removed either a plate, cup or menu without uttering a single word. It's so shocking and quick that I've barely been able to get their attention to return. It would be nice if they'd ask before swiping my grub or anything else sitting in front of me. .. especially frustrating because the food is a bit overpriced. ( 3 stars)
7. Plein Air is a great surprise on a beautiful campus. Though the front area is currently under construction, walking into the cafe (the cafe is on the right, the bookstore on the left) I was immediately struck by how bright, clean, and modern the place is. It's not super large and the majority of the seating is at long tables or a long bar overlooking Robie House next door.   
     
   I wouldn't say the place is especially kid friendly, because most of the seating is at bar style stools or chairs and I didn't see any high chairs around. However, if you came at an off peak time and could sit at a table it would be a great place for a kid.  
     
   The menu is pretty extensive, note that they stop serving the plein bowls and tartines after 3 pm.  
     
   I love that they serve Topo Chico, I don't see that much outside of Texas. They also have fresh squeezed grapefruit and orange juice in their cooler.  
     
   I was hungry, but not for a full blown meal so I got the soup of the day, tomato basil. I was very disappointed by the quality of the tomato basil soup, it tasted like they opened a bottle of tomato sauce from the store and poured it into a bowl. Furthermore, the soup itself wasn't even hot, it was tepid at best even though it took the employees about 10 minutes to bring it to me. The French bread on the side was also stale. I really enjoy tomato basil soup, but there was absolutely no complexity or dimension to the soup, I didn't taste any basil, just cold tomatoes. It was $5.50 for the bowl and $3 for the large mug of breakfast tea I got on the side. The tea was strong and served in a big mug, though I wish the server asked if I wanted room for cream as it was filled almost completely to the brim.   
     
   This seems primarily a place for UChicago students and faculty to study and socialize, light music played in the background, but the place never got loud. I will definitely be coming back, but I can see how it's easy to spend quite a bit of money quickly here, everything looks very good!  
     
   They also do to-go food and drinks and I thought it was cool that they have a coat rack at the entrance for backpacks and coats. Smart idea when winter hits the Windy City! ( 3 stars)
8. I had a really pleasant visit here. In a city that suffers bitter cold much of the year I can't imagine a better oasis than this outdoor eating section. I had the root veggie quiche. I'm not a vegetarian but it was seriously so satisfying. Protein from the eggs, carbs from the potatoes,  and a green salad on the side. I also had an espresso which was good too. ( 5 stars)
9. So many memories coming back to Hyde Park.  I graduated from The University of Chicago in 2010, and since graduation, I've been living in Texas.  For the holidays this year, I came back to Chicago. I decided to go to the Plein Air Cafe & Eatery with my best friend and visit the college.  
     
   I love the atmosphere here.  There's a lot of natural lighting.  Love the wooden tables.  The place is small and intimate, and it has a lot of character and charm.   The best part was seeing people with philosophy books.    
     
   My friend had drip coffee, and I had the cafe au lait with extra coconut milk.  The coffee was, however, a little too strong for me.   Plein Air is still a great cafe. ( 4 stars)
10. Love this place! I frequent Plein Air quite often for lunch as it is one of my favorite places in all of Hyde Park. This cafe is quite aesthetically pleasing. In the warmer seasons, it's lovely to sit outside right next to Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House and eat at one of Plein Aire's rustic tables. The service is always quick and attentive and the self-serve sparking water is a huge plus.  
      
    My favorite items are the steak bowl, sweet pepper baguette, and hazelnut beignet. The steak bowl reminds me a lot of a Filipino menudo dish, which I absolutely love. While the sweet pepper baguette is my favorite, the baguette itself is always pretty hard. The beignet is very good, but may be too sweet for some.   
      
    Be warned: Lunch rush is real and you may be standing around waiting for a spot for a while. ( 4 stars)
11. Cute cafe in Hyde Park. Street parking but it's tight. It has an indoor and outdoor area. Trendy ambiance. Mostly students from University of Chicago. Ordered some omelette, and it had fresh tomatoes and veggies! It was really yummy. Cold brew is unsweetened but sugar and creamer are available. ( 4 stars)
12. Beautiful, bright atmosphere, peaceful crowd, good food! I am a regular for the play-it-safe tuna sandwich with fresh spring greens, soup du jour and latte. What can I say? I am just very comfortable coming here, sitting in or outdoors, and connecting to the wifi (high speed). ( 5 stars)
13. Favorite place in Hyde Park. Definitely a spot I wish there were more like. Every food item I've had has been superb! Bonus: They sell Metric Coffee here which is my favorite! Get the Hazelnut Beignets! Service is great, space is wonderful but surrounding area is currently under construction. Overall: a must try. ( 5 stars)
14. My dad (an ostentatious Marooner if ever there was one) has been dragging me to this mediocre pit for years. I suppose he wants a bitter pour-over to match our mutual feeling and conversation. My advice: steer clear unless your bag is shabby-chic humanities graduate students preeningly leafing through drivel. ( 1 star)
15. Cute place to study, but I had so many issues here that I had to leave. First, the girl who took my order was quite rude and had a terrible attitude. Second, there aren't too many plugs so I had to wait around until one opened up. Third, the wifi would not work and so I had to get up and move to another cafe/coffee shop to get my work done. And the worker who I had asked the wifi from was rude and quick with his response. Fourth, food and drinks are expensive and wasn't even the best of quality. Watery latte and an okay burrito. Not coming back here when I'm in Chicago. ( 2 stars)
16. We purchased a large order of items to try out and one item was lost in translation. They did all they could to immediately fix the issue. Sometimes things happen and that's life. How a business responds communicates a lot to customers. We will keep coming back.  
      
    Great drip coffee (I'm a coffee consultant and was super pleased). Great pastries. Great space. The campus is lucky to have them. ( 5 stars)
17. This cafe is a beautiful spot to study, work or just chill.  Yes, it can feel a bit pricey, but the space and food/drink quality make it worth it for me.  I'm a big fan of their cranberry spelt scone, all of their lunch bowls (try the Balti bowl!) and the loose leaf tea options (blend 333 = soothing herbal tea with peppermint and chamomile).    
    The chicken that you can add to salads is a little too intensely marinated for my taste, but I am eager to try more of their sandwiches, pies and pastries. ( 5 stars)
18. The University of Chicago is beautiful-even it's local restaurants. This one in particular looks like the designers from Anthropologie designed it themselves. I only wish that the food tasted as good as it looked. I got a Turkey Sandwich, which is one of the most popular and a Dirty Chai. The turkey sandwich was dry, despite its contents. It tasted healthy, but I've had healthier sandwiches that tasted better. My mouth dried up so quick, I immediately got up for water. If you like chai from almost any other coffee shop in Chicago, from The Coffee and Tea Exchange to places like Panera and Starbucks- this isn't the chai for you. It flavor is so subtle it minus well not exist. It's not sweet, and if you add espresso the espresso is so bold it's overwhelming. ( 3 stars)
19. Came here on my trip to Chicago in December and must say that this little cafe is the place to be if you want a good cup of joe! It's decorated minimally but tastefully. It seemed to be quite busy when I arrived there at about 11AM, so try to grab a seat as quickly as possible to ensure you have a spot to sit.   
      
    I had ordered the Mascarpone Stuffed Brioche French Toast with a vanilla latte, and sweet Lord did those hit the spot after walking in the blistering cold, which I'm sure wasn't that cold but coming from Texas, anything less than 60 degrees is cold to us...Anyway, the french toast was sweet but not overly sweet, which was great because if it had been, RIP me as I had paired that with the latte. It was also filling, so I wasn't dying trying to find another place to snack at while doing touristy stuff. The latte was probably one of my favorite lattes I have had in a while as it was perfected with enough cream and sugar to keep my sugar tooth satisfied.   
      
    Cute, quaint, and packed with delicious finds; y'all gotta check it out! ( 4 stars)
20. Lovely spot for a bite, good cup of coffee and to hang out in a chill atmosphere. Large windows overlook a garden space with outdoor seating.  The garden borders the back of Frank Lloyd Weights Robie House.   
      
    Tasty, simple, interesting menu. You order the food yourself then it is brought to you at your table. They don't bring the coffee, not sure what's up with that so you need to know to hover around the coffee pick up counter until the coffee with name pasted on it appears.  
      
    Great spot and people working there. ( 4 stars)

Word Frequency

cafe 18

coffee 17

place 15

food 14

sweet 9

quick 7

park 7

### Medici

1327-1331, E 57th St, Chicago, IL 60637

Hyde Park

[medici57.com](https://www.yelp.com/biz_redir?url=http%3A%2F%2Fmedici57.com&website_link_type=website&src_bizid=Zx87qmviYtwDOyBJah213g&cachebuster=1540410014&s=5a8a396f88c189e6cdc22903f50a5ac43350316fdfa962744cdef9902b305ec5)

Total Reviews: 747

Overall Score: 3.5

Reviews:

1. Fell in love after we ordered some pizza from here for a group event. Decided to come to the actual location and wasn't disappointed either! Definitely a good place to check out if you're in Hyde Park.  
     
   They have a smaller take-out only cafe-type location that is just a few doors down from the restaurant. I love the super rustic feel of the place. They have these wooden booths and exposed brick walls which both gave a very loft-like cozy feel to the restaurant. Really gives the place a nice charm, which really matters to me! There are a lot of families here and students as well which gives the place a nice buzz. I dislike going into a super empty restaurant.   
     
   For two, we ordered a calamari appetizer and two personal sized pizzas, which was just enough food. I absolutely love their margherita pizza. We also got the roasted veggie pizza which was pretty delicious as well. I've also tried the BBQ chicken pizza and the garbage pizza and those are yummy too! I'm not a big fan of goat cheese, but my friends have told me they like that one too. Basically, you can't really go wrong with the pizza here.   
     
   The bathroom situation is confusing! It's one door that leads to another room with a sink and separate men and ladies rooms on the side. I was hesitant to walk in out of fear that I would be walking in on someone or going into the wrong one but do not worry! ( 4 stars)
2. The space is really nice. The girl at the front desk really wasn't all that welcoming. We got a table upstairs which also has a patio for nice days. It's cozy upstairs. Me and my cousin shared a barbecue pizza and a garbage burger. The pizza looked really good but could have used more barbecue sauce and seasoning, it was lacking flavor but it was better than the burger even though it was a little dry.   
     
   The garbage burger came with pickles even though I said no pickles. I'm not sure what kind of bun they used but it was stiff and cold, I ended up eating the burger with the lettuce instead of he bread. Again the burger didn't have any flavor so this place was definitely underwhelming. (3 stars)
3. Long time I've eaten food from Medici but never ordered on my own. It's great! The food is not why the rating is low. The service was. I ordered over the phone a Napoli sub-very delicious, fresh- is listed online as served with my choice of several sides, with fries being the default. I was not given fries with my sub. I go back and am told "only if you ask". Okay, cool, I'm asking now, while I'm still in the store. Fries are 1.29 as a side with the sandwich, yet 2.99, over 3$ as an individual side. I was told they would "have to" charge me the full 3$, even though I just bought a sub and the appropriate measure is to just do a price adjustment. And the team members i spoke with seemed to not care that i was clearly dissatisfied with my experience, and were very dismissive, telling me to "move" so other customers could order since i "wasn't willing to pay" for the fries. Ridiculous, seeing as i would not have asked for the fries if i didn't want to pay for them. I left upset and ate my delicious sub but that experience alone-first impressions are important- leaves me unwilling to ever spend money there again.   
     
   TLDR; great food, rude staff ( 2 stars)
4. From walking in the door to when I got up from the booth to leave, I think I  must have aged 2 years.   
     
   For an off night, I am not sure why the wait was close to 30-40 minutes for a party of 2. What is most frustrating is that we were quoted 15-20 minute wait. Their patio and balcony seating were not open that night.  
     
   Even after being seated, we waited for 20 minutes before our waiter even came by our table at all. When he did make his first appearance, he had the exaggerated brow-wiping-looking-super-tired-from-how-busy-it-is thing going, which frankly made it slightly more irritating since now we were almost an hour committed at this place and I was only able to sip on some water.   
     
   I had heard that the thin crust pizzas were awesome, and not being a fan of the Chicago deep dish, I figured I would try the roasted veggies thin crust in personal pizza size. My sister got the Smoky Joe sandwich with fries. I will say that the portions are generous and I liked the shoe string fries on my sister's dish (but I guess who wouldn't). Otherwise, I was super disappointed that my pizza was not thin crust at all, in fact, it was super bready and felt fairly flavorless. Being fed up with our dinner experience, we went next door to their bakery to see if maybe grabbing a pastry after could salvage our impression of Medici and of course since the whole dining experience took so long, they were sold out of most things in their case, so we left empty handed. ( 2 stars)
5. We were working at 57th st Art Festival last Sat & Sun. I found here at Deliciousness MEDICI coffeehouse and Bakery and got Dirty Spicy Chai Coffee, Spinach and feta pastries, apple pastries, cinnamon rolls, chocolate chips pastries. All pastries were so yummy and rich tastes.  
   Big chunks of apples, spinach & feta cheese pastries so delicious and all pastries are good size.   
   Dirty spicy chai was tasty too.   
   It was so helpful place to get any meals and close by our booth. I used restroom too. Thanks   
   I will try some more next visit!( 4 stars)
6. I want to like this place - working nearby it would be lovely to have great food here.  It's just uninspired, boring and without much life.  The vibe is great, I love in interior, staff is attentive and friendly.  Maybe I am too much of a food snob - I'll admit that I am fairly harsh because I don't like going out to eat food that I could do a better job making at home, which is exactly how this felt.  On two occasions I ate here and neither meal was something I felt good paying for (tuna overcooked and dry, Italian sandwich was ok at best). I'm sorry guys I know there is plenty of love from the students at UChicago and it seems like you are an institution, just was not for me. ( 2 stars)
7. Nice place for Saturday brunch near the Museum of Science and Industry and U Chicago. Choose either from the walk up bakery or the sit down restaurant next door. Brunch options that we tried included the smoked salmon omelet, breakfast burrito and the huevos rancheros. Service was great . Walked to the bakery next door and it looked great as well. ( 4 stars)
8. Came here for lunch on a Saturday and were seated immediately. I ordered a Cajun chicken pita sandwich, which was decent. I asked for potato salad as my side though and was given fries instead. The waitress quickly corrected the error and brought potato salad.  
     
   Overall, not much to say about this place. The food was average and the service was good. Not really 5 star-worthy but nothing bad about the place either ( 4 stars)
9. For sentimental reasons its definitely 4 stars and for its pastries. . . . but the food is just mediocre. This spot used to be a couple blocks down the road and was relocated to a much bigger venue. My Dad came here with my Mom while he was studying in college and living in Chicago back in the 70's. I think he also took some of his students here when he was later a teacher. So it was a favorite spot. Still charming as he had told us about it.   
     
   For brunch I would definitely go the pastries or sweeter route instead of ordering eggs. The eggs benedict my Dad ordered he said was just fine and well cooked. My smoked salmon omelette was pretty lack-luster. Not a lot of cream cheese inside and raw onions and tomatoes. The eggs were kind of stiff and just didn't hold any fluff or flavor. The salmon wasn't too fresh and appealing. Though, it did come with a potato hash on the side. Kind of like scalloped potatoes that were super crispy. Those were fantastic. Also, the hard bagel I took to go and provided much happiness way later in the night. My brother's chocolate chip pancakes looked like heaven. We did however order a cinnamon roll to split and that was bomb. SO GOOD. Still warm and gooey. It was everything.   
     
   Before we left we went next door to the take-out section for pastries and sandwiches and we ordered a bunch of stuff for a party. The fruit tarts, mini apple and pecan pies were a huge hit and tasted great. Definitely stick to ordering all of their pastries.   
     
   Additional tip, I believe they are byob. It's advertised on the door even though I noticed brunch cocktails on the menu. Maybe that's for lunch and dinner. They also have an outdoor upper terrace where my sister said she hung out once and had pizza and brought in her own wine to share with whoever the hell she was hanging out with (I'm going to assume some relative). Thanks Medici for staying open so many years though and I'm glad I got to experience something my parents were regulars at over 40 years ago. ( 4 stars)
10. Went with friends for dinner and had Garbage, pan pizza for the 2nd time; it was very good warm--thick but good bread and lots of ingredients. The pepperoni was different & crispy good! They now have drinks! Got a pretty good Paloma that was a bit bitter from the grapefruit, but I balanced it out with lime and salt on the (b)rim. Chill place for family or friends with great service--thoughtful but not too overbearing. ( 5 stars)
11. My fiancee and I love the food here, and hired Medici to cater our wedding. Without any explanation, less than two months before our wedding, they stopped responding to our emails and phone calls. Now we're scrambling to find another caterer on very short notice.   
      
    Don't rely on Medici to cater your special event-- you'll only end up wasting tons of time and adding unnecessary stress. This was a shameful way to treat a loyal customer. ( 1 star)
12. Went mid-day on Sunday. Everything went well. Love the thin crust spinach, goat cheese pizza. ( 5 stars)
13. I stopped in on a Saturday and although it was really busy, I was seated immediately and was served. I had a sandwich and my friend ordered a milkshake, which she really raved about. I think I would try this place again, they appeared to have a really good menu and I would like to try one of their pizzas. ( 4 stars)
14. Wow, this place is still goin' strong after all these years, just like me (on a good day).  
    I hung out at the Medici when I was a very young hippie chick.  We were either in Old Town or Hyde Park, cuz that's where hippies went.  To be with other hippies.  Cuz nobody else liked us.  But we really liked each other. Like we had a choice.  Peace & Love meant you liked everybody.  Trippy.  
      
    The Medici reminded me of the Sink in Boulder, CO, with all the carvings on tabletops & names/drawings on the walls.  We hippies were a creative bunch & we liked to leave our markings wherever we went.  Kinda like dogs, but we had more hair.  
      
    At the Medici we drank coffee while having meaningful, heated conversations about political stuff.  Oops...maybe nothing has changed.  
    I didn't much like coffee then, but I drank it to be cool & to appear older.    
    I do remember eating Medici food but not a lot.  Hippies were skinny, didn't eat much due to no bread (money).   
    No wonder our threads (clothes) were baggy.  
    In CO I recall we foraged for berries & edible green crap, and I remember eating macrobiotic birthday cake in Boulder that tasted like sawdust.  
    Gifts for that cat's b-day consisted of fresh-picked field flowers or poems, because....no bread to buy anything.  
      
    But back to Chicago:  Way back when, I thought of the Medici as mainly a coffee house, not really a restaurant. There were no chain coffee shops back then - this is what a coffee shop was, often connected to a bookstore. Hippies rapped (talked) a lot, read books & didn't eat.....wait....the current Starbucks scene comes to mind.....  
    far out, man  
      
    I groove on small, independent businesses that stick around for 60+ years.    
    Hangin' loose at the Medici.  Righteous.  Outta sight.  Can ya dig it?  
      
    Gotta split now.  
    Later ( 4 stars)
15. While I enjoyed the food and atmosphere of Medici I was put off by the price point. For my garbage burger aka a burger, cheddar, caramelized onions, bacon, and bbq sauce on a brioche bun with a side the cost was $17. What?! At 5 Guys I can pay $8 for the double patty with the same amount of meat and toppings. The side options are cole slaw, potato salad, chips, or French fries. The cole slaw I got on the side was quite good, the cabbage was crisp and the dressing was not too mayonnaise-y and not too sweet, a surprisingly great cole slaw. The brioche bun is from the bakery portion of the restaurant, airy and light though not super buttery.  
      
    My friend and I ordered inside at the cafe and then sat outside to wait for our food. It was our first time here and we got somewhat confused by the cafe vs restaurant portion of the establishment. From my understanding, the cafe serves at least partially the same food as the restaurant, but all to-go. Our burgers were ready about ten minutes after ordering and the actual packaging of the to-go orders is quite effective, I wouldn't be concerned about carrying something from here to a class or form a twenty minute walk away.   
      
    The outside eating area is quite nice, there are about eight tables of two and four tops surrounded by foliage. ( 3 stars)
16. After 2 years of my best friend telling me that this was her favorite pizza spot, I finally tried it with her!  When you go in, there's upstairs and downstairs. We sat downstairs in the wooden booths, which were super cozy! We took a while to decide what to order since I wanted to look over everything, so I'm really grateful for how patient the servers were!  
      
    We ordered the 57th Street salad and the personal sized garbage pizza. The salad include prosciutto, dried cranberries, romaine, with jalapeno orange dressing. We substituted the feta for mozzarella and took out the red onions. It sounds so simple, but it was so refreshing and made for a really nice appetizer. The dried cranberries and prosciutto made an excellent combination. I can't eat anything too spicy so I was a little nervous about the jalapeno being in the dressing, however it delivers just a slight kick that still made it enjoyable.  The garbage pizza comes with a whole bunch of meat. Had to have the peppers and onions removed since I can't have them, but it didn't lack in flavor. The different types of meat also brought different textures, which was pleasant. We couldn't even finish the pizza, guess we had had too much bread prior. (They give you bread and butter before you even order!)  
      
    I hate being the person that is so picky asking for things to be taken out or for substitutions, but it's dietary so I gotta! Our server was really patient, reading over our order to make sure they got everything. They even made jokes with us about it, which made me feel a little less bad about making so many different requests. I thought my friend had overhyped this place, but I was really impressed and appreciated my time here. I can't wait to come back!! ( 5 stars)
17. Standard quality cafe in any college town. The garbage burger is a little bit messy and very soggy. ( 3 stars)
18. I really enjoyed this restaurant.  It's a great breakfast and lunch joint near the university campus.  It's got a total college vibe but I also saw a lot of locals.  
      
    The garbage pizza was excellent, their Sunday brunch eggs were fantastic.  The eggs weren't greasy, the bacon was good quality, even the potatoes had great flavor, I was impressed.    
      
    Service was friendly but it was a little hectic.  Our food did come quickly though.  A memorable breakfast/lunch spot. ( 5 stars)
19. Went to grab a late lunch here after spending the day at the museum of science and industry. There wasn't a long wait around 5 pm on a Saturday as we were seated right away. The staff was friendly and the food was good and way cheaper than the museum cafeteria. The portion size was large as well. ( 4 stars)
20. Been here couple times. It's a small place with limited seating famous amongst the UC crowd out of a need for a café or just sentimental reasons. Lines are long during peak hours but you can find a place to sit otherwise.   
      
    I have seen delicious looking pastries but the only thing I've tried here is their coffee and Mexican hot chocolate which was awesome. Menu looks good, willing to try their breakfast sometime.   
      
    For the neighborhood, I personally love Hyde Park. It has its own charm and feels distant from Chicago in some aspects. You would have to spend some time looking for parking though since it's a busy stretch.  
      
    Overall, cute. ( 3 stars)

Word Frequency

pizza 18

food 16

medici 13

pastry 12

friend 10

### Dollop

5500 S University Ave, Chicago, IL 60637

Hyde Park

[dollopcoffee.com](https://www.yelp.com/biz_redir?url=http%3A%2F%2Fdollopcoffee.com&website_link_type=website&src_bizid=8hRB4oYAbMEqQWgIA-Tndg&cachebuster=1540411832&s=9a65dc30aeb83b645c0e51efc4cf38bba997f375bd363881f2077e704e43cb3e)

**NOTE: these results may be skewed because the reviews were about the bakery/café along with the adjacent restaurant**

Total Reviews: 26

Overall Score: 4.0

Reviews:

1. The coffee here is SO good. I recommend the iced mocha with coconut milk.  
     
   The location is very spacious. It's perfect for meeting someone for coffee or studying. They also have some outdoor seating.  
     
   Service is quick and friendly. 10/10 would highly recommend. ( 5 stars)
2. I've been here three times now and I'm always disappointed by my drink or by the service. The first time I just ordered coffee and a banana, and the cashier did not understand how paying in cash works, considering that  I gave her coins so I wouldn't get coins back, and she proceeded to give me less money back as change... and she refused to see she was wrong.   
   The next time I got a hot chocolate. It just tasted like warm milk. There was no chocolate flavor.   
   This last time I got a pumpkin spice latte with almond milk. First they gave me the wrong drink (a hazelnut latte). They were nice enough to give me the drink and then make my own drink. But the drink they made me didn't taste like pumpkin and did not taste good at all. The hazelnut one wasn't good either.   
   Moral of the story: come here for tea and to do hw. Go elsewhere if you want something beyond that.( 2 stars)
3. Drinks: 4  
   Cleanliness: 4  
   Outlets: 4  
   Noise Level: Quiet  
     
   What a perfect study spot in the neighborhood of Hyde Park! Came about 1-hr before closing and there was just 1 lady working. Super quiet, plenty of tables both high and low, and large windows for natural light. It's located within a common building in the back/middle.  
     
   Would I come back? Yes, perfect place to do work. ( 4 stars)
4. It's a Dollop so you essentially know what to expect.  Like the other locations, the drinks are solid, albeit a tad overpriced, but certainly a better option than habitually burned coffee at large name brand corporate coffee shop.  (rhymes with barlucks).  I had a latte and then later cappuccino.  The latte was very good, they had the right balance of milk and didn't leave you feeling heavy.  The cappuccino was great as well and the perfect boost in the afternoon.  
   As noted by some others this isn't the coziest of dollops.  It definitely has a bit of a colder industrial feel to it.  Having said that, it's a large space in an area where the coffee shops tend to be a bit small and over crowded.  The plug situation needs some work and sometimes they've got the music cranked a little loud. ( 4 stars)
5. What a great coffee shop! Large, well-lit, and airy, it has a lovely ambiance. Seating was plentiful, as were outlets. WiFi worked with no issues. The noise level was minimal but it didn't feel too quiet. I had an amazing sandwich and also a hot drink. Both were tasty and not too expensive.   
     
   The clientele is mostly UChicago students, so there's definitely a young vibe. Everything was clean and tidy. The baristas were friendly as well.   
     
   This is one of my new favorite places! ( 5 stars)
6. Not the best Dollop location, but it'll do. I only like it because it's convenient and fairly spacious but otherwise I wouldn't come here. The seating isn't very comfortable and while there are outlets available, I feel like there aren't enough.   
     
   The whole place gives a very "cold" feel. I usually prefer coffee shops that are more cozy and warm. There are definitely other Dollop locations that have that nice ambience but I'm not quite sure what they were thinking with this one.   
     
   There is a pretty good amount of space available and it is less crowded than some other cafes on campus, probably due to its tucked away location. ( 3 stars)
7. This shop is located in a building on UC's campus. Unless you are familiar with the Northside of UC (Smart Museum, Young Building etc) you probably aren't going to find it.  
     
   As with most Dollops, speed isn't high on the list of priorities. True, everything is handcrafted, in true barista fashion only one drink is made at a time and there is (unimaginative) latte art created. So with that being said, if you are getting coffee/espresso on your way to class or a meeting, make sure you make time for the process.   
     
   The decor is super industrial which is cute, but Dollop still manages to have a messy lobby/cafe space. Not sure if it's due to students studying or being lazy with their belongings, but it manages to look disheveled.  
     
   Also, the food for what you get is extremely over priced. There is a small reach in and panini press; it looks like everything is slapped together by hand, so maybe it's priced so high to dissuade people from ordering? I wish Dollop would partner with Goddess and the Baker grocer for RTE items and pastries. Especially in this type of environment I would think that Grab and Go options would be super popular and efficient. But what do I know?  
     
   All in all, it's a nice addition to UC and maybe Hyde Park (if they had the right signage). ( 3 stars)
8. I would not recommend any espresso drinks from this location. I just ordered an iced mocha, the barista forgot about the shot (which was pulled into a milk pitcher???) while helping another customer, and then overpulled the second shot too. She filled the cup half with almond milk, filled the rest of the milk pitcher (containing the shot and the syrup) with almond milk, and then poured only half of the espresso/chocolate/milk mixture into my drink. So I received maybe a quarter-strength drink that I paid $6 for.   
     
   I get that people are learning, but this poor girl was alone on shift and looked genuinely terrified by making this drink. There really should be a second employee on to train for the sake of both employee and the customer.  
     
   Its really a shame that I've had such poor service at this location (repeatedly) because I love the downtown Dollop spots. Unfortunately will not be returning for espresso any time soon. ( 2 stars)
9. Really love the space. Was not as impressed with the latte, it didn't taste like coffee at all. ( 3 stars)
10. I've been to a few dollops around Chicago and this one is probably my least favorite. Like any coffee shop, there's is some variance in quality based on who's making the drink, but this is the only dollop where I have felt like I was regularly overpaying for what I was getting. This location is regularly out of certain drinks and sometimes milk (almond, oat - although a lot of coffee shops struggle to keep oat milk in stock so this ones not their fault). I usually order a cappuccino and somehow the espresso often tastes burned and sometimes they don't froth the milk enough. My latest drink was almost at the same quality as McDonalds or Starbucks. The espresso was incredibly bitter/burnt tasting and the texture was too watery for a proper cappuccino.    
      
    I will say, for what is close to campus, this place is one of the best, but it is nowhere near the level of quality of most Dollops or other similar chain coffee shops in the city (La Colombe, Intelligentsia). ( 2 stars)
11. Great coffee and one of my favorite campus places. It's also a great place to do work or sit and talk. I also recommend the jammy hammy sandwich. Food and drinks are a little on the pricey side but it's better than pret and the other places on campus (except maybe the Grounds of Being or Plein Air, but those places are often more crowded).  
      
    Also the music is usually on point. ( 5 stars)
12. I use to really enjoy them when they opened but my past few experiences have been horrible. There is only one barista who actually knows how to make the drinks correctly (a black man with blonde hair) everyone else does a horrible job of it. I allows get the Mexican mocha and it taste so watered down whenever other people make it. I don't think I'll be visiting this place anymore. ( 2 stars)
13. Wonderful addition to UChicago's north campus and a welcome gem to Hyde Park's already crowded cafe scene. But students can never have enough cafe options.   
      
    Because I woke mere steps away from this establishment I've grabbed coffee from here many times. Their coffee is smooth and strong. I've also highly enjoyed their almond croissant which was flaky, buttery and creamy. I'm currently sipping on a lovely chocolate milk. This airy cafe with high windows allows for light to pour in and makes for a pleasant experience whether one is working, relaxing or just popped in for some hot cocoa. I'm happy to be a regular! ( 5 stars)
14. Visiting from Cincinnati we asked for recommendations for a coffee house.  Dollop was recommended as a good place.    
      
    Pros:   
    -Very bright interior with large windows.  
    -A few couches to sit in for relaxing with others while drinking coffee.  
      
    Cons:   
    - Music is distracting and not relaxing and kept going in and out.  
    - Pricy.  Two iced coffees and one pastry was $13.   
    - Decor feels more like a cafeteria than a coffee shop.  Wide open space with white bare walls with the occasional painted coffee related art on the walls.  
    -Outlets are literally falling off the wall leaving wiring exposed. ( 2 stars)
15. Much better place to work than Starbucks down the street. Usually pretty crowded with students, so be prepared to share a bench. Tip: sit farther from the doors if you can -- they let in a nasty draft in the winter and there are 3 sets of them! ( 4 stars)
16. Coffee is a little pricey at $2+ for a small. The place gets quite packed with students. If you're looking for a place to sit down and work, they have a lot of seating options if they are not all already preoccupied. It is mostly bench-style seating where several (assumed) strangers share one table and bench. There are also small tables and bar-style seating available, but in smaller numbers. Overall, if you're looking for a place to work, expect yourself to be kinda crammed in like a bunch of sardines. There is also a small area with sofas that are comfortable for small get-togethers if you wanted to chit-chat, but again, you have to be fortunate to get these seats if they are what you are looking for. The busy-ness gives the cafe a nice ambiance. ( 4 stars)
17. Awesome cafe! I ordered a coconut oolong tea and a snicker doodle cookie. Both were excellent. Barista was super nice. ( 5 stars)
18. I am so glad this place has come to Hyde Park! It's got great American-style pastries, and the biscuits are really indulgently delicious. The coffee and tea options are broad and consistently good. I think it's a great place to work, with the big open windows and ample seating and plug points. The service has always been friendly. ( 5 stars)
19. Not worth it. Super expensive iced coffee (maybe it was a cold brew) and it was way too strong and bitter, even after adding milk. I was really disappointed. ( 2 stars)
20. Got an almond croissant here. It was BOMB. The almond cream had little almond skin flakes in it. I've never seen that before and it was great. The crust was beautifully crunchy and buttery. Excellent croissant, Dollop. I commend you. The space is surprisingly large and very brightly lit. Despite all the students, I felt that it was reasonably quiet.  
      
    This feels strange to say because I generally like open, well lit spaces, but for a coffee shop, Dollop's huge windows felt a little strange. Perhaps I am too used to the softly lit, cozy atmosphere that most coffee places go for. Honestly, I need to go back here for coffee and update my review accordingly. ( 4 stars)

Word Frequency

coffee 26

place 17

work 11

shop 10

location 8

campus 6

latte 6

WASHINGTON PARK

### Currency Exchange café

305 E Garfield Blvd, Chicago, IL 60637

Washington Park

currencyexchangecafe.com

**NOTE: This café is recorded to be closed! As in shut down**

Total Reviews: 126

Overall Score: 4.0

Reviews:

1. The space is gorgeous, the coffee is perfect, and the staff is knowledgeable and welcoming. Whenever I have a meeting in Hyde Park, I always visit Currency Exchange Cafe.   
     
   This morning I brought my whole sales team and we each loved our breakfast! I had the cornmeal breaded catfish with collard greens and red beans because I need to be gluten-free. My colleagues had fluffy scrambled eggs, big stacks of pancakes, sweet potato pie, and banana pudding topped with real whipped cream. This is an outstanding restaurant! ( 5 stars)
2. Only a one star because it was closed. I've heard rave reviews about it.... i took the time to travel and saw the sign that it has been closed. I wish that folks would take the time to edit that on businesss pages   
     
   Yelp said it was open and so did Google. ( 1 star)
3. They literally converted a currency exchange into a pretty nice café. I like how they have healthy options and on this part of the south side I was surprised by the diversity of the clientele. I went with a friend for brunch and was blown away by what my friend called a "biscuit". It was dense and cake-like with a high polished top and it was divine! I would love to have another of whatever that was. There is also a check-in offer her for a free biscuit if you spend over $10 which is pretty easy to do. I thought it was affordable and the service was really good. I'd like to go back and try other items.  
     
   Not so humbly submitted,  
   Michael C. ( 3 stars)
4. This was my first go around at the currency Exchange Cafe so I tried sampling multiple items from the menu just to get a taste of as much food as possible. Well unfortunately that didn't happen. Of the relatively small menu, two items weren't available, of which one truly disappointed me. The restaurant couldn't make pancakes..... pancakes!!! I had a yearning for pancakes and they didn't have them during breakfast hours.   
     
   Realizing I already had two strikes and a third would've meant I giving up and just going somewhere else, I decided just to get a traditional breakfast. Grits, egg, turkey sausage and their signature biscuit with a hot tea as my drink. Everything thing I had was just alright.   
     
   The setting was dope and the service setup was very unique for the restaurant's layout. It has the feel of a trendy restaurant that looks to turn into a neighborhood favorite casual meeting place. The patrons were very diverse in makeup, which is good because diversity makes everyone feel welcomed.   
     
   All in all, I don't know if I'd try the cafe again for breakfast. The lunch menu has better reviews than the breakfast menu anyway.  Plus I'd hate to come back and leave with an unfulfilled taste for pancakes!!! ( 3 stars)
5. My friend and I decided to give Currency Exchange a try and I'm glad we did! We went on a Saturday afternoon and it was packed!!! They have musical entertainment from 1:00 to 4:00. It was such a welcoming environment and I loved the neighborhood bar feel.  
     
   The place is huge!!! I heard soon they will be opening up for dinner as well.   
     
   Now onto the food... :). I have to start by saying they have some of the best collard greens I have ever tasted. I'm also a huge fan of the black history month special menu item - SkunaBay Salmon + Sweet Corn Relish + potato Risotto. I took a slice of sweet potato pie with me and YUMMY! I love how reasonable the prices are and will definitely be back. Service, food, and hospitality of Executive Chef Lamar J Moore were excellent! ( 5 stars)
6. This past Sunday; I had a need for some good food. I've heard so much about this place. I would see posting of live music, special events and great reviews on Facebook.   
     
   To my surprise; the currency Exchange Cafe is located in the Washington park area. I didn't realize how close this place was to my home.  It's centrally close to the highway, red line, Garfield transit line, Hyde Park and Woodlawn.   
     
   It's great to see that they employed young people. The staff are wonderful. The place is beautiful. I love rustic look. It has two levels. You're able to eat at bar, booth and great seated table throughout. Visiting the currency Exchange Cafe gives that #Throwback vibe. The music is old school, jazz, neo soul.   
     
   Great place for working , meeting with Old & new friends and eating good. I will definitely come back. I came back the next day for the Monday live jazz event.  I loved it.  First drink I  
   With a ticket is free ( soft drink, wine, beer, chai)  
     
   Please tip the bartender.. great service ( 5 stars)
7. Currency Exchange Cafe is a great place to grab a coffee, connect to free WiFi and plow through some work. It's a pretty chill vibe with a steady flow of patrons, but not too distracting. Although I've never had rude service, the staff could be friendlier. The Matcha Green Tea Latte is my go-to. I love CEC's active community involvement. Check them out especially if you're like me (self diagnosed ADHD) and can't focus at home. ( 3 stars)
8. One of the coolest & coziest places I've been in Chicago. I could spend all day here reading a book or working on some work. I HIGHLY recommend the drink called Green Goddess & for food the Shrimp & Grits or Spicy Chicken.   
     
   If you live downtown or on the North side this is a must visit on the South Side! ( 5 stars)
9. I really love Currency Exchange Cafe (CEX). No matter how much I get angry at their slow service, or their forgetting to give me this or that, or for having to remind people several times to wipe off my table after the previous guests have long gone, I just keep coming back.  
     
   This morning, I arrived right after they opened and the house was already full with a long ordering line, which was moving slowly as usual. They only have one person taking orders at the walk-up counter, and it is not uncommon for him or her to discuss menu items in great detail, socialize with guests, or host conversations with the barista or other servers who frequently gather behind the bar. In this way, I guess, the good vibe of the place is created. With every kind of soul music playing loudly in the background and all sorts of happy POC eating and laughing at individual and communal tables, it feels like home as soon as you walk through the door. And it smells like your mama has been in the back cooking all day and all your cousins and mama's friends and uncles are already there and having a good time. It's warm, cozy, and the workers have nappy hair, funky haircuts, and Goodwill clothes accentuated by trendy sneakers and Wakanda-type shyt. Look to your left and see piping hot plates of pancakes and French toast with whipped cream and berries pass by as quickly as steaming soul bowls heaped high with fragrant collard greens peeking out from underneath over easy eggs. You stand in that fcuking line and wait because it's worth it when they do the shyt right.  
     
   I order the honey latte every time I come, and it is made with love each and every time. It is the perfect balance of sweet, creamy espresso and heavenly foam with a touch of honey in the bottom of every cup. My favorite barista, the girl with the locs and big glasses, is not much for small talk. Each time I visit, I just thankfully retrieve my perfect latte when she yells out my name.   
     
   Today, they never called out my name, so I had to go up and ask for my latte well after I'd already eaten most of my food. The food was so good, I didn't really want to get up, but they had also forgotten my biscuit and I wanted to see what it tasted like with my soul bowl (scrambled eggs, juicy collards, and bacon pieces heaped on top of hot, fried potatoes).   
     
   When I asked about my latte and missing biscuit, the worker performed astonishment. He paused, looked at his iPad screen in shock, and said to me, "I don't know HOW that happened." [Long pause that didn't include an apology] "We will get that right out to you, mam."  
     
   It was my turn to pause because I wanted to cuss at him for faking. Instead, I said, "And the biscuit?"  
     
   "Yes, mam. And the biscuit."  
     
   I walked back to my table, where earlier, before my food came, instead of a latte, another server had placed a small sign on my table that read "Reserved @12:45." Like Beyonce said at Coachella, ain't that a bytch? At that time, it was barely 10:15, and they were signaling for me to leave before my table even got wiped down. Whatever.  
     
   I sat back down and waited for my biscuit. The same boy I had reminded to bring it when he brought my food and promised to "be right back," showed up after a few minutes with a piping hot biscuit on a saucer. I was disproportionately happy when it came and thought, well at least it just came out of the oven. That must have been the hold-up. I happily ate it and soon, my latte arrived too, with a beautiful heart shape floating in the foam. I like to think it was to make up for being so late.   
     
   I paused to work on an essay I had been writing, but when I went back to my biscuit a few minutes later, why was the MF hard as a ROCK!?!? Well, if you know like I know, then you know the only time that happens is when BREAD HAS BEEN MICROWAVED! No wonder it was piping hot! Why, oh, why they wanna play with me like this? I am so greedy that I ate it anyway, mad as could be. Almost choked on it. It made a huge ball in my right cheek and took forever to wash down. I put some greens in my mouth to soften it up, gave up on my essay, and decided it was time to write this review.   
     
   With just a few minor tweaks, mainly in service training and closer attention to the high volume CEX continues to see, it can be the rockstar dining experience it's supposed to be. Bus and wipe the tables down quicker. Make servers carry tickets to ensure diners receive their FULL orders at once. Come up with a better system for delivering drinks. And for god's sake, open up another ordering line!   
     
   CEX has mastered an aesthetic, as is evidenced by the crowd and by its fun SM presence. It has found a way to appeal to every kind of community member close to our beloved South Side. And there is something for everybody at CEX, but service must improve. The least CEX could do is make sure everyone has what they need, on clean tables, after they have pre-paid good money for their good food. ( 3 stars)
10. I don't get to come here that often but its a treat for two reasons.  I always run into friends from the community.  Its a great comunity spot for meetings and such.    
      
    The food is always good.  I had a taco dinner.  what!??  IKR But it was perfect with two well flavored chicken tacos. no soggy shells they were cooked perfectly with a side of red beans, white rice and collards.  MMmmm MMmmm, so good.  Each completed the other for a perfect bite each time. I also tried the ginger tumeric chai, very yummy.   My friend had the chicken sandwich with a side of collards.  Everything is delicious which is why folks keep coming back.  Not so hidden gem near the DuSable Museum and the hospital.  Great choice outside of Hyde Park usual suspects. ( 4 stars)
11. truly a unique little coffee shop. the food looked excellent, but the coffee was amazing. I believe they use back of the yards coffee and my cappuccino was wonderful.   
      
    They have an attached reading room that can be rented out for private events which is really cool. The people who worked at the shop were incredibly nice and this place caters to a lot of tastes and seems like a neighborhood staple. I came thanks to a recommendation from a friend and am glad to have followed through.   
      
    The shop itself is quite big, lots of cool lil places to sit and enjoy. They have $1 coffee on the go and on the menu it said bottomless coffee for $3 so the prices are just right too. Enjoy! ( 5 stars)
12. Hi,  
      
    My husband and I visted Currency Exchange Cafe (approx two weeks ago I think) on a rare Saturday without our little ones.  
      
    To be fair, I was unaware of the concept (not sure what you call it) of getting your own placeware, drinks, etc. Ummm, ok. So, moving on.   
      
    I was totally put off by paying first for a casual dining place. This is not a fast food joint. In addition, there was actually a TIP option field on the self-order portals BEFORE you even get your food or have a chance to experience the service!    
      
    So, I already knew I wanted shrimp and grits as it was my understanding this was one of their specialties. The "waiter" had the nerve to tell me they do not serve shrimp and grits on the weekends. He said the rationale was to offer their client-base something "different" on the weekends since everyone orders this during the week. This literally makes no sense. Creole/southern/soul food is a big part of their menu. Like, why would you have fish and grits on the weekends (which my husband ordered) and not shrimp? I could tell dude was lying by the way he paused and stuttered.   
    Why not just say....we ran out of shrimp?  
      
    I ordered the bottomless cofee. Bottomless implies to me at least one refill right? Two maybe? In order to get a refill you have to be given coffee almost immediately. I was not. After several minutes of me waiting I ask about my coffee. I was brought cold coffee. I take it back to the bar and the same waiter offers to make a fresh pot. I ask him if I should wait at the bar with him. He says no, he "will not forget about me this time". I literally watch him from our table making cocktails and what have you for several minutes. I eventually go back to the bar and just tell him to cancel the "bottomless" coffee as I was already halfway through my meal. He offers to give me a cup to go (this is not bottomless is it). They were unable to cancel but brought me $3 single dollar bills to my table. And as I think about it, why the heck would you charge for refills?  
      
    Music was good, but way too loud. Maybe I am old. An older couple had to go downstairs. It was the weekend of the Chosen Few House picnic.  
      
    Hubby enjoyed his food. He said the greens were a little too sweet and the biscuit was more like cake, but still good. He would return. Not me! ( 2 stars)
13. I wanted to try "Currency Exchange Cafe" every time I passed through this part of south side.  For some reason I thought this place was at least a block west from the CTA Garfield Green Line station.  Oh no, CEC is literally across the road, though the signage could have been more conspicuous.    
      
    The building appeared to be antiquated, but it was the contrast between the "past" and "present" made the space remarkable.  I saw parts of the walls were purposefully left "untouched."  However, the coffee bar, the kitchen, and the restroom were clearly the new add-on or were renovated before opening for business.   
      
    CEC serves coffee, tea, mixed drinks, and food fresh from the kitchen.  Orders are taken at the register, and items will be brought to the table.    
      
    I know this spot may be just a coffee shop for some; it's a solid light lunch spot for me.  Both catfish po'boy ($8.5) and the shrimp & grits ($12, as of 02/19/2017) were delicious!  Although there was minor clumping of the grits on the bottom of the bowl, after a few stirs that didn't really bother me.    
      
    They brew Metropolis Coffee.  Hubby and I really had a blast this afternoon.  The only complaint was the portion size of each entree; a bit more generous servings would have been desirable for the prices we paid.  Otherwise, a side of salad or chips would have been greatly appreciated.    
      
    Looking for somewhere to take five in the south side?  If I happen to be in Washington Park or near the west end of the UofC campus, I certainly will stop in. ( 4 stars)
14. Currency Exchange is a great example of a place for everyone. We went again this morning. The service is warm and attentive. The French toast was...fresh, homemade whipped cream with spices. Perfect. The coffee is some of my favorite in the city. And that $3 biscuit is worth it.  The grits too were YUMMY! ( 5 stars)
15. I love the atmosphere. I was here working since I work from home. My friend and I decided to order food. The menu sounds and looks amazing. But I wasn't pleased with the food. My standards are high since I am from Louisiana. I order the Fish and Grits. It came with fried catfish, greens, a biscuit and of course grits.  
      
    The catfish was so bland. No seasoning in the batter at all. Was so disappointed. The biscuit came out and it looked amazing but tasted like cardboard. I tried to use Jelly and the jam was too watery. Now the greens were amazing. If you are working at times the music can be a little too loud. I don't think they know their identity yet. Is it a coffee shop where ppl can work or a coffee shop/restaurant.   
      
    I will give this place another chance and hopefully they amp up the seasoning on the food. ( 2 stars)
16. This is an amazing little place right off the CTA. All the staff are amazing, they have cool old rap/R&B playing, and a vintage vibe. More importantly, they are a "green" restaurant with composting, and support community organizations. The food is classic Southern with a twist, and it is delicious! The lunch soul bowl I got was a soupy mix of southern goodness. I loved the bits of sausage I got in there. The shrimp and grits was a little soupy for me. Four stars because the menu did not seem super diverse to me, though it looked great, and portions were a little small. I would go back for an afternoon coffee break and a bite of comfort food. Great spot! ( 4 stars)
17. This. Spot. Is. AMAZING!  
    While exploring the Washington Park area, we stumbled across this neighborhood gem. We absolutely loved the food, drink, and atmosphere so much that we've returned several times since.  
    Why do we love this spot so much?  
    First, the food is fresh, flavorful, and fantastic! House made biscuits and bread, hearty bacon, egg, and cheese sandwich, the most delightfully flavorful house-made spicy fried chicken sandwich, delectable house-made jam, scrumptious Metropolis coffee beverages, and so much more!  
    Second, the space has a fantastic atmosphere. Clean, open, and homey, we found ourselves able to come to Currency Exchange for a variety of reasons. Whether it be to tackle some work in the basement area with a plethora of wall plug-ins or to meet with a group of people and chat! All of your needs can be meet!  
    Third, it is a professional and comfortable coffee/lunch restaurant that makes it clear that all people are welcome. Just as Chicago is a sanctuary city, this cafe is a sanctuary cafe for all the locals, Chicago explorers, and travelers that come through the doors.  
    Thanks for being fabulous, Currency Exchange. We will see you soon for our next dining adventure! :) ( 5 stars)
18. Visiting from Michigan and stopped in here, everything I ate was delicious, fantastic service, great music, and excellent space. I highly recommend anything with the collard greens. The soup bowl was heaven. Go there and then... you're welcome! ( 5 stars)
19. I've recently started going into Currency Exchange fairly regularly. Great locally sourced coffee and a nice environment to get some work done or chat with a friend. Most of the coffee shops and cafes in the area are in Hyde Park and I find Currency Exchange to be a refreshing change of pace. I think it's a great addition to Washington Park and I love the whole Arts Block concept.   
      
    If I had one complaint it would be that I wish they were open later! (they currently close at 4pm) ( 5 stars)
20. Great place to eat at.....services and good was awesome......... our server was really nice he gave us a lot of hit tips we're definitely going to come back here and hang out love this place ( 5 stars)

Word Frequency

coffee 26

drink 19

place 17

dollop 14

milk 13

work 11

shop 10

location 8

student 6

campus 6

## WOODLAWN

### Robust café

6300 S Woodlawn Ave, Chicago, IL 60637

Woodlawn

http://robustcoffeelounge.com/

Total Reviews: 211

Overall Score: 4.0

Reviews:

1. First and foremost, this place is huge! That alone made me a fan within seconds. It does a brisk business and yet there's always seating to be had.   
     
   The staff is very nice and accommodating, the space is well-maintained, and the coffee and sandwiches are good, and very fairly priced.   
     
   The only complaint I had, and it's minor, is the donut. Not that good. Frosting, yes. But the rest of it was a little tasteless. But that's small stuff. Robust is well worth a visit. At least three times a week, I bike down from the North Side to somewhere on the South Side or Western Suburbs for exercise and exploration, then work remotely, so I'll be coming in all fall and winter. This place is a keeper.   
     
   Pro-tip: It will get a little loud during the bottom of the 3:00 hour when a lot of kids roll in rom one of the local schools. They're fine overall, but they are teenagers, so they're going to be a little loud. But the vast majority of them take their food to go, so it's a mild annoyance at worst. ( 4 stars)
2. I love this coffee shop because it's a nice place where I am able to get my work done when I want to get out the house. My only disappointment is that they are frequently out of chai tea when I visit in the afternoons. They also have a pretty good selection of sandwiches and small salads.  
     
   I see based on other reviews I have to try the honey nut latte. I'll try on my next visit. ( 4 stars)
3. Robust is such a great space to work or meet up with friends.  
     
   Food: I like to get the bacon, egg, and cheese on an English muffin. The first time I ordered it, I ate it so fast I forgot to take a picture. Lol. When I went back the second time, I remembered. They also have donuts and a variety of food (sandwiches, salads) you can order.   
     
   Drinks: I enjoy their berry smoothie. The first time I went, I ordered the Honey Nut Latte. It was decent, but I prefer to go to Robust for the food and the space.   
     
   Space: Robust is huge. There is a ton of space in the front and the back. You never feel too closed in next to someone  else. The cafe has nice big windows which lets in a lot of natural light.   
     
   Service: the service is always good. The baristas and cashiers are always kind, and provide good service.   
     
   I definitely recommend going to Robust. If I lived closer I would definitely be a regular. ( 4 stars)
4. Cute little shop in Hyde Park. I ordered a croissant and coffee which I really enjoyed. Inside looks really trendy for anyone that cares about aesthetics. Check this place out if you haven't. ( 4 stars)
5. Let's spend a second dreaming about that Honey Nut Latte. HOLY DELICIOUS! Who knew coffee, almond milk and honey could be so perfect?! I will say, it is a bit pricey at almost $5.50, but as a VERY occasional treat, 100% worth it! While I was there I also (calorically, not monetarily) splurged on an amazing double chocolate cake donut. I had to remind myself that I was in public and need not inhale it. Their drinks and sweets are so on point at Robust.   
     
   Pro-tip: Between 6am-8am all food is 50%!  
     
   The only downfall is not everyone that works there is kind or efficient. They typically have one person working cash register (and serving simple black coffee) and one person making all of the other drinks, so if you snoozed, you're losing, because you might be 10th in line even at 7:30am!   
     
   .... totally worth it though for that honey nut latte and donut :) ( 4 stars)
6. Stopped in because need a pick me up. Their speciality is the mocha diablo..it is espresso, milk and the in house diablo syrup. I did almond milk instead of regular milk. I will say that the Diablo is the bomb! It's the right hint of spicy and also not too sweet. They also have an assortment of pastries but I didn't try any..if you want a cute little coffee shop I think Robust will provide. ( 5 stars)
7. This place has gone so far downhill I can hardly believe it. Was once my go-to in the area for a mocha, and occasionally a breakfast croissant or a grilled cheese. Between the worsening staff, the constant array of bugs and occasional mice, and the food now struggling to meet mediocre quality, there's no longer much reason to come here at all. The staff used to be friendly and fun!   
     
   Their reward card is a joke as well-- I got large drinks every time I came here. Fill up the reward card and you get a small (ridiculously small) drink. I asked if I could pay the difference and get my large-- 70 cents more than the small. The reply SHOULD have been no problem, you're a regular customer, we'll cover that 70 cents. Instead it was "reward card upgrades cost a dollar." I pointed out that the price difference was less than that, and the rude girl just repeated herself. If you all don't give a shit about your customers-- let alone the ones that are here 4-5 times a week-- then screw this place. ( 1 star)
8. This is my favorite coffee house.  The staff is always pleasant, patient and helpful. It's my go to for coffee, remote office, quick bites or just to see a smiling face. ( 5 stars)
9. I've been going to Robust for 6 years now.  It continually has gotten worse and worse.  The mochas are more foam than liquid now like a cappuccino.  I understand it happening once or twice, but it's been several times now. I'm not paying $5 for foam.    
     
   A sandwich, chip, and pop are always over $10 and the wait to get the sandwich is often near 10 minutes. This is acceptable if the food is unique or good, but the food is rather mediocre and not worth the price. Starbucks is about a mile North on Woodlawn, I might have to start travelling there for my caffeine kick. ( 1 stars)
10. Best coffee house bar in South Side Chicago. Very nice friendly baristas. Their caramel frappe is the best! Its way better than Starbucks & Dunkin' Donuts! I love the atmosphere. It's very chilling in there. I live in Highland Indiana, and I be taking the CTA Stony Island Bus getting off at 63rd and take 10 minute walk to 63rd & Woodlawn. My buddy recommended me this coffee shop. The area is little rough, but this coffee shop is a must stop. I'll be coming back once in the while. Keep up the good work right here. I will continue to supporting this place! ( 5 stars)
11. Great coffee and the Food is even better.. Not the best area to hang around in but all in all it's worth it.  
    Quick Tip: When ordering THE ELVIS be sure they don't water it down or skimp out on the peanut butter... ( 3 stars)
12. I love their half off breakfast deal from 6-8. Robust bowl with sausage is my favorite. They also have many options for lunch items and I've recently had one of their newest salads (chopped bellview salad). Delicious!!!! I do have to say I enjoy coming here after 9ish since it can be really busy for the half off breakfast deal and a little noisy because of the school kids. ( 5 stars)
13. Interesting!!! This is a college district, so I would image things would be cheaper - I guess not. Came here with a friend, just so happens the same sandwich caught both our eyes - the Brisket Grilled Cheese...yum!  Although it was very tasty, I don't think I'd come back. The price of $9.37 for a grilled cheese with a few shredded pieces of beef with no fries/chips or a drink...that's SUPER expensive. My friend's total came to $15.37, she ordered a small coffee which btw is $5.50.  It's another $1.75 to upgrade it wasn't worth it.  Also, I would image this venue is relatively new, the space is nice and it seats a great number of people, but the seats are horrible. They're all taped up and sunken in. I'm not sitting on that, gross!! ( 4 stars)
14. Not the friendliest baristas or the best tasting coffee. I guess they get points for the solid pastries and sandwiches. I actively look to support small local businesses and I want Robust Coffee to succeed. Their long-term success will coincide with a stronger focus on customer service. They have a really cool space, they just need to hire staff to better represent the business. ( 2 stars)
15. Love love love! Great coffee and atmosphere. Try the Breve iced with an extra espresso shot - my go to. Best part... parking is always available! The only con is it is a bit pricey but typical for a great coffee shop. The employees are super friendly too! ( 4 stars)
16. I don't come to Robust often, mostly because it's a bit out of the way from everything else around the Hyde Park/Woodlawn area. BUUUT, when I do come, I am never disappointed. I'm not a coffee drinker (although I hear their coffee is incredible), but I do like hot chocolate. And their white hot chocolate is the absolute best. During the winter, I am willing to walk a mile and a half in 15 degree weather down from my apartment just to satisfy my Robust craving. In the summers, I get their lemonades which are also great.  
      
    The apple fritters--divine. The donuts--delicious.  
      
    This place is a hidden gem, and it's great for the flourishing community in the Woodlawn area. There is always street parking and is a 15 min walk away from the UChicago campus. ( 5 stars)
17. Friendly staff and really good coffee. I had a tuna melt and I was very pleased with it. It was fresh and it came with candy. I didn't know it was going to have candy, so that was an neat surprise. I also like the location. I work in that area and usually get Dunkin Donuts by the train. I had extra time and was further down 63rd and found this place.   
      
    Note: they made a mistake on one of my orders,  but were so nice and handled things well. Major props for that. ( 5 stars)
18. I was in town a couple of weeks ago staying in the area and heard this place was worth a try so we ordered for delivery. Got our food pretty quickly, The french toast was really good and definitely a good recommendation. Definitely recommend this place.( 4 stars)
19. Oh my goodness. Great vibe, great food, robust coffee. Chill vibe, spacious, great place for meetings. Highly recommend checking out this spot! ( 5 stars)
20. There are two rooms here: an airy one with lots of windows on the corner, and a cosier one where lots of men are playing chess. The regular coffee is pretty good, and comes in a very large mug. Apparently the breakfast sandwiches are also good. We got a grilled cheese without the bacon, and a bagel sandwich. Both were good (especially the grilled cheese), and we appreciated that the server confirmed that it was a grilled cheese without bacon when serving it. The mudslide was fun for being so decadent, but I didn't actually love it, though I can't say exactly why. Next time I might just get a donut. ( 5 stars)

Word Frequency

coffee 22

robust 13

place 12

food 11

sandwich 9

friend 7

space 7

area 7

work 7

## ENGLEWOOD

### Kusanya Café

825 W 69th St, Chicago, IL 60621

Englewood

[kusanyacafe.org](https://www.yelp.com/biz_redir?url=http%3A%2F%2Fkusanyacafe.org%2F&website_link_type=website&src_bizid=t_BZAP2OCpLdapTL9Yp5uA&cachebuster=1540413463&s=16160552bfc16b86015100a334a482eacbadbb922504087b9df868ac513af306)

Total Reviews: 74

Overall Score: 4.5

Reviews:

1. This place deserves all the hype it gets. i've been coming here almost daily since starting work down the street. I always order coffee black and the quality is stupendous. I've started getting the lunch recently and the Big Payback is delicious, not too much and reasonably priced. The staff is always friendly and parking is easy. Ill keep on coming back so long as they keep on being awesome! ( 5 stars)
2. Really dug the decor and the coffee was excellent. The food looked good, though I didn't have anything. And the staff was quite friendly. I don't live close, but if I did, it's the kind of place that I would frequent.   
     
   However, if I did frequent Kusanya, it would be, without exception, with newspaper, magazine, or book in hand.   
     
   Here's the negative:  
     
   Normally in 2018, non-working wifi (unless it is a one-time, unforeseeable disruption, as can happen to any business) knocks a review down to one star. But these guys are a non-profit and doing good work, so there's no need to ding them. Not for nothing, but they also have no reviews less than three stars, which is definitely something.   
     
   Still, after a twenty-mile or so, meandering bike ride through some nasty, nasty construction zones and streets (screw you, Hyde Park!!!) with Kusanya as the ultimate goal, I can't say it didn't leave a bad taste when, after changing out of my sweat-soaked jersey, ordering a drink, settling in, and opening my laptop, I was treated to internet that wouldn't connect.   
     
   Hopefully they fix that with their provider. ( 4 stars)
3. I loved walking into this coffee shop. It's in a good location, easy parking, free Wi-Fi, and great food selection. The cafe space is very open and comfortable and the bar is nicely designed out of reclaimed wood and doors( I think).  
     
   The staff is great, polite, funny, engaging and offering great service. The food coffee and music are all top notch and if your even think you want the baked oatmeal, do it, don't skimp on the warm cream.  
     
   Even though I was visiting from out of town, i felt welcome and like I was among friends. I can see why it's called "Kusanya" - bring together in Swahili. ( 5 stars)
4. Great place! Saw this on a PBS special one night at work so me and my daughter checked it out. I had The Big Payback and my daughter had The Bernie Mac N Cheese. Excellent! She said it was the best thing she ever had which is a big deal for her. This place is a gem and I hope to see more pop up! Will be coming back. ( 5 stars)
5. I am pleased with my visit here, very kind staff and great taste coffee options.  Order a coffee to go and check out the sleeve: Brewed In Englewood. Way better than that watered down crud Starbucks sells. The atmosphere is usually very upbeat and trendy. A lot of vegan sandwich options, which is a bit problem for me! ( 4 stars)
6. The latte was almost as good as the service! The ladies were very friendly and helpful. The caramel latte I got was very flavorful and was perfectly crafted. I will be stopping here regularly. So refreshing to have a coffee shop in the area! ( 5 stars)
7. I FINALLY made out into this awesome space.   
     
   Tried before but my timing was off. They weren't open...  
     
   Well, today was a stumbled-upon kind of day.... So very happy I came! First visit... VERY AWESOME COFFEE! I mean DEEElicious !! They said they roast their own beans in house!  
     
   Um... Guess I never Submitted first review... So... 2 weeks later I was wanting that delicious roasty flavor... Got it for free! They have a Pay-It-Forward program! Sometimes your drink is in the last person! It's  LOVE!   
     
   So, I bought a brownie.... Just to taste & give away (diet), but bit they are really special brownies... Wish wish wish I could inhale the Whole gooey thing.   
     
   DON'T MUST OUT ON KUSANYA   
     
   quiet spacious clean friendly chill deco good ( 5 stars)
8. This place is lovely!  I came in with some coworkers and really enjoyed my iced caramel latte.  The prices are fair, the ambiance is comfy and inviting, and the staff is friendly.  I will certainly be back. ( 5 stars)
9. This is the spot for me whenever I'm in the neighborhood.   
     
   I had the baked oatmeal with fresh berries and almond milk and it was perfect, along with a latte. Prices are so so extremely reasonable, and the bakery case has yummy items ranging from 90 cents to three bucks. I love the aesthetic here. They have beautiful art pieces and a rustic, hip feel to the general decor. The coffee is roasted and packaged on-site and also sold at the Englewood Whole Foods. Everything is top notch quality with choices of $1 mugs of coffee if you order it to stay. I love the nods to Englewood throughout the cafe, from the outline of the neighborhood sketched on tables, to the coffee sleeves and paper bags.   
     
   Kusanya also hosts neighborhood events, a fresh foods night market on certain evenings, yoga on weekends, and open mic storytelling.   
     
   Kusanya is also a non-profit that started on Kickstarter and that stays afloat through community support and grants. If you want to donate check them out online or stop by and ask about it.   
     
   I look forward to trying their sandwiches! So so good! ( 5 stars)
10. Non-profit cafe, c'mon y'all, this is pretty cool.  
      
    Folks told me, yeah, don't go to the South side. I'm from Oakland, and that's what people said about there too. It's kinda surreal here. This business should be supported!  
      
    French toast is good, cafe au lait a bit burned, soup great, and the Cornel West sandwich pretty boss!  
      
    The barista said they have music here sometimes. ( 4 stars)
11. I love this place. I come in once or twice a day. The quality of their coffee is beyond expectations. The other guys have nothing on them. The ambiance and decor are wonderful. Cozy and inviting with a very friendly staff. This is not a "fast food" place. Don't expect speedy service. Expect great service. Go Kusanya! ( 5 stars)
12. I was on a film shoot with my crew on the south side of Chicago and we needed lunch and to setup shop for a little while to capture footage. We found Kusanya Café and it was great.  
      
    Staff was friendly, had some wifi for us to use, and the food was great.   
      
    Pro tip: get the Chicken Funkadelic. Really delicious chicken salad, not smothered in mayo, with a little kick.  
      
    Wish there was one closer to me, I'd go frequently. ( 5 stars)
13. Great little gem of a coffee shop. Incredible coffee and great food to boot. Surprisingly great prices and very helpful staff. Definitely will be back! ( 5 stars)
14. This place is beautiful. The food is good and the ambience is wonderful. Friendly staff. Nice place to read a book or get some work done. ( 4 stars)
15. I was grateful to learn of this place.  The entire setting is well thought out!  I was also grateful that the staff Janiece and Lisa were excited and seemed to be empowered.  They believe in the product.  This place was awesome. ( 5 stars)
16. My 1st time ever here! The neighborhood is rough. But the owner Phil welcomed me. I welcome it. In fact try the Chai and the Ham Master Jay sandwich. So good! I'll definitely be coming back! ( 5 stars)
17. Rosa J. believes that every community deserves a inclusive, inviting, and "empowering" spot to hang out.  Kusanya Cafe is an Englewood represent, located on the southeast corner of Green and 69th. St.    
      
    I do have to admit the surroundings are a bit sketchy, even though I don't anticipate immediate danger during the daytime.  The cozy joint is absolutely nice to get coffee and light lunch fare at reasonable prices.    
      
    I saw many regulars take advantage of the free wifi and bright sunlight to get work done.  I had the "Ham Master Jay" sandwich made-to-order by the friendly young lady at the register.  It was executed impeccably and tasted delicious.    
      
    Together the large, 20oz. latte and the sandwich cost less than $10 after tax.  After visiting various coffee shops in the city, Kusanya is one of the most inexpensive places I know.    
      
    If you happen to be the area or need to grab a quick bite nearby, Kusanya is an excellent choice.  The nearest El station is the CTA 63rd./Halsted Green Line.  For CTA buses, #8 (Halsted) and #67 (67th./69th./71st.) are in close proximity. ( 4 stars)
18. this cafe is probably my favorite in all of chicago. the interior is beautifully decorated, the music they play is perfect to bop to, and the staff is incredibly gracious and kind. not only does this coffee shop support a great cause, the coffee is smooth and fruity, and i really appreciate how they encourage their customers to use reusable mugs with lower prices. the cornell west was balanced with the sharp pickle and the rich swiss cheese, and the chicken gumbo soup was comfort in a bowl. overall, i'm a big fan and i will for sure be back to study, to chill, or honestly whenever cause its just that type of unforgettable joint! ( 5 stars)
19. Kusanya is a hidden gem! The staff are welcoming, food is yummy & atmosphere is superb. We ordered the "Bernie Mac & Cheese" sandwich with an old fashion + chocolate donut. All of our food was rich in flavor and tasted fresh. There's a lending library & they host community events. This is a cool addition to the neighborhood, i'll be back for sure. ( 5 stars)
20. I love their coffee and sandwiches.  I work up an appetite when I roll dice with the guys on 71st and Halstead. ( 5 stars)

Word Frequency

coffee 19

staff 12

place 12

food 11

friend 10

sandwich 8

work 6

cafe 6

latte 5

neighborhood 5

price 5