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Designer Pork

La Quercia's products out-prosciutto Italy

BY JEFF RUBY

If you want to make a foodie swoon—and who doesn't?—then start talking about the joys of prosciutto, pancetta, coppa, and any other variety of cured pig. If that doesn't do it, mention La Quercia. The Iowa farm's artisan salumi may get an awful lot of glory (*The New York Times*, *Bon Appétit*, *Vogue*, virtually every upscale menu in Chicago), but any American producer that out-prosciuttos Italy deserves every last ounce of praise. If you see those two magic words in a menu item, regardless of the description that follows, order it. There's no safer bet in restaurants.

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Speck, prosciutto, coppa, pancetta . . . thin slices of buttery, smoky tasting ham are suddenly the most sought-after food on the planet and savvy restaurateurs, chefs, and meat markets are using the velvety pork perfect products of Iowa-based La Quercia Farms. From Evanston to Lombard and Humboldt Park to the Gold Coast, here is a list of places where you can pig out in style:

[Avec »](#)

615 W. Randolph
312-377-2002

[Birchwood Kitchen »](#)

2211 W. North Ave.
773-276-2100

[Blackbird »](#)

619 W. Randolph
312-715-0708

[Brasserie Jo »](#)

59 W. Hubbard St.
312-595-0800

[Campagnola »](#)

815 Chicago Ave., Evanston
847-475-6100

[D.O.C. Wine Bar »](#)

326 Yorktown Shopping Center, Lombard
630-627-6666

[Enoteca Roma Ristorante & Wine Bar »](#)

2144-2146 W. Division St.
773-342-1011



[Everest »](#)

440 S. La Salle St., 40th Floor
312-663-8920

[437 Rush »](#)

437 N. Rush St.
312-222-0101

[Gioco »](#)

1312 S. Wabash Ave.
312-939-3870

[MK »](#)

868 N. Franklin St.
312-482-9179

[Naha »](#)

500 N. Clark St.
312-321-6242

[North Pond »](#)

2610 N. Cannon Drive
773-477-5845

[Panozzo's Italian Market »](#)

1303 S. Michigan Ave.
312-356-9966

[Prairie Grass Cafe »](#)

601 Skokie Boulevard, Northbrook
847-205-4433

[The Publican »](#)

837 W. Fulton Mkt.
312-733-9555

[Quince at the Homestead »](#)

1625 Hinman Ave., Evanston
847-570-8400

[Rootstock Wine and Beer Bar »](#)

954 N. California Ave.
773-292-1616

[Spacca Napoli »](#)

1769 W. Sunnyside Ave. »
773-878-2420

[Spiaggia »](#)

980 N. Michigan Ave.
312-280-2750

[Terzo Piano »](#)

159 E. Monroe
312-443-8650

[View »](#)

4471 Lawn Ave., Western Springs
708-246-2082

PHOTOGRAPH BY NATHAN KIRKMAN