

Little Italy? Even Better: A Taste of Lombardy

[Katie Schroeder](#) on 03.09.10 at 8:44 PM |



Last night, I had the pleasure of dining at [Tocco Restaurant](#) to mark the beginning of a "Taste of Lombardy" (Lombardia for you true travelers) here in Chicago.

As any good evening must, it began with champagne, prosecco to be exact. The menu included melt-in-my-mouth cured meat that immediately sparked a table conversation on the differences between jamon iberico, jamon serrano, prosciutto, etc. It was followed by polenta with gorgonzola and taleggio, risotto with meat sauce, mushroom-stuffed rabbit (Of course this led to comments regarding Thumper and Bugs Bunny, but all was quickly forgotten as the characters lead us to the recently released Alice in Wonderland. With these seemingly obligatory remarks out of the way, we were free to enjoy the cute cuts of meat without judgement.), fresh-water perch and finally espresso-cinnamon custard topped it off. No Italian meal is finished without espresso, so why not put it right in the dessert.



Dinner at Tocco

Photographs provided by Elizabeth Porporato.

March 8-14, local restaurants, grocery stores and shopping malls will be hosting events with food and wine from the region of Italy and introducing it to food-loving Chicagoans. Wine? Cheese? Bread? Another glass of wine? You won't be disappointed. And for those of you who are scratching your heads, saying, "Is that near Rome?" Lombardy is one of the 20 regions of Italy, is located in the northern part of the country and the capital is Milan.

A few participating locations include [Fox & Obel](#), [Angelo Caputo's Fresh Markets](#), [Pastoral](#), [Whole Foods](#), [Water Tower Place](#) and [North Bridge Mall](#). Importers include [Isola Imports, Inc.](#) and [Rubinelli-Dell'Alpe, Inc.](#) To travel to Lombardy without having to go to O'Hare, make reservations and order off special menus at [Quartino](#) and [Tocco](#). Visit the [Italian American Chamber of Commerce](#) for more info. Buon Appetito!

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