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weekly nightlife section in 

the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR Baptiste & Bottle

BY ANDREW DAVIS

There is much to recommend about the bourbon bar Baptiste & Bottle (101 E. Erie St.; <https://www.baptisteandbottle.com/>).

Baptiste & Bottle is one of three dining/drinking spaces slated to be part of the newly opened Conrad Chicago hotel. (The rooftop spot will open next spring.) And Baptiste (a Richard Sandoval project named after Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, the first permanent resident of Chicago) matches the rest of the hotel in terms of contemporary design—coupled with the fact that practically every seat guarantees a spectacular view of the city (and that especially goes for the semi-private area that's cordoned off with a chevron-designed curtain).

Cocktails are seasonal and, indeed, tasty. Items include the Southside Mule (koyal "baptiste series" bourbon, pineapple-rosemary shrub and ginger) served in a nifty copper cup; a Rootbeer Fizz that's a step up from the A&W you enjoyed as a kid; and a \$20 science experiment called a Curtsy & Bow that incorporates bourbon, orgeat, absinthe—and what's called a "Tonka fog."



Duck (left) and the Southside Mule at Baptiste & Bottle.
Photos by Andrew Davis

However, this place's love of bourbon extends to its Bourbon Baron Program. Taste 75 whiskeys on the list and become a member of the exclusive Baptiste Reserve club—and Baptiste has enough variety to satisfy the most seasoned lover of bourbon.

However, the cuisine is pretty impressive as well. Chef James Lintelmann offered a nice mix of various items at a recent media event. Red-snapper crudo was complemented by roasted carrot salad that also featured quinoa, macadamia and smoked cream cheese. (How often do you hear about that?)

Other culinary offerings included day boat scallops, a most tender roasted duck (with persimmon, celery root and gooseberry), 48-hour beef shortrib (my favorite, with caramelized cabbage, salisfy and huckleberry) and whole roasted chicken (which might seem like quite the splurge at \$58, even with cornbread, andouille sausage and chan-

terelle mushrooms).

However, even after all that, one would be wise to make room for dessert. I was fortunate enough to try a light but very satisfying pineapple ambrosia—a great ending for a place that aims to turn a standard meal into an experience.



Chef James Lintelmann (left).

nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN
YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

Thanksgiving Eve Dance Party



**Wed., Nov. 23
Sidetrack,**

3349 N. Halsted St.

One of the biggest parties of the year—the night before Thanksgiving at Sidetrack. Bring your friends and dance the night away. Team Sidetrack will donate proceeds from coat check to Heartland Alliance/Vital Bridges Center on Chronic Care.

Berlin's Anniversary Party: InFocus



**Tue., Nov. 29, 11 pm
Berlin,**

3359 N. Halsted St.

The party will feature sets by Berlin family DJs and performers until 4 am. Admission is free. You must be 21+ to attend.

This year's theme is Berlin: InFocus. From the Facebook event page: "Berlin truly is a family, and we honor the community that makes it such a unique and vibrant part of Chicago nightlife and culture. Our tradition of artistic expression, diversity, and straight-up weirdness lives on in 2016. The collective contributions made by talented artists, DJs, producers, and bar staff all helped us achieve the honor of being voted 'Nightclub Of The Year' for the 3rd Annual Chicago Nightlife Awards.

In the spirit of celebrating everything that makes Berlin special, we will be creating a photo installation featuring images by professional and amateur photographers that capture the wide variety of theme events, shows, and dance parties that have graced the venue. Management will be selecting our favorite photographs for large-format printing, and each photographer will get to keep the prints of their work.

The exhibit will debut on the night of the party, and will be up during the month of December.

Photo originally printed in the April 12, 2006, issue of Nightspots, by Kirk Williamson



SIDETRACK

Bey watch.

Photos by Jed Dulanias



"The truth is with me and gay is that I can't get round the cock thing. You know I have crushes. Big male crushes. A lot. I crush a lot. But I just can't do the cock. I don't enjoy looking at mine that much."—Singer **Robbie Williams** explains why he can't be gay—much as he'd like to be. Well, I don't really think looking at it is the problem.

A lot of people have been talking about **Mike Pence** seeing Hamilton on Broadway. First things first: How did our next vice president get tickets? And did he pay? 'Cause that's a lot of tickets for Mr. and Mrs. Pence, the Secret Service and the guys who travel with him to electrocute ... err, "convert" any gays they meet. Far more amazing is that anyone took offense to **Brandon Victor Dixon's** speech (which was actually written by composer/lyricist Lin-Manuel Miranda).

Trump tweeted that the cast was "rude" and "harassed" Pence, and he demanded an apology. Did Trump even see the video of the speech? It's readily available online because Dixon told the audience to record it. On Face the Nation on Nov. 20, Pence said that he was not offended, adding "hats off to the cast and the extraordinary team of Hamilton." So, what is this really about? Perhaps former Celebrity Apprentice contestant **George Takei** has stumbled on the truth: "I wonder if Pence went to Hamilton to take our focus off the Trump University fraud settlement." Things that make you go hmmm.

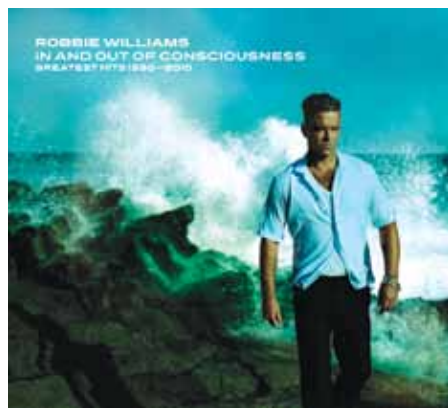
Police were called to the home of a gay couple in Florida to break up a fight that escalated when one man hit his partner in the face with a boiling hot cup of Ramen noodles! I'm just curious—who is eating hot Ramen noodles in balmy Florida? Police arrested the thrower and discovered that he had prior convictions for grand theft, writing bad checks and violating probation. Kinda puts the noodles into perspective.

Last week, **Jack Falahee** from How To Get Away With Murder came out as straight—no surprise to moi, although he does play gay convincingly. He previously didn't want to discuss his sex life, lest it take attention away from the character. Why the change? He said, "Ultimately, I think my stance has been unhelpful in the fight for equality. I feel that I've sacrificed my ability to support the community for a more theoretical discussion about sexuality. Now more than ever, I want to offer my support to the community as an ally."

Ricky Martin is once again engaged. This time, his fiance is artist Jwan Yosef. The two have been together for a year, and Ricky told Ellen DeGeneres how they met: "He's a conceptual artist, and I'm a collector. So I started looking for art and I saw his art and I went crazy because I love what he does, really original. And I contacted him, and then I collected him." You can collect some hot nude photos of Yosef on BillyMasters.com.

Jonathan Knight, from New Kids on the Block, is also off the market. He proposed to beau Harley Rodriguez while travelling in Africa with their families. The guys have been a couple for the past eight years and, of course, they competed together on The Amazing Race last year.

I know I said I was done talking about the train wreck that is **Finding Prince Charming**, but I can't keep this to myself. After last week's reunion special, Chad (a train wreck himself) posted the most vitriolic Instagram rant—and I



Robbie Williams explains why he can't be gay—and you know Billy has something to say.

loved every bit of it! In it, he exposes our prince, Robert Sepulveda, as a lying whore, among other things. He took issue with Robert constantly talking about being authentic. Here are some of the highlights: "How about being authentic that you're still hooking," "How about coming clean that you embezzled over \$40K from the Atlanta rainbow crosswalks project," "How about being authentic about the fact that you actively pursued me, Brandon, Eric and Paul right after the show wrapped," "How about being authentic about seeing your Johns just before and AFTER the show finalized shooting." He ends the diatribe by revealing that Robert tried to sleep with him at Market Days in Chicago. Chad claims he turned Robert down: "But even then, without knowing what I know now, I wouldn't go near that science experiment. And by science experiment I'm talking about his penis."

The best show on TV is The X Factor UK. In the past, I'd been a devoted X Factor UK fan. But once **Sharon Osbourne** left, I slowly lost interest. It was clear that the magic of the show was the chemistry between Sharon, **Simon Cowell** and **Louis Walsh**. Happily, the three are reunited this season (joined by **Nicole Scherzinger**), and I couldn't be happier.

One of the contestants is **Saara Aalto**, from Finland. From the time she was 15, she was dating (and later engaged to) one of Finland's biggest pop stars, **Teemu Roivainen**. That all changed in 2012, when she was on the Finnish version of The Voice. She started getting fan letters from a girl named Meri Sopanen. A year later, they met at a concert. Shortly thereafter, Saara dumped her boyfriend of nine years and started dating Meri! The two are now engaged. On The X Factor UK, the host mentioned the engagement. Saara matter of factly referred to the fiancee as a woman, and nobody blinked an eye. We could learn a lot from the Brits.

After a long story about a British reality show, why not a story about a British reality star with a really long penis? **Brandon Myers** is a very hot 19-year-old who's been featured on MTV-UK's Ex on the Beach. He's also posted photos of his enormous penis. So I wasn't surprised when he posed nude for FitYoungMen.com, saying, "Everyone was talking about it on Ex on the Beach. It's nine and a half inches, and it's a bit like having a tripod, or a third leg." The site charges \$57 to see his "9.5 inches of uncut beauty." It's far less on BillyMasters.com.

When we're delivering one helluva drumstick, it's definitely time to end yet another column. And you'll be mighty thankful when you check out www.BillyMasters.com, the site that delivers a horn o' plenty to plenty o' horny fans. If you've got a question, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Donald goes to see a Broadway show and is hissed at by Cats! Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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