

with fresh and slightly sweet tomatoes, gorgonzola cheese, extra virgin olive oil and a fig balsamic reduction sauce. For the main attraction, I need to dedicate some time to the Gnocchi Gorgonzola E Noci. This is some of the best gnocchi in the city, and one of the best deals in town to boot—\$11.95 for a generous entrée portion. The Potato Dumplings are sautéed in a creamy walnut-gorgonzola sauce with a generous spattering of walnut pieces throughout. The crunchiness of the walnuts contrasts nicely with the creaminess of the gnocchi. (Another plus: whole wheat and gluten-free pasta are available upon request.) This little known comfort food spot is definitely worth the trip. PASTA D' ARTE, 6311 NORTH MILWAUKEE AVENUE, 773.763.1181, WWW.PASTAD-ARTE.COM



TWO BINS FULL

The ever-popular **Bin 36** restaurant serves up contemporary American cuisine daily

for breakfast, lunch and dinner, with an emphasis on wine (each item on the menu has a recommended wine listed beneath it). The hot vin spot recently opened a new cheese bar—a perfect after-work destination to wind down. And it must be said, Chef John Caputo makes some of the best pizza in Chicago. I was lucky enough to go on a day where the special pizza featured thin and crispy dough with mushrooms, caramelized onions, hazelnuts and gruyère cheese. But it is their Bucktown baby sister spot, **Bin Wine Cafe**, that truly captured my palate. The cozy space boasts cheese flights (served on what look like large pieces of tile), wine flights, complete with description cards next to each glass, and an open “sushi-bar-esque” area where you can sit inches away from the chefs preparing your food. Last but not least, this is one of my new favorite spots because it’s home to the outrageously and amazingly delicious crispy Tempura Green Beans served with citrus aioli—one of the best things I have ever put in my mouth! **BIN 36**, 339 NORTH DEARBORN STREET, 312.755.WINE (9463), WWW.BIN36.COM; **BIN WINE CAFÉ**, 1559 NORTH MILWAUKEE AVENUE, 773.486.CAFÉ (2233), WWW.BINWINECAFE.COM ■

Sarah Levy is the president and founder of Sarah's Pastries & Candies, 11 East Oak Street, 312.664.6223, www.sarahscandies.com

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