

# ENLIGHTENED EATING

THE FRENCH ENLIGHTENMENT VISITS CHICAGO AT BISTRO VOLTAIRE



As Voltaire once said, "all styles are good except the tiresome kinds."

River North's new **Bistro Voltaire** takes this message to heart with a charming, authentic little French bistro that is anything but tiresome.

The long, narrow bistro appears transplanted from the streets of Paris with black and white checkerboard flooring, comfortable red leather booths and **oak walls lined with portraits of famous authors.**

Order up **coq au vin traditionnelle (half chicken braised in red wine) with a side of truffled potatoes** beneath a mural of Voltaire adorned with French poetry.

As you'd expect, the real poetry adorns the plates here, with can't-misses **filet de sole au four (lemon and butter poached Sole with basil risotto)** and magret de canard, a delectable duck breast fillet with passion fruit.

Awaken your philosophical brain matter with **rare French wines (we recommend Chateau d'Orschwihir Pinot Blanc)** and an impressive array of champagnes.

They even have a cocktail named Harry's Bloody Ernest, a **Bloody Mary styled after the kind that Hemingway drank (and drank)** in his Paris days.

All this and half-off bottles on Tuesdays? French Enlightenment, indeed.

**Bistro Voltaire**

226 W. Chicago Ave. (at Franklin), River North (312) 265-0911

[bistrovoltaire.com](http://bistrovoltaire.com)

**Price:** 3 (of 4) **Noise:** 2 (of 4)

**Subway:** Brown, Purple Line to Chicago

**Scene:** Date night romantics and French aficionados

**Best bets:** Con au vin traditionnelle; filet de Sole; magret de canard

**Hot seat:** Back leather booth under Voltaire mural

**Cheap booze:** Half price bottles of wine on Tuesdays

**Nearby:** Enclave; [Tzar Bar](#); [Union Sushi & BBQ](#)

*The Rundown's restaurant reviews are based on anonymous visits by reporters, not press releases.*

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