

Keeping it Fresh

Glen Prairie proves fresher is better
By HUNGRY Z

Ask any chef and they'll tell you, fresher is better. The simplest dish can be transformed into a taste extravaganza if the right ingredients are used. The closer an ingredient is grown/harvested, the fresher the flavor.

Glen Ellyn's Glen Prairie (1250 Roosevelt Road) is taking this concept and running with it. In fact every dish is served up with ingredients from Midwest farms.

With such a focus on local ingredients, a must-try is the cheese board. Served with crostini and cranberry relish, this daily selection awakens your senses. The true standout though is the buttermilk fried, herb cheese stuffed mushrooms. Topped with bacon and chili sauce, these morsels sit on a pool of horseradish and simply burst in your mouth with flavor.

The local theme continues with the light and flaky chervil and panko-crusted **Wisconsin** northern pike. It's paired with an amazing mac and cheese that's made with the same local cheeses served earlier, and topped with a crisp cracker crust.

If fish isn't your thing, the Dakota farmed bison rib eye will satisfy even the most hard-core carnivore. Bursting with flavor and not the least bit gamey, this juicy piece of meat is not to be missed.

Room should always be left for a couple of sweet treats. The mini trifle is served in a shot glass and filled with mascarpone, peaches, strawberries and pound cake. It offers a fresh bite for those watching their figure. The blueberry crisp, purchased the same day from an Oak Brook farmers market, is like a warm hug on a cold winter's day. Warm berries are topped with a ginger and sugar crust and then layered with fresh whip cream will have you smiling all the way home.

Dinner for two runs roughly \$75-100, more than a fair price for flavors this fresh.

Hungry Z has never met a morsel of food he didn't want to at least try. Read more of his food reviews at HungryZ.com and the [NBC Chicago Street Team Blog](#).



The chervil and panko-crusted Wisconsin northern pike is a good option at Glen Prairie.

Source: Zoran Sopic