



Opening Bar Novo

The Renaissance Chicago's Great Street is a textbook example of the hotel bar, complete with post-musical tourists downing milky green, graham cracker-rimmed "Wicked-tinis." So when the hotel decided to open a second bar, the plan was to do something quite different. "It's a bar within a hotel, not a hotel bar," says Matt Ochse, the director of restaurants at the Renaissance, of the new first-floor bar, which soft-opened last week. Cases in point: small plates like mini Cuban sandwiches and Kobe beef sliders on sesame-brioche buns—all of which are prepared in a glass-encased "chef's station" in the center of the bar. Add to that a cocktail list from consultants-about-town Bridget Albert and Peter Vestinos, which includes the likes of a basil-tangerine gimlet, and we're fairly confident that Great Street's popularity will soon be waning. 1 W Wacker Dr, 312-372-7200.—JK