

Sola blends American and Asian influences

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 Staff Writer

Sola, located at 3868 N. Lincoln Ave. in Chicago's West Lakeview neighborhood, is the ideal place to relax with family and friends over a meal of American cuisine with Hawaiian and Asian influences.

The restaurant successfully creates an atmosphere that's similar to the beaches of Hawaii, with the décor made up of different shades of gold and brown and the dimly lit lamps scattered abundantly through out the ceiling. The restaurant is elegant yet still inviting in a way that one can talk loudly and have fun without standing out. It is casual in its feel, yet classy in its look.

The food served at Sola is expensive (a main course costs \$15-26), yet deservedly so. The delicate food is served with great style and even better taste. Although there isn't a large variety, the food that is available at Sola is of high quality. One can find a variety of seafood in the menu, from cod (\$21) to salmon (\$21) to halibut (\$24)—this reviewer's personal favorite. Each comes with a side of fruit or vegetables. The halibut, which is soft and juicy, is highly recommended. On the other hand, the vegetable spring rolls (\$6) have strong seasoning that penetrates one's sinuses and is not advised.

The only negative aspect of Sola is the difficulty in finding parking near it. The streets of Lincoln Ave. are always packed, and it is a rare occasion where one finds a vacant parking. Sola offers valet parking available, but it costs \$7.

All in all, the polite service, food and atmosphere combine to produce a fabulous experience. Sola is a great place to go for a date, with family or with a group of friends after a Cubs game at nearby Wrigley Field. It's a unique place that contributes to a fun time. Sola is open 5:30 p.m.-10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 5:30 p.m.-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For reservations call (773) 327-3868.



Diners enjoy Sola's inviting ambience.
 Photo courtesy www.sola-restaurant.com