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BREATH OF FRESH AIR

These event spaces are suited to alfresco functions.

Gaslight, formerly in Lincoln Park, relocated to Lakeview in July. Serving casual fare such as fish tacos and canned beer in koozies, the venue has a beer garden with retractable glass panels. The garden holds as many as 150 people for receptions. (2450 North Clark St., 773.929.7759, gaslightbar.com)

River Roast opened along the Chicago River in July. The sprawling venue has six event spaces, which seat as many as 330 guests or hold 450 for receptions. The riverside veranda holds 300 for open-air receptions. Chefs Tony Mantuano and John Hogan created the contemporary American menu, which includes meats carved table-side. (315 North Lake St., 312.822.0100, riverroastchicago.com)

Slated to open in spring 2015, the **Farm at Dover** is in Kansasville, Wisconsin, about

75 miles north of Chicago. With seven acres of oak-tree-filled gardens, the venue has a remodeled historic barn that seats 165 guests for dinner. For overnight guests, there's also a four-bedroom Victorian home on site. (26060 Washington Ave., Kansasville, Wis., 773.802.6351, thefarmatdover.com)

In North Barrington, Illinois, the family-owned **Wandering Tree Estate** has been hosting exceptional events for over 45 years. The sprawling venue offers 10 acres of gardens, including a Japanese garden with seven waterfalls, rose gardens, herbaceous border gardens with tropical plants and trees, and a famous garden model railway. There's also a four-acre lake, a pool, and a private model train museum of the City of Chicago. (North Barrington, Ill., 847.381.1907, wanderingtree.com)

FLORAL DESIGN



Foxglove Studio (773.213.2107, thefoxglovestudio.com) is a new floral company that provides arrangements for weddings, corporate events, meetings, and gastronomic experiences such as farm dinners. Owners describe their signature design style as "natural, whimsical, wild, and free." Each event is custom, so pricing varies. But for a full-service event on a Friday or Saturday night, rates start at \$2,500. Designers request three to four weeks' notice for full-service floral design.



Where to Host a Meeting Downtown

Chicago's highly anticipated **Virgin Hotel** opened in mid-January 2015. In a 27-story Art Deco building, the downtown property has three event and meeting spaces: the Manor seats 108; the Sandbox seats 73; and the Founders Room seats 12. Other amenities include 250 rooms and suites, two restaurants, a rooftop bar and lounge, and a rooftop gym. A spa is scheduled to open later in 2015. (203 North Wabash Ave., 855.946.6600, virginhotels.com)

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