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**Chicago - January 16, 2012**

## Tavernita Restaurant Opens

### Food with Latin Flair in River North

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Chicago in January is especially depressing.

It's hard enough to get out of bed, let alone into nonelastic clothes.

Tavernita will snap you out of your funk: The new restaurant from Mercadito Group and chef Ryan Poli (Perennial) opened last week in River North.

The enormous space (formerly Martini Park) has been divided up into a sit-down restaurant; lounge; and Barcito, a stand-up-and-nosh area inspired by San Sebastián's pintxos bars, opening later this month.

Latin is the name of the game, and Poli excels at it. His menu is composed of crudos (tuna tartare, sea bass ceviche), crostini/flatbread (a.k.a. en pan) topped with tomato marmalade and Zingerman's burrata, and platos (corn pudding, pork and Wagyu beef meatballs, pappardelle).

Famed cocktail team Tippling Bros. is behind the kegged libations; vermouth is served on tap.

Totally dreamy.

*Tavernita, 151 West Erie Street, at LaSalle Boulevard (312-274-1111 or tavernita.com).*

Foodies, Latin

### Locations

Tavernita  
151 W Erie St  
@ LaSalle Blvd  
Chicago, IL 60654  
312-274-1111

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