

# Chicago's Square Slice History: A Windy City Pizza Pilgrimage



## Slicing Through the Layers of Chicago's Pizza Heritage

In the culinary landscape of Chicago, pizza holds a revered place, with its own unique chapter in the city's gastronomic tale. Among the city's pizza offerings, the square slice stands out as a beloved icon, a slice of history with a story to tell.



### **The Ultimate Chicago Pizza Guide: A History of Squares & Slices in the Windy City** by Steve Dolinsky

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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The history of square slices in Chicago is a tale intertwined with the city's own growth and evolution. It's a narrative of immigrant ingenuity, entrepreneurial spirit, and the melting pot of flavors that have shaped Chicago's culinary identity.

## **The Birth of a Culinary Tradition**

The origins of Chicago's square slice can be traced back to the early 20th century, a time when Italian immigrants were arriving in the city in droves. These newcomers brought with them their culinary traditions, including the art of pizza-making.

Initially, the pizza served in Chicago was more akin to the round, thin-crust pizzas popular in Italy. However, as the city's Italian population grew, so too did the demand for a pizza that was uniquely Chicagoan.

## **A Slice of Innovation**

In the hands of Chicago's Italian-American community, pizza underwent a transformation. The round, thin crust made way for a thicker, square-shaped crust, baked in a deep-dish pan.

This new style of pizza offered several advantages. The thicker crust provided a sturdy base for a generous layering of toppings, while the deep dish allowed for an abundance of melted cheese and sauce.



## **The Square Pie Takes Center Stage**

As the square slice gained popularity, it became a staple in Chicago's taverns, bars, and pizzerias. Its distinctive appearance and hearty flavors made it an instant favorite among the city's residents and visitors alike.

Over the years, numerous pizzerias emerged, each claiming to serve the best square slice in town. Some of the most renowned establishments include Lou Malnati's, Pizzeria Uno, and Connie's Pizza.

## **A Chicago Icon**

Today, the square slice is an integral part of Chicago's culinary landscape. It's a symbol of the city's immigrant heritage, its love of hearty and flavorful

food, and its unique culinary innovations.

The square slice has also become a culinary ambassador for Chicago, a taste of the city that has spread far beyond its borders. It's a slice of history that continues to delight and satisfy pizza lovers everywhere.

## **Exploring Chicago's Square Slice Scene**

For those looking to embark on a culinary pilgrimage to experience Chicago's square slice firsthand, there are several must-visit destinations.



### **Lou Malnati's**

Founded in 1971, Lou Malnati's is a legendary pizzeria known for its buttery, flaky crust and generous toppings. Their square slice is a masterpiece of Chicago pizza-making.

### **Pizzeria Uno**

Claimed to be the birthplace of the deep-dish pizza, Pizzeria Uno offers a classic square slice that has delighted generations of pizza lovers.

## Connie's Pizza

With multiple locations across Chicago, Connie's Pizza serves up a square slice with a crispy crust and a tangy sauce that is sure to leave an impression.

## Savor the Square Slice Experience

When savoring a Chicago square slice, there are a few essential tips to enhance the experience:

- **Use a fork and knife:** Square slices are hefty, so don't be afraid to use utensils to navigate the layers of toppings and cheese.
- **Let it cool:** The square slice can be scorching hot when it arrives at your table. Give it a few minutes to cool before taking a bite to avoid burning your mouth.
- **Savor the flavors:** Take your time to appreciate the complex flavors of the square slice. From the crispy crust to the melted cheese and tangy sauce, every ingredient contributes to its unique taste.

A Chicago square slice is not just a meal; it's an experience to be savored. It's a taste of Chicago's history, culture, and culinary heritage, all wrapped up in a delicious, satisfying slice.



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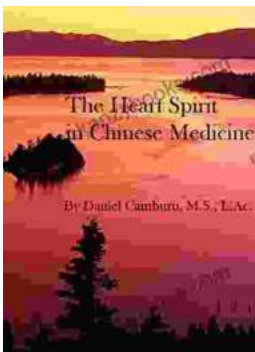
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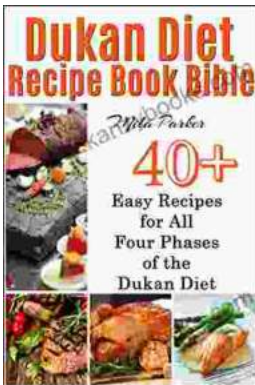
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