

THE JOSLYN

MidwestLiving

Our Travel Writers Share the 15 Things You Should Check Out in the Midwest this Month

By Midwest Living Editors

Midwest Living

October 8, 2024

Here's everything we're loving in October, including fall drinks and Halloween events.

Our travel writers, editors and contributors to *Midwest Living* are always on the pulse of the latest and greatest things happening in the Midwest. This October, we're excited about the significant reopening of a major museum, a prestigious award for several Midwest hotels, plenty of spooky season events and so much more. Here are the 15 things we're buzzing about this month.

A Cool New Cocktail Bar in Chicago



Dearly Beloved has several intimate seating areas themed to different decor. PHOTO: Marisa Klug-Morataya

Chicago

Dearly Beloved might just be Chicago's hottest new cocktail bar. The much-anticipated spot in the Near North Side area was in the works for nearly two years before opening its doors this summer. The dark and moody space is massive, with several different well-decorated seating areas. A 3D art piece behind the bar is a stunner—and the cocktails are also works of art. The number of dice under each cocktail on

the menu indicate its level of funkiness. High rollers will be delighted. Senior Travel Editor Julia Sayers Gokhale visited in September and recommends ordering the Last Kiss cocktail. "I won't give away too much, but the presentation is really fun—it's a whole sensory experience that extends beyond just sipping a drink."

Lots of Ways to Celebrate Spooky Season



During Harvest Nights at Newfields, lights, pumpkins and Halloween decor fill the grounds of the art campus. PHOTO: Courtesy of Newfields

It's officially spooky season, which means it's time for all the fun Halloween events. Here are some of our picks: [Harvest Nights](#) are back at Newfields in Indianapolis through November 2. Walk through a spooky (but not scary) foggy forest filled with thousands of pumpkins and jack-o-lanterns.

The [Ritz-Carlton Chicago](#) is again hosting their popular Spooky Tea the last two weekends of October. [Purchase tickets](#) and you'll get to try fun Halloween-themed goodies like Pumpkin Spice Scones, Poison Apple pastries and Carbonara Quiche.

If you'll be in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, this month, there are plenty of fall events happening throughout October, including [Poe at the Point](#) at Black Point Estate (October 17-19), an adult [Halloween Boat Bash and Monster Mash](#) at Lake Lawn Resort (October 26), and [haunted history tours](#) of downtown Lake Geneva on weekends.

For city dwellers, Angad Arts Hotel in St. Louis is hosting an [urban pumpkin patch](#) through the end of this month. Pumpkins on the Skyline is a free, 21+ pop-up at ART Bar, the hotel's 13th-floor rooftop. Sip a Pumpkin Pie Martini or Cherry Pie Old Fashioned, and nosh on S'more Charcuterie Boards and other fall bites.

Cocktails From the Black Lagoon



At Black Lagoon, cocktails are served in spooky vessels. PHOTO: Jess Hoffert

Multiple locations

The Black Lagoon holiday pop-up bar is to Halloween like Miracle is to Christmas. It's an event happening at bars across North America, and includes five Midwest locations: The Parlour at The Albion in Chicago, The Skip in Detroit, Night Train in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Meteor in Minneapolis and Nite Owl in Omaha. Most run through Halloween and all serve the same core drinks, but the bars are also encouraged to mix up their own creepy concoctions. Midwest Living project editor Jess Hoffert's favorites from the Minneapolis bar were the Nightmare Fuel (tequila, mango, matcha, lime and Thai spice) and the Siren's Song (whiskey, pineapple, rum, spiced oat orgeat, sherry, lime and Caribbean bitters). "For being widely distributed, these drinks were incredibly complex in the most delicious way," Hoffert says. "The two mentioned above were very much tiki-style beverages that are refreshing enough to be a summer porch pounder, but thanks to some fun and creepy mugs, fit right in with spooky season."

A Restaurant and Inn in a Renovated Mill



Expect thoughtful, high-end food at The Mill in Glen Arbor. PHOTO: Lindsey Makuwatsine

Glen Arbor, Michigan

Fall is a perfect time to explore a new spot, and an intimate, river-level restaurant added another dimension to a renovated mill near Sleeping Bear Dunes. At Supper, chef Bobby Thoits' dishes—served family-style—showcase local ingredients: His popular Denver steak, bathed in shio koji before triple searing, comes from heritage breed cows raised in Traverse City. Extend your time by booking a night at The Mill's three-room inn and waking up for pastries from The Mill Cafe.

A Trail Based Around Buckeyes



Buckeyes are a classic treat from Ohio, and now you can follow a trail to find the best ones. PHOTO: Courtesy of Wendy Pramik

Columbus, Ohio

Buckeyes: you know them, you love them, now you can eat them *all* (and in all formats). A new treat trail in Columbus capitalizes on the chocolate-peanut butter treat with 16 stops at local businesses across the city. There are plenty of versions of the classics, but you'll also find half-pound jumbo cream puffs, milkshakes and donuts in buckeye flavors.

A Renovation of a 30-year-old Resort

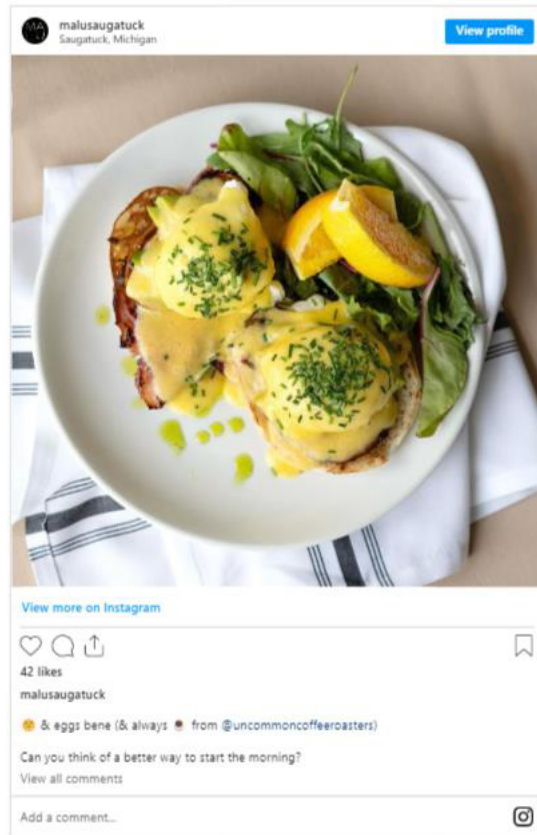


Immerse yourself in nature—and seclusion—at the adults-only Canoe Bay Resort. PHOTO: Courtesy of Canoe Bay Resort

Chetek, Wisconsin

In honor of their 30th anniversary, the popular, adults-only Canoe Bay Resort unveiled a multi-million dollar remodel of their Prairie-style guest rooms and cottages. Spa cottages now offer steam showers, saunas and whirlpools that complement the private decks, stone fireplaces, cedar wood interiors and two-person soaking tubs featured in all accommodations. A new fitness center was also added, as well as an expansion of the Lodge Library (with an outdoor patio) and three-acre organic garden that feeds the resort's restaurant. The resort is also offering a special 30th anniversary package if you visit through the end of the year.

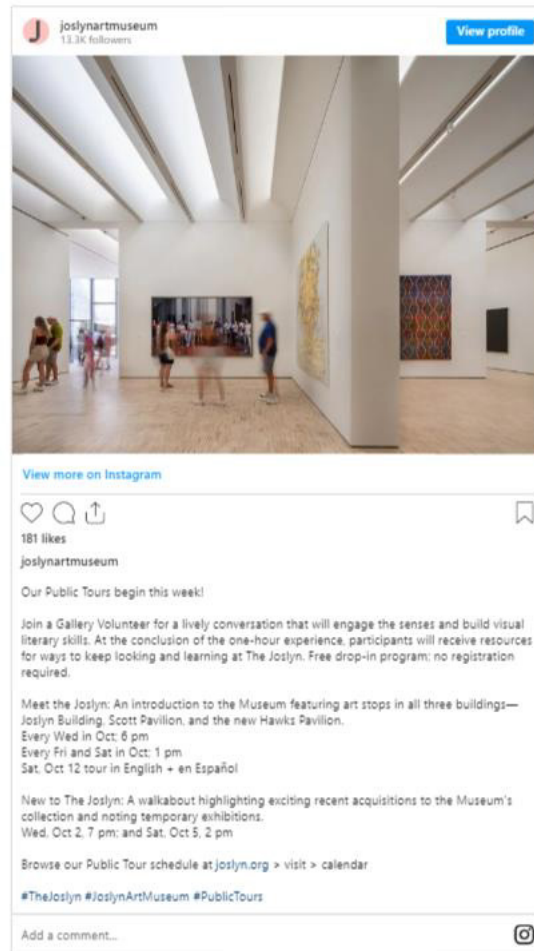
A Brazilian Brunch Spot



Saugatuck, Michigan

Uncommon Coffee Roasters has been a staple in Saugatuck, and the owners recently opened a sister concept called Malu. The full-service breakfast and brunch restaurant focuses on upgraded American breakfast classics but with a unique flair: there's a special section on the menu of Brazilian Favorites that nods to the owner's heritage. Ask about empanada specials or try the coxinhas (chicken croquettes). There's coffee from Uncommon, of course, with fall specials like the Caramel Apple Macchiato and Pancake Latte.

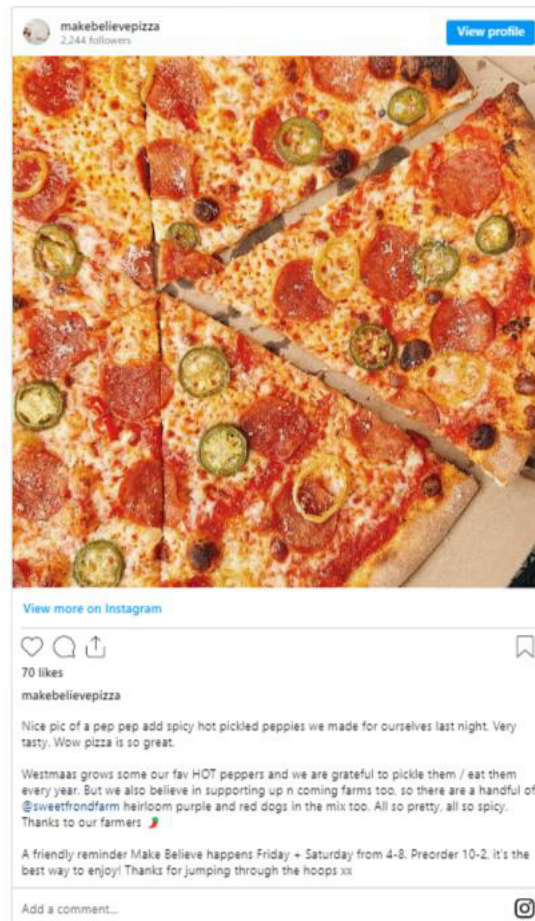
The Reopening of The Joslyn



Omaha

After closing for more than two years for the addition of a brand-new wing, The Joslyn art museum in Omaha reopened in September. The bright and modern new wing houses the contemporary collection and expanded gallery space by more than 40 percent. "The natural light in the new wing is gorgeous," says Senior Travel Editor Julia Sayers Gokhale, who visited in early October. "It's a fabulous addition to an already stunning building." Also new: An outdoor second-story patio, an extensive collection of Omaha-born Ed Ruscha works and Spanish translations on all artwork plaques.

Takeout Pizza with a Loyal Following



Traverse City, Michigan

An order-ahead pizza shop inside West Side Beverage in Traverse City is slinging some of the most delicious—and hard to get—pies Up North. Midwest Living writer Stacey Brugeman says "I'm partial to their white pie, with garlic confit, a rotating green such as tot soi, mozzarella, and grana padano cheese; but anything from their petite, five-pizza list is worth the organizational skills it takes to nab one." So how do you secure the goods? The shop is open only Thursday through Saturday—orders are taken between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., and can be picked up later that day at the time you select. Brugeman says those who want one of their seasonal specials need to be "on it." (translation: order early!)

A Ukrainian Coffee Shop



At Soloway Coffee, baristas make drinks (and serve treats) inspired by the owners' home country of Ukraine. PHOTO: Kateryna Kaushan

Chicago

Everyone loves a PSL in fall, and [Soloway Coffee](#) in Lincoln Park fills customers' cups with a taste of the owners' homeland. Artur and Iryna Yuzvik fly in beans from their roastery in Ukraine, where they already have two successful java joints. and make their own syrups for fall drinks like the Pumpkin Spiced Latte, Miso-Rosemary Latte and Milky Cider.

An Entirely Accessible Resort

Ely, Minnesota

Sure, you might see the sleek black and cedar cabins at [North of North Resort](#) and think "Wow, those look cool." But there's so much more to them than that. This new resort is entirely accessible for people with disabilities, going beyond the standard ADA accommodation requirements. After owner Sean Leary, who uses a manual wheelchair, took a trip to Yellowstone, he found outdoor accessibility in his home state of Minnesota to be lacking. So he and his wife built a resort from the ground up that takes accessibility to the next level. Guests can participate in all resort activities with accessible saunas, kayak launches, boat docks, saunas and even dog sledding. The programming is offered through their nonprofit, [Adaptive Wilderness Within Reach](#).

Boozy Fall Drinks



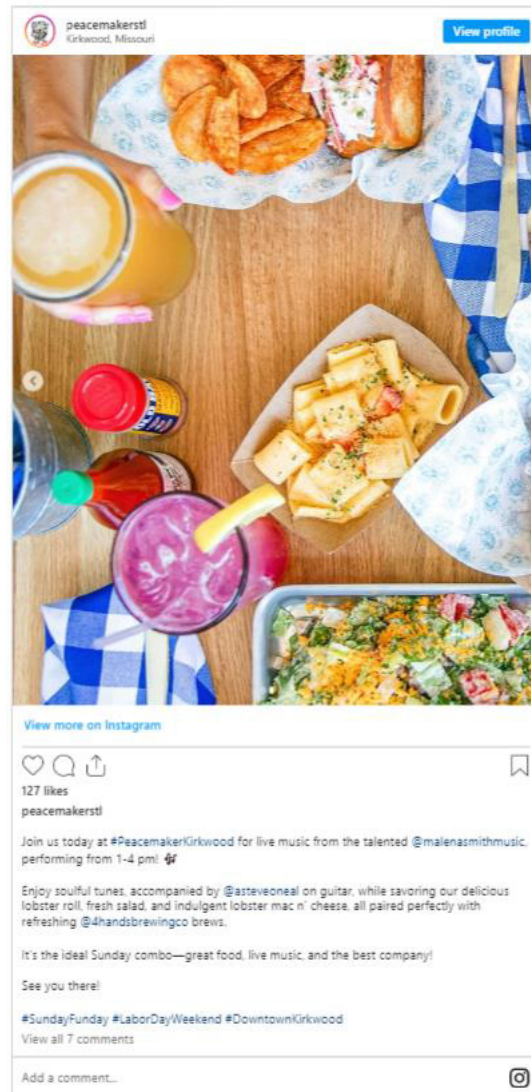
Izabela Babinska and Derrick Vogel bring a passion for the land to Folklor Wine and Cider. PHOTO: Michael Murphy IV Photography

Wine, cider and pear-infused brandy are among the fall drinks we're sipping this month. At [Folklor Wine and Cider](#) Derrick Vogel and Izabela Babinska welcome visitors to their 52 rolling acres outside of Charlevoix, Michigan, and also grow grape varietals that are cold hardy, i.e., able to bear fruit after experiencing freezing temperatures. The Lake Michigan enthusiasts and dry Riesling devotees offer a small but thoughtful portfolio of reds, whites and wild-fermented ciders.

Popular Bloomington, Indiana, distillery Cardinal Spirits just released their [fall cocktail menu](#) and it's full of fun and experimental concoctions and infusions (using their own spirits) like pear brandy, brown butter sage-washed bourbon and green apple-infused whiskey. Our senior travel editor is dying to try the Prince of Thieves: pepita-infused gin, spiced pumpkin, carrot, fennel, white pine bitters and an egg white.

Writer Stacey Brugeman is loving [Elder Piper Beer + Cider](#) in Petoskey, Michigan, a spot popular with locals. Sip a Rustic Amber Lager, Spruce Gose or Apple Blossom Cider. Brugeman says to keep an eye out this winter for the Pillows + Blankets Harvest Cider they will have produced with the crop of apples that are currently growing on their family's flower farm in the nearby town of Bliss.

Two St. Louis Favorites in One



Kirkwood, Missouri

Fall is a great time to sit on a patio with a beer—and St. Louisans might want to head to Kirkwood to do that. One of the most anticipated openings of the year, 4 Hands Brewery teamed up with Peacemaker Lobster & Crab to open on a sprawling space in Kirkwood's Down by the Station development. There's a huge outdoor area, a bright and airy interior and indoor and outdoor bars. The beer at 4 Hands is on tap, of course, but it also shows up in Peacemaker's food—think beer cheese sauce with pretzels and beer-braised onions on a patty melt.

A New Boutique Hotel in Traverse City



Book a stay at The Flats and you'll have space to spread out in these well-equipped accommodations. PHOTO: Courtesy of The Flats

Traverse City, Michigan

There's a new hotel in town and it's making waves in Grand Traverse Bay. The Flats is located downtown in the historic Masonic Building. Six luxury flats showcase the property's original brick walls, reclaimed wood floors and oversized windows with views of Front Street. Of course you can take advantage of being within walking distance of Traverse City's great restaurants, but the accommodations all include full kitchens if you prefer to stay in. Bring the whole fam or take a quiet getaway—The Flats offer one-, two- and three-bedroom suites.

Midwest Hotels Awarded Michelin Keys



The Crossroads Hotel in Kansas City was one of several Midwest hotels to receive a Michelin Key designation. PHOTO: Courtesy of Crossroads Hotel

Multiple locations

In September, Michelin announced their second-ever set of prestigious Michelin Keys, an award similar to Michelin Stars but for outstanding hotels. The new additions this year included several Midwest properties that received a One Key award, including Crossroads Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri; Bottleworks Hotel and Ironworks Hotel in Indianapolis, Daxton Hotel in Birmingham, Michigan; Shinola Hotel in Detroit; Four Seasons Hotel in Minneapolis; Hotel Goodwin in Beloit, Wisconsin; and The Charmant Hotel in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Three hotels in Chicago had previously been awarded Two Key designations.