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Take a Breather at Plein Air Cafe

Fill up on Royal Pie and coffee at this Hyde Park haven

By Jourdan Fairchild



In a past life, we were most certainly **French**.

Which explains why we feel right at home inside effortlessly elegant Plein Air Cafe, opening today in Hyde Park.

Tucked in a building next to **Seminary Co-Op Bookstore** on the University of Chicago campus, the 40-seat gem is the latest project from Soo Choi (**Little Branch**) and Heisler Hospitality's Kevin Heisner (**Little Branch**, **Sportsman's Club**, **Lone Wolf**, **Trenchermen**). Based on the name alone — a French expression for painting outdoors — we envisioned an open floor plan with loads of sunlight.

What else we got: crisp white walls and stenciled cabinets straight out of an atelier, plus Heisner-designed modern industrial fixtures and furniture. Windows allow patrons to peer into the sleek kitchen or out at neighboring Frank Lloyd Wright Robie House.

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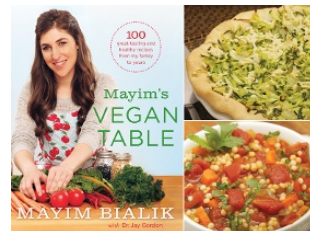
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Specialty coffee brewers rotate each quarter, as will the art (up first, the foliage collage work of local Stephen Eichhorn). In a month, a patio will make alfresco dining a must.

Bon appétit.

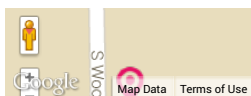
Plein Air Cafe, 5751 South Woodlawn Avenue, between 56th and 57th Streets (773-966-7531 or [pleinaircafe.co](#)).



Photos: Nathan Michael / Courtesy of Plein Air Cafe

LOCATION

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