

Est. 1992

THE

## Great Escape

ON IRVING, INC.

9540 Irving Park Road • Schiller Park, IL 60176  
(847) 671-7171 • Fax: (847) 671-7182

For Food, Drinks, Banquets &amp; Catering

Breakfast  
11am-2pm  
Sat & SunDrift Inn  
1958-19815812  
W. North Ave.  
Chicago

## Welcome to The Great Escape

*Al and Marie Great opened their first restaurant on North Avenue in 1958 called The Drift Inn.*

*It was a warm neighborhood place which specialized in the best baby back ribs and broasted chicken that the Chicago area had ever tasted. The business ran successfully until 1981 when Al and Marie sold the business and retired. Many years passed and people were asking when the Great family would get back into the restaurant business. Well here it is, revived by the*

*entire family, we proudly bring you—*

### *The Great Escape*

*Combining a terrific restaurant, lounge and banquet facility with our timeless and tasty recipes, The Great Escape is truly the place to be for all occasions.*

*Thank you for coming*

*Brian Great*

**[www.greatescaperestaurant.com](http://www.greatescaperestaurant.com)**

*Thank you for coming and enjoy the fact that "your" visit to the Great Escape has a carbon neutral energy foot print.*

**Enjoy the food • Enjoy the hospitality • Enjoy the history**

## Big Windy (11.06.09)

*Big Windy is a 108kw Micon wind turbine.*

**Tower = 80ft**

**Blades = 32ft each = wing span 62ft**

**Foundation = 8ft and 30ft deep**

**Cost = 350,000.00**

**Concrete = 9 Cement Trucks 225,000 lb**

**Total Height = 112 ft.**

Wiring between turbine and building all underground.  
Mortgaged building in order to finance the project.

## Motivation

Good for environment. Helps get off foreign oil. Shows others it's possible. Save money. Provides a Carbon Neutral energy foot print. (example: wind driven air conditioning or wind cooled beer)

## Building History

The bar and Banquet Room are still a part of the original structure built on this site in 1889. The Bar is original and was hand carved by the Chicago Bar Company. The building was originally at street level. There were swinging doors leading out onto a dirt road with hitching posts for horses (Irving Park Road). The silent movie cowboy Tom Mix made a few of his movies here around 1900. They would use the Des Plaines River as the Rio Grande and our bar for saloon scenes. In the 1920's, Al Capone sold the place booze and was spotted at the bar doing business with local gangsters. Witnesses say there were men seated on either side of him with shot guns watching the door. Before its current use, the banquet room was home to a general store, milk depot, post office, gas station, barber shop, pool hall, and restaurant. The Irving Park Viaduct was dug in 1926 and our entrance was moved to the east side of the building. The main dining room and kitchen were added on in the 1980's to expand the restaurant business. The Great Escape took over in 1992 and has been preserving, maintaining, and improving the property ever since. We hope you agree!

# Starters & Shareables

## Grandpa Great's Baby Back Ribs

Slow cooked in our special marinade and topped with Grandpa's smokey sauce **Half 9.95 Full 16.95**

## Cheesy Potato Skins

Stuffed with bacon, cheddar and mozzarella cheese with sour cream on the side **7.95**

## Grilled Shrimp Skewers

Six shrimp with a dash of our special spices, lightly grilled and served with remoulade sauce and lemon **11.95**

## Lump Crab Cakes

Pan-seared and served with chipotle sauce and lemon **11.95**

## Fried Calamari

Marinated and lightly breaded and fried. Served with tangy cocktail sauce and lemon **11.95**

## Fried Shrimp

Six fried shrimp butterflied with horseradish cocktail sauce **9.50**

## Jumbo Shrimp Cocktail

A classic with lemon and cocktail sauce **11.95**

## Chilean Blue Mussels

Veggies & bread stick in wonderful wine broth **11.95**

## Stuffed Mushroom Caps

Mozzarella cheese, herbs, bread crumbs and olive oil are tossed and baked for this crowd pleaser **8.25**

## Chicken Tenders - Free Range

A classic snack with BBQ sauce for dipping. **7.95**  
Buffalo-style +1.00 with peppercorn ranch

## Buffalo Hot Wings

Tossed in our buffalo sauce and served with celery sticks and bleu cheese sauce for dipping **6pc 7.95 12pc 13.95 20pc 19.95**  
also with sweet chili glaze or garlic parmigiana

## Bruschetta

Tomatoes, red onion, fresh basil, and extra virgin olive oil on toasted French bread with aged parmigiana **6.50**

## Flat Bread Pizza or New Sweet Potato Crust Pizza

Caprese **8.50**

Fresh mozzarella, crushed tomatoes, fresh basil & shaved parmigiana on flat bread

Pepperoni **7.95**

Italian Sausage **7.95**

## Onion Rings Platter 8.95

1/2 Platter **4.95**

## Sausage & Peppers 7.95

## Fried pickle chips

With homemade Dipping sauce **7.95**

## Hummus Board *Gluten free*

With cucumber, tomatoes, celery, carrots & green peppers **8.95**

## Mac & Cheese 8.95

w/ pulled pork +3.50 buffalo tenders +3.50 bacon +3.00

## Hummus/Bruschetta/Feta Cheese & Olive Board

With toasted nann crisps **9.95**

## The Greatest

The name says it all! An assortment of ribs, fried shrimp, stuffed mushroom caps, chicken tenders, onion rings and fresh vegetables with ranch, BBQ and cocktail sauces for dipping **19.95**

## Mozzarella Stix

Lightly coated in breadcrumbs served with crushed tomato basil marinara **6.50**

## Pot Stickers **NEW**

Pork and vegetable dumplings steamed and seared, served with sweet chili glaze **8.50**

## Hot Pretzel Bites **NEW**

Savory treat served with hot, cheesy dipping sauce **7.95**

## Cauliflower Buffalo Bites **NEW**

Fresh cauliflower bites tossed in a tangy buffalo sauce served with our homemade Peppercorn Ranch  
Also available plain, with our sweet chili glaze **8.95**

## Trio of Wings / Cheese Stix / Onion Rings

With celery, ranch & marinara **11.95**



Visit our  
132 year old  
Bar

All our Chicken meals are prepared with FREE RANGE CHICKEN



# Soups, Salads & Chili

## Chef Joe's Soup of the day

Made fresh every day **Cup 3.95 Bowl 4.95**

## Baked French Onion Soup

A touch of sherry wine makes this soup special. Topped with croutons and mozzarella cheese **5.75**

## Homemade Meaty Chili

Back by popular demand! Served with cheddar cheese, chopped onions and sour cream **Cup 4.95 Bowl 6.75**

## Lobster & Crab Bisque (seasonal)

Decadent, but you deserve it! **Cup 3.95 Bowl 5.95**

## Buffalo Chicken Salad

Crispy chicken tenders dipped in buffalo sauce over fresh greens with tomato, shredded cheddar, tortilla crisps, crumbled bleu cheese and peppercorn ranch dressing **13.25**

## Caesar Salad

All you expect in a Caesar with our classic dressing **9.95**

**With chicken +3.00 With shrimp +5.00 With filet +6.00**

**Organic Spinach Caesar 10.95**

## Chopped Salad

Fresh greens chopped with bacon, bleu cheese, avocado, tomato and balsamic vinaigrette. Fantastic! **9.95**

**With chicken +3.00 With filet +6.00**

## Organic Spinach & Cranberry Salad

Leafy spinach with chopped bacon, walnuts, sundried cranberries and crumbled bleu cheese with home made balsamic **10.95**

**With chicken +3.00**

## Tangerine Salad

Romaine, juicy tangerines, red grapes, walnuts, melon & provolone topped with our exclusive yogurt citrus dressing **10.95**

**With chicken breast +3.00**

## Dinner Salad

Mixed greens, shredded carrots, red cabbage, grape tomato and cucumber slice with your choice of dressing **4.95**

## Caprese Salad

Sliced tomato with fresh mozzarella and basil leaves drizzled with extra virgin olive oil, a dash of balsamic vinegar and red onion for garnish **9.95**

## Grecian Salad

Greens, tomato, feta cheese, red onions & olives w/ fantastic greek dressing **9.95**

**Filet +6.00 With chicken breast +3.00**

## Super Foods Salad

Blackened chicken with avocado, grilled broccoli, red cabbage over green with quinoa **13.50**

**Gluten free and vegetarian menu available**



## Private Event?

**Check out our  
West Wing Party Room**  
(Part of original structure from 1889)

Off site catering available for 10-600 guests

## Entrees

All entrees served with soup or salad (Bleu Cheese .75), potato or rice, bread and butter.  
 Substitute Fresh Fruit, Sweet Potato fries or Onion Rings for 1.25 • Potato loaded with Bacon & Cheese 2.25  
 Substitute Cup of Chili or Lobster Bisque for 2.95 • Cup of Baked French Onion Soup 1.25

### Chicken Pot Pie

White meat chicken, carrots, peas, onions and celery with creamy sauce topped with flaky puff pastry....fantastic! **15.95**

### Breaded Pork Tenderloin

Lightly breaded and cooked to perfection, perched on Joe's mashed potatoes and homemade gravy **14.95**

### Great Kabob

Marinated tenderloin with tomato, pepper, mushroom, onions & bourbon sauce served with rice **19.95**

Chicken **16.95**

Vegetarian with quinoa **14.95**

### Artichoke Chicken & Quinoa (Gluten Free)

With artichoke, spinach & mushrooms over roasted red peppers and herb sauce **17.95** Vegetarian **14.95** With shrimp +4.00

### Pulled Pork Plate

Over rye toast with sweet potato fries & slaw **14.95**

### Fried Shrimp Dinner

Seven butterflied shrimp served with our tangy cocktail sauce and lemon wedge **15.95**

### Crab Cake Dinner

Two, pan-seared lump crab cakes with spring mix and a drizzle of Balsamic. Served with parmesan French fries **17.95**

### Herb Roasted Duck

Crispy skinned herb roasted duck is served with our famous dressing, homestyle gravy and vegetable **21.95**

### Chicken Parmigiana

2 Boneless chicken breast, lightly breaded and topped with our crushed tomato basil marinara on a bed of fettucine **16.95**

### Pasta Primavera

Garden fresh vegetables in a creamy Alfredo sauce served over fettuccine with shaved parmesan **14.95**

With chicken +3.00 With shrimp +5.00

### Pasta Giambotta

White meat chicken, Italian sausage, green peppers, onions, mushrooms and red potatoes with rigatoni pasta tossed with delicious garlic white wine sauce **17.95**

### Eggplant Casserole

Sliced eggplant coated in Panko breadcrumbs topped with tomato basil marinara, provolone & mozzarella cheese & mushrooms & parmesan cheese with garlic bread **15.95**

### Rigatoni with Vodka Sauce

Topped with shredded parmigiana **14.95**

With grilled chicken +3.00 With grilled shrimp +5.00

### Dijon Crusted Chicken Breast

Breaded in crushed crackers & dijon blend with mashed & gravy **15.95**

**Friday Fish Fry**  
**Saturday is Prime Rib Nite**  
 No separate checks please



All our Chicken meals are prepared with FREE RANGE CHICKEN

## Entrees

### Drift Inn Classics

#### Baby Back Ribs

Slow cooked Grandpa's way in our special marinade & broiled to perfection. Topped with Grandpa's smokey sauce. Guaranteed to please!

**The Best!**

**Full Slab 21.95   Half Slab 15.95**

*Honey BBQ available on request.*

#### Broasted Chicken Dinner

4 Pcs. Tender & Juicy. Cooked the healthy way under pressure in cholesterol free, trans fat free oil. An All-Time Favorite! **14.95**

#### BBQ Chicken

4 Pcs. Broasted then dipped in our Smokey Sauce and broiled to finish the job. **15.50**

*Ribs and Chicken come with hand chopped coleslaw*

### Great Steaks and Chops

#### New York Strip Steak

A juicy 14oz. strip steak with mushroom caps and Bordelaise sauce. For steak lovers! **28.95**

#### Center Cut Pork Chops

Two tender and juicy chops (traditional or bbq), served with cinnamon apple sauce **17.95**

#### Filet Mignon

A 10oz. cooked-to-order center cut filet with béarnaise sauce and onion rings. Excellent! **28.95   twin 4oz 23.95**

#### Ribeye Steak

A flavorful and juicy 22oz. masterpiece! **32.95**

### Surf for your Turf

- Crab Cake 6.95
- Grilled Shrimp Skewer 9.95
- Fried Butterflied Shrimp 7.95
- Side of Mac & Cheese 5.95

*"West Wing" Party Room  
available for all your events*

### Tasty Combinations

#### Ribs & Shrimp Combo

Five fried shrimp butterflied with horseradish cocktail sauce with our tender 1/2 slab ribs, broiled to perfection with Grandpa's smokey sauce **19.95**

#### Baby Back Ribs & Broasted Chicken

Our fabulous ribs served with a broasted chicken breast and wing. The best of both worlds! (BBQ boneless or BBQ broasted available upon request) **18.95**

#### Honey BBQ Pork Chop & Half Slab Ribs

Honey BBQ glazed pork chop with half slab of Grandpa's classic ribs **19.95**

#### Filet & Grilled Shrimp

Your filet is cooked-to-order with 5 grilled shrimp served with harvest remoulade sauce and lemon wedge  
**with 4oz. Filet 20.95   with twin 4oz. Filet 26.95**

#### Twin or Triple Filet Medallion Combo

Treat yourself to a combination of a bleu cheese crusted filet and a filet topped with horseradish cream or add a third with parmesan topping, served with homestyle mashed potatoes.

**Two filet 24.95   Three filet 29.95**



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## Hand Helds

Served with Crispy Seasoned Fries or House Made Chips and Soup or Cole Slaw Substitute Fresh Fruit, Sweet Potato Fries or Onion Rings for 1.25  
Substitute Cup of Chili or Lobster Bisque for 2.95 OR  
Cup of Baked French Onion Soup 1.25  
*Low Carbing?...Say "Skip the Bread"*

### French Dip Sandwich

*Thinly sliced roast beef with sautéed onions, peppers, and melted mozzarella cheese on French bread served with Au Jus for dipping* **11.95**

### Chicken French Dip Sandwich **11.95**

### Breast of Chicken Sandwich

*Marinated chicken breast broiled and served on toasted roll with lettuce, tomato, red onion, pickle, and mayo with a hint of dijon* **11.95**

### Bourbon Glazed Chicken Sandwich

*Broiled and basted with Bourbon sauce with bacon and mozzarella on a toasted roll* **12.75**

### Pulled Pork Sandwich

*Seasoned with a special rub and slow cooked then simmered in Grandpa's smoky sauce and served on Brioche roll* **12.95**

### Shrimp Po' Boy

*Our special seasoned grilled shrimp with shredded lettuce, tomato, and chipotle mayo on Brioche roll* **13.25**

### Turkey Sandwich

*Sliced thin and stacked high on 7 grain toast with lettuce, tomato, mayo and a pickle* **10.95**  
*Add cheese .50 Add avocado 1.00*

### Grilled Cheese & Avocado

*American and provolone cheeses with roasted red pepper and avocado served on seven grain bread* **9.95**

### BLT Classic

*Traditional double decker. bacon, lettuce, and tomato with mayo on white or wheat bread* **11.95**  
*Add turkey 1.50 Add cheese .50*

### Corned Beef Sandwich

*Slow cooked on a traditional rye bread* **11.75**

### Ham & Cheese Omelette

*Sometimes you just want an omelette!*  
*With potatoes or fruit* **12.95**

### Reuben Sandwich

*Lean corned beef, swiss cheese, sauerkraut on grilled rye bread with thousand island dressing on the side* **13.75**  
*(Try it without the bread for low carb)*

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## Great Burgers

### The Great Burger w/Cheese

*A half pound of grass fed Beef served on a toasted roll with lettuce, tomato, red onions and a pickle* **11.95**

### Build Your Own Burger

*A Great burger with your choice cheese and any two items: mushrooms, bacon, grilled onions, cajun spice, jalapeno peppers or chili on a toasted roll* **12.95**

### Beyond Burger **11.95**

*Delicious, healthy, plant-based burger*

### Bison Burger

*Locally raised. 91% Lean, no hormones or antibiotics. All the delicious flavor of beef "But" 70% less fat and 43% fewer calories than regular ground beef on a toasted roll* **13.95**  
*Choice of cheese add .95*  
*fried organic egg 1.95*

*Choice of cheese: American, Sharp Cheddar, Swiss, Mozzarella, or Bleu Cheese*

*"Go Keto"...Just say NO BUN*

### Nashville Chicken Sandwich

*Crispy spiced chicken breast with cajon mayo, lettuce and pickel* **12.95**

### Burrito Bowl

*Grilled chicken, avacado, lettuce, tomato, salsa and sour cream over quinoa* **13.95**

### SLIDERS:

#### Crab Cake Sliders (2) **10.95**

*With chipotle sauce*

#### Filet Mignon Sliders (2) **13.95**; (3) **16.95**

*With horsey sauce and onion strings*

#### Roast Beef Sliders (3) **9.95**

*(Cold) with horsey sauce and onion strings*

#### Pulled Pork Sliders (3) **10.95**

*Simmered in grandpa's sauce*

### WRAPS:

#### Turkey Wrap **11.95**

*Sliced turkey with bacon, lettuce, shredded cheese, avocado and Sriracha mayo*

#### Grilled Chicken BLT Wrap **12.95**

*Sliced grilled chicken breast, bacon with lettuce, tomato, cheddar cheese and mayo*

#### Ham and Cheese Wrap **10.95**

*Sliced ham, cheese, lettuce, tomato and mayo*

#### Hummus & Veggie wrap

*Creamy hummus, field greens, fresh mozzarella, balsamic tomato relish, fresh basil, and red onion* **10.95**