

EATER

Busy Chris Conlon Divulges His Favorite Places to Dine

*Sin City is home to a lot of restaurants and bars, but there are tons of hidden gems that the majority of Las Vegans aren't unearthing. To help guide us to these potential discoveries, we've enlisted some of our city's food players to share their recommendations for a weekly feature dubbed **Dining Confidential**. Know a chef who wants to share some top dining spots? The [tipline](#) is open.*



Chris Conlon [Photo: Chelsea McManus]

Buffalo, N.Y., native **Chris Conlon** helped his grandfather tend his garden and helped his grandmother in the kitchen before attending the **Culinary Institute of America**. First he worked at Nantucket's **Straight Wharf Restaurant** before being recruited by **Charlie Palmer** to open **Aureole** in **Mandalay Bay**. Conlon moved back to Boston in 1999 to work under chef **Michael Schlow** at **Radius** and then returned to Vegas to work with former Aureole chef **Brian Massie** at **N9NE Steakhouse** at the **Palms**. That naturally led him to N9NE Group stints in Dallas and Aspen, but the draw of Vegas was enough to bring him back a third time working for Massie, now with **The Light Group**. Now Conlon is the executive chef at **Red Square** and **Citizens Kitchen & Bar** both at Mandalay Bay. Full circle, eh? He's been busy opening the restaurants, but he found some time to share some of his favorite places to dine during his off hours.