

Do You Wanna Kickstart Summer?

Get back in the summer groove early this year at the [People Lounge] (<http://www.peoplechicago.com/>) with a \$9 dollar Sangria Pitcher (normally \$19). Facilitate that night on the town by starting with a pitcher of Sangria. Or stop by after the party or club for a quick pitcher of sangria, People Lounge is open late. People Lounge is located in Wicker Park just south of W. North Avenue at 1560 N Milwaukee Ave. If you've ever heard of Chicago's "L" rapid transit system just get off at the Damen stop on the Blue Line and you're there.

People Lounge has a large selection of tapas, in both hot and cold varieties. Select tapas (no, not taps) are \$3 Sun-Thurs 5:30-7. The sangria options are red and white. Over twenty beers leaning towards the Belgian, specialty martinis, and a wine list weighted towards Spanish varieties round out the drink menu. As for the atmosphere, People Lounge is decorated simply with wrought iron and copper fixtures and oak benches and tables (including some large communal tables). Music is a constant fixture; DJ's are often present and the music mix is eclectic.

Favorite tapas include the datiles con bacon (goat cheese stuffed dates, applewood smoked bacon, apple cider reduction) and the people's skirt steak (skirtsteak, tomatoes, cornichons, aged manchego cheese).

Here's a couple reviews from Citysearch.

"queso de cabra- O my GOD AMAZING. The bread was fresh, the cheese was to die for. WOW!!!!!!...people's skirt steak...heavenly" - [rowester](#)

"Through out the meal we tried a couple different specialty martinis they had to offer. Our favorite was the Peoples French Martini which has champagne in it. They also have white or red Sangria. Very refreshing." - [styleplus](#)

Back to the sangria, what do we know about it? It has bits of fruit floating in it. It has a lot of wine in it. It tastes really, really good. All this may give you visions of the drinks served at half remembered house parties in college, but trust us, sangria is the classy version (it has a foreign name doesn't it?). And weren't those house parties good times for the most part? Let sangria take you back to those good times, without taking you all the way back.

Speaking of going back, the history of sangria is really the history of Spain. Let's look at sangria in historical context:

- > Discovered by the Roman General Maxicleas the Compliant. As he napped under an apple tree an apple fell on his head, splitting into eight equal parts and falling into his wine bucket. Luckily, when he woke up he drank the stuff and

didn't use the bucket as a chamber pot, since one bucket was as good as another back then.

- > The drink played an important role in the expulsion of the Moors from the Iberian Peninsula in the late fifteenth century. Flaming bottles of sangria made with the finest wine, dates, limes and peaches were catapulted into battle. Napalmagria they called it; no army could withstand it.

- > As an ambulance driver in the Spanish Civil War, Ernest Hemmingway was known to drip a pitcher or two of sangria before hitting the front lines for the day. People often joke about hooking themselves up to IV's with various sorts of caffeinated and alcoholic beverages, but Hemmingway actually had the opportunity, parts, training and motive to execute the joke.

Sangria pitches for \$9. Get off the Blue Line train and into Spain, at People Lounge.