

10 UNIQUE VENUES

Where thinking outside the box can lead your next event

WAY BACK WHEN

5 eateries that will take your team back in time

BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY

How to create an Emergency Action Plan that covers all the bases

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SWEET TREATS

Get a taste of the industry's latest edible trends





MEETING MUNCHIES»

JUST BEACHY

Burrito Beach's party platters put a new twist on box lunches.

Although they've been around for the past 20 years, Chicago's Tex Mex emporium Burrito Beach is charting new waters with a foray into affordable catering for meetings and events. While its taco and nacho bars bank on the popularity of "build-your-own" stations, "beach boxes" update the old lunch staple with a choice of burrito, salad or quesadilla. Even breakfast gets a wake-up call with genius breakfast burritos and a breakfast taco bar. All ingredients, from the tortilla chips, salsa and guacamole to meats and seafood, are freshly prepared in-house. "Our wide array of combinations are a much-needed break from traditional business lunches and catering options [for] private parties," says CEO/founder Gregory Schulson.

Orders can be placed within 24 hours and delivered free within a five-block radius of six locations in downtown Chicago and O'Hare International Airport. burritobeach.com —*Hannah Fox*

RESOURCE»

THE GUIDE TO ALL YOUR RFP NEEDS

Thanks to the CIC APEX Standards Committee, there's a new RFP strategy guidebook to help planners understand venue capabilities and offerings and provides tips for negotiating prices for event Internet capabilities. With a customizable outline, the workbook caters to a planner's specific needs and has an end goal to make internet service easier to find, ultimately resulting in venues responding to requests faster and more accurately. "The complexity of Internet for meetings is continuing to rise and, with that, so does the required due diligence around sourcing of services, including the costs and the value those services bring," says CIC APEX Standards Committee Chair John Rissi. "This workbook was developed from the High Speed Internet Workgroup after discussion about the need for a tool like this that's specifically for planners." Along with Internet sourcing help for your next event, the guide will help industry professionals understand different bandwidth requirements to fit their event needs. conventionindustry.org —*Noura Elmanssy*



TECH»

Auto Sign-in No Longer FÊTEPHONE TURNS UP THE AUDIO.

Forget about greeting guests with the same old guestbook. FêteFone lets guests speak for themselves with unique telephone stations. Event planners can go to fetefone.com and select from more than 25 styles that fit their event décor. Once selected, the FêteFone hub arrives at the planned event location at least two days before the kickoff. The best part about the design? No telephone line is required. Guests can pick up the phone, hear greetings from hosts and also leave messages. At the end, hosts can download the messages as a way to remember a great event. Founder and CEO of FêteFone Michael Radolinski has over 15 years of event planning experience and says that FêteFone is unlike anything on the market.

"It replaces the traditional guestbook and does triple duty as a statement piece of event décor, a guest activity and lasting memory in one," Radolinski says. "Unlike a traditional guestbook, where the written word may not fully convey a guest's personality, or a video confessional where guests may feel too 'on display' to share their heartfelt wishes, FêteFone offers the perfect balance for capturing event memories." fetefone.com —*Noura Elmanssy*