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# DAWN REISS

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# Flaming Margaritas at River North's Mercadito

Any time flaming margaritas are involved it is a good night.

Last night was no exception. I had the chance to go to the "celebratory opening" of [Mercadito](#) (108 W. Kinzie) in River North. Besides mouthwatering mini tacos the drinks were a sight (literally) to behold.

There were several choices of margaritas from traditional to pear, but my favorite was the flaming lime, which included a half-cut lime floating in the drink. Inverted, the lime was shaped (rind side up) into a nice mini cup holder. The perfect place for a tiny shot that could be set on fire.

Being a pyromaniac at heart and a huge tequila fan, it was a one-two punch. When my cousin Dixie and I saw the blue flames coming out of the drinks, we were instant fans.

Known affectionately as Big Nose Goes to Mexico or B.N.G.T.M. for short, it's a mixture of tequila blanco, reposado, dark rum, guava, orgeat and fire!

Another good find: the Budini Malbec. I think the Malbec is one of the most underrated, under appreciated grapes. I can't go wrong with any variety, but this red wine was particularly exceptional. Rich, smooth and full bodied. (It also happened to be served at the nearby [VTK](#) (Vong's Thai Kitchen, 6 W. Hubbard) where we rounded out the night.)



Flaming margaritas at Mercadito, Image by Dawn Reiss

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More flaming 'ritas at Mercadito, Image by Dawn Reiss

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training, salsa dancing Chicago-based freelance journalist and a former St. Petersburg Times and Dallas Morning News staff writer. I'm a writer, reporter and editor who thinks life is too short to just sit on the sidelines. Live it. Love it. Enjoy it. My work has been published in 25+ media outlets including: Travel + Leisure, Chicago Tribune, Chicago magazine, American Way magazine, CNN.com, MSN.com, Restaurants & Institutions and Boys' Life. I'm the immediate past president of the Chicago Headline Club, the largest Society of Professional Journalists chapter in the country. Look for my co-authored book, Armchair Reader: Chicago, about quirky, off-beat things in the Windy City this December. Twitter @dawnreiss Email me dreiss AT gmail DOT com [See my profile »](#)

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