



THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE
BEST OF AUSTIN
20 24
RESTAURANTS



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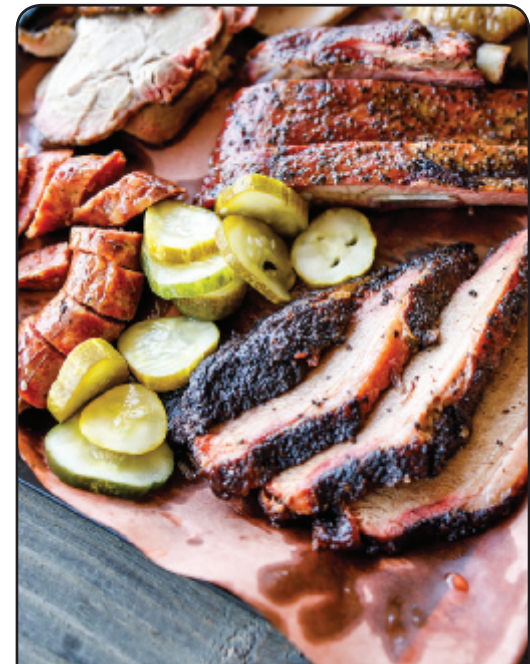
Our faves from 1am burgers to anytime pie

COVER BY ZEKE BARBARO WITH PHOTOS BY JOHN ANDERSON,
JANA BIRCHUM, DAVID BRENDAN HALL, GETTY IMAGES



Eldorado Cafe

JOHN ANDERSON



Micklethwait Craft Meats

COURTESY OF MICKLETHWAIT

Home Cooking

For this year's Best of Austin: Restaurants Readers Poll, an offshoot of our long-running Best of Austin Awards, we invited our readers not just to vote on the winners, but to leave comments explaining their votes. Some went negative ("All the others suckkkkkkk"), some surprisingly erotic ("I have dreams about their espresso martini – sensual ones"), but mostly they were about how good the restaurants on the ballot make them feel:

"Great food and great people. It's like going home for dinner with family."

"Gives me a sense of home away from home."

"Always so homey and delicious!"

"This place feels like home."

Home. Our readers left 5,565 comments about the finalists, and several hundred of them included some variation on "home." It really drives home: Dining out isn't just a transactional experience. It's personal, for hospitality industry workers and their guests alike.

Typically, it's diners who go home feeling nourished. I hope with this issue, Austin's restaurant community feels the love going their way, too.

— EDITOR KIMBERLEY JONES

Chronicle Restaurant Critic Melanie Haupt's Top 10 Favorite Austin Restaurants

- 1) ELDORADO CAFE
- 2) DE NADA CANTINA
- 3) LING WU
- 4) FLO'S WINE BAR + ALL DAY PIZZA
- 5) CANJE
- 6) VERACRUZ FONDA
- 7) MICKLETHWAIT CRAFT MEATS
- 8) OMG SQUEE
- 9) BIRD BIRD BISCUIT
- 10) DALIA'S TEX-MEX

Chronicle Restaurant Critic Taylor Tobin's Top 10 Favorite Austin Restaurants

- 1) MICKLETHWAIT CRAFT MEATS
- 2) CRAFT OMAKASE
- 3) DEE DEE NORTHERN THAI
- 4) HABANERO CAFE
- 5) KG BBQ
- 6) EL NARANJO
- 7) TRIPPY TACOS
- 8) THE LITTLE DARLIN'
- 9) BAR TOTI
- 10) UNDERDOG



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FINALIST

Best(ies)

Our enchiladas and margaritas were made for each other (literally.)

FINALISTA: BEST TEX-MEX • BEST ENCHILADAS • BEST MARGARITAS! THANKS, AUSTIN ♥

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CAFE

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OVERALL ★★★



JOHN ANDERSON

New Restaurant

CRAFT OMAKASE

FINALISTS: AUSTIN'S VERY OWN SALT, BAMBINO, POETA, YELLOW RANGER

"Craft Omakase was the single best meal I've had in my life. The entire experience is exceptional." — TRISTAN MARQUEZ

4400 N. LAMAR #102, CRAFTOMAKASE.COM



JOHN ANDERSON

Chef

BRYCE GILMORE (BARLEY SWINE, ODD DUCK)

FINALISTS: ALEXA MEJIA (EMMER & RYE),
YOSHI OKAI (OTOKO),
AMANDA TURNER (OLAMAIE),
WILLIAM WONG (NEW FORTUNE 2)

"The things this man can do with a pig..."

— HUGH KILLIS



JANA BIRCHUM

Established Restaurant

ODD DUCK

FINALISTS: BARLEY SWINE, CHEZ ZEE,
JUSTINE'S, L'OCA D'ORO

"The food is of high quality but the place isn't stuffy or pretentious. The service is fabulous, the menu changes with the season, they source all of their food locally, and everything is delicious!" — SHELBI DAVIS

1201 S. LAMAR, ODDDUCKAUSTIN.COM

Emerging Chef

BRAEDEN MATHIEU (BARLEY SWINE)

FINALISTS: SAM BORDAGARAY (CRAFT OMAKASE), DAN CASTRO (MABUHAY AUSTIN), JE WALLERSTEIN (FABRIK), JEREMY YOUNG (YELLOW RANGER)

"The flavor, textures, and presentation of each dish is incredible. He is a rising star in Austin." – COURTNEY ALVAREZ

Most Missed / Dearly Departed

SALT & TIME

FINALISTS: 1417 FRENCH BISTRO, CITIZEN EATERY, DINER BAR, TRY HARD COFFEE ROASTERS

"That Muffuletta will never be forgotten. The burger will live in my dreams." – JOSEPH POENISCH



Inka Chicken
Peruvian Restaurant

THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE
BEST OF AUSTIN
2024
RESTAURANTS

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2024
RESTAURANTS

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5000 E. CESAR CHAVEZ ST.

New to Austin this year
Serving Poche' Boudin, Gumbo, Po'boy's,
Grilled Oysters, & other Louisiana Favorites!



JANA BIRCHUM

Pastry Chef

MARIELA CAMACHO (COMADRE PANADERÍA)

FINALISTS: SARAH MCINTOSH (ÉPICERIE), AUGUSTA PASSOW (BARLEY SWINE), ARIANA QUANT (UCHI, UCHIKO, UCHIBA), JULES STODDART (LITTLE OLAS BISCUITS)

"I cry tears of joy each time I take a bite." – CARLOS RUIZ DE CHAVEZ



DINING OUT ★★★



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

Solo Dining

RAMEN TATSU-YA

FINALISTS: BOULDIN CREEK CAFE, CASA DE LUZ, GARBO'S, HOPFIELDS

"Delicious ramen, and slurping noodles is much less awkward when you're dining alone." — KAY MARLEY-DILWORTH

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, RAMEN-TATSUYA.COM

Breakfast

KERBEY LANE CAFE

FINALISTS: BOULDIN CREEK CAFE, COUNTER CAFE, LITTLE OLA'S BISCUITS, SAWYER & CO.

"I can't say enough about their to-die-for gingerbread pancakes." — NORMA HAWES

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, KERBEYLANECAFE.COM

Late-Night Dining

JUSTINE'S

FINALISTS: KERBEY LANE CAFE, ROCKIN' ROLLS, 24 DINER, YELLOW RANGER

"Justine's menu checks all of the late-night dining boxes: comforting, indulgent, and absolutely delicious."

— FRANCEY GRUND

4710 E. FIFTH, JUSTINES1937.COM

Drive-Through

P. TERRY'S BURGER STAND

FINALISTS: BUDDY'S BURGER, DAN'S HAMBURGERS, EL TACORRIDO, FRESA'S

"Anticipation for the burger grows while waiting in the drive-thru line, and because they are so efficient I never wait long for my reward."

— ANDY VASQUEZ

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, PTERRYS.COM

Food Truck

VERACRUZ ALL NATURAL

FINALISTS: CUANTOS TACOS, FERAL PIZZA, KG BBQ, NOCCO'S NAPOLETANA

"Migas taco on corn for the win! An all-time favorite, and we always take out-of-towners here." — JENNY CORMAN

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, VERACRUZALLNATURAL.COM



JOHN ANDERSON

Place to Take Your Parents

FONDA SAN MIGUEL

FINALISTS: CHEZ ZEE, LORO, MATT'S EL RANCHO, MATTIE'S

"This place is an old standby for taking out-of-town visitors for its beautiful decor and building. The pumpkin seed dip is a must have every time." — COLLEEN REILLY

2330 W. NORTH LOOP, FONDASANMIGUEL.COM

Place to Take Your Kids

HOME SLICE PIZZA

FINALISTS: BATCH CRAFT BEER & KOLACHES, JUICELAND, MEANWHILE BREWING, WATERLOO ICE HOUSE

"Food EVERYONE enjoys, fun menus, and dough balls to keep kids placated."

— SUSAN ALEXANDER-WILSON

1415 S. CONGRESS, 1421 S. CONGRESS, 501 E. 53RD, HOMESLICE.COM

Bakery

UPPER CRUST

FINALISTS: COMADRE PANADERIA, EASY TIGER, QUACK'S, SOUR DUCK MARKET

"The cinnamon buns. That's it. That's the quote." — ANNABEL OSBURN

4508 BURNET RD., THEUPPERCRUSTBAKERY.COM

Coffee Shop

RADIO COFFEE & BEER

FINALISTS: DESNUDO COFFEE, EPOCH, TEXAS COFFEE TRADERS, TURNSTILE

"Amazing coffee, great vibe and event curation, food trucks, stellar service."

— ALEXANDRA MORTON

4204 MENCHACA RD., RADIOCOFFEEANDBEER.COM



JANA BIRCHUM

Fine Dining

UCHI

FINALISTS: BARLEY SWINE, ESTE, INTERO, JEFFREY'S

"I always feel pampered here." — KEENA MILLER

801 S. LAMAR, UCHIAUSTIN.COM

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Hayden Conner's Fundraiser for Austin Animal Center

AUSTIN ANIMAL CENTER

Donate to AAC and take group photos with the UT Football Players!

HAYDEN CONNER ARCH MANNING MICHAEL TAAFFE DAVID GBENDA

6-8pm - Live Music
6-7:30pm - Meet & Greet Photos with UT Football players
8-8:30pm - Dog Costume contest
ALL DOGS IN COSTUME GET IN FREE AFTER 5pm
**All dogs must be spayed/neutered and up to date on vaccinations to enter MUTTS®
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MUTTS Austin Animal Center SUBARU FOR KICKING TOWNS



CUISINE ★★★



JOHN ANDERSON

Tex-Mex

ELDORADO CAFE

FINALISTS: ENCHILADAS Y MAS, MATT'S EL RANCHO, MAUDIE'S TEX-MEX, CURRA'S

"All the different salsas, house margaritas are the bomb, high-quality Tex-Mex, super nice staff." — LISA ROE

3300 W. ANDERSON, ELDORADOCAFEATX.COM

New American

ODD DUCK

FINALISTS: BARLEY SWINE, DISTRICT KITCHEN + COCKTAILS, FOREIGN & DOMESTIC, MAIE DAY

"EVERYTHING: the vibe, the chef counter, the staff, the FOOD, the drinks... ALL STAR CREATIONS." — JENNIFER MIMMS

1201 S. LAMAR, ODDDUCKAUSTIN.COM

Barbecue

TERRY BLACK'S BBQ

FINALISTS: FRANKLIN BARBECUE, KG BBQ, LEROY AND LEWIS BARBECUE, STILES SWITCH BBQ

"The barbecue rivals any of the best here in Texas. The briskets are moist, and the beef ribs are huge. Even when it has a long line on their busiest moments, it moves very quickly." — HAI DO

1003 BARTON SPRINGS RD., TERRYBLACKSBBQ.COM

Seafood

QUALITY SEAFOOD MARKET

FINALISTS: THE BOAT, ESTE, GARBO'S, MONGERS MARKET + KITCHEN

"It gets no fresher in Austin. The throwback vibe, the staff, and yeah... it's where every other restaurant picks up their seafood."

— BRIAN MILLER

5621 AIRPORT, QUALITYSEAFOODMARKET.COM

Southern / Soul

HOOVER'S COOKING

FINALISTS: FIXE, MOONSHINE GRILL, OLAMAIE, WHIP MY SOUL

"I met my spouse for the first time at Hoover's. I immediately wanted to dive across the table and embrace her on sight. Then I was like, I don't want to spill the fried okra on the floor. I'll never forget how delicious that okra was." — SETH JOHNSON

2002 MANOR RD., HOOVERSCOOKING.COM

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Cajun

EVANGELINE CAFE

FINALISTS: CYPRESS GRILL, LIL' EASY, SHOAL CREEK SALOON, VIC & AL'S

"Great Louisiana food. I've tried every dish that they have. The owner and staff are friendly and courteous. Don't forget the music!" — DEB PETRIKAT

8106 BRODIE LN., EVANGELINECAFE.COM

Caribbean

CANJE

FINALISTS: BIKKLE, HABANA, PLANTAIN BAR, TRAPHOUSE

"I had a tres leches cake that I wanted to live inside of like James and the Giant Peach." — DAVID MORLEY

1914 E. SIXTH STE. C, CANJEATX.COM



JANA BIRCHUM

African

TASTE OF ETHIOPIA

FINALISTS: ASTER'S ETHIOPIAN RESTAURANT, HABESHA, PALATABLE NIGERIAN CUISINE, SELAM INTERNATIONAL MART & CAFE

"Flavorful dishes served in an authentic style. My favorite experiences include having someone at my table ask for a fork, and having the staff erupt in laughter at the thought of eating with anything besides injera. Now *that's* authentic Ethiopian dining."

— CHRISTOPHER CHANG

1100 GRAND AVENUE PKWY., PFLUGERVILLE; 3801 S. CONGRESS #107, TASTE OF ETHIOPIA AUSTIN.COM



PHOTO BY CHASE DANIEL / COURTESY OF ABA

Mediterranean

ABA

FINALISTS: CAFE MALTA, GRÀCIA MEDITERRANEAN, MEZZEME, YAMAS GREEK KITCHEN + BAR

"Lush Mediterranean food. Short rib hummus is amazing!" — MARIE COLEMAN

1011 S. CONGRESS, BLDG. 2 #180, ABARESTaurants.COM/AUSTIN

Mexican

FONDA SAN MIGUEL

FINALISTS: EL NARANJO, LA CONDESA, SUERTE, VERACRUZ FONDA & BAR

"Fonda perfectly combines freshness, quality, service, and heart in their dishes. The margaritas will turn you upside down too." — ALYSON NEWMAN

2330 W. NORTH LOOP, FONDASANMIGUEL.COM

South American

BUENOS AIRES CAFE

FINALISTS: AREPITAS, FOUR BROTHERS, INKA CHICKEN, LIMA CRIOLLA

"Their empanadas are out of this world." — CHINEMEREM NWOKOLO

13500 GALLERIA CIR., U-120, BEE CAVE; 1201 E. SIXTH, BUENOSAIRESCAFE.COM

Middle Eastern / Arab

KG BBQ

FINALISTS: EZOV, PEACE BAKERY & DELI, REEM'S FALAFEL, USTA KABABGY

"Such a unique combo of flavors. Never knew I'd LOVE pomegranate and nuts with my BBQ." — JOE GERHARD

3108 MANOR RD., KGBBQ.COM

Vegan / Vegetarian

BOULDIN CREEK CAFE

FINALISTS: CASA DE LUZ, JUICELAND, NORI, REBEL CHEESE

"Best service while keeping Austin weird and fed, with the widest variety of vegan options for breakfast (any time of day), lunch, and dinner."

— TIERRA CHAPMAN

1900 S. FIRST, BOULDINCREEKCAFE.COM

Austin Style Pizza
EAST SIDE PIES

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JANA BIRCHUM

Thai

THAI FRESH

FINALISTS: MADAM MAM'S, P THAI'S KHAO MAN GAI & NOODLES, SWAY, TITAYA'S THAI CUISINE

"OMG hands down best Thai I've ever had in any city. Truly no wrong item on the menu, but I have to give a special shout-out to their curries. I moved out of state and still think about their food." — KATHRYN TYSON

909 W. MARY, THAI-FRESH.COM

French

JUSTINE'S

FINALISTS: BUREAU DE POSTE, ÉPICERIE, HOPFIELDS, PÉCHÉ

"Best place for a date night."

— ALFONSO HERNANDEZ

4710 E. FIFTH, JUSTINES1937.COM

Italian

PATRIZI'S

FINALISTS: ASTI TRATTORIA, INTERO, L'OCA D'ORO, RED ASH

"dear lord, everything here is good, amen." — SAMUEL JUNK

BEHIND VORTEX THEATRE, 2307 MANOR RD.; 1705 CUERNAVACA N., PATRIZIS.COM

Indian

CLAY PIT

FINALISTS: NASHA, SAFFRON, SANGAM CHETTINAD INDIAN CUISINE, TARKA INDIAN KITCHEN

"The curry mussels are the best!"

— SARA HAMZA

1601 GUADALUPE, CLAYPIT.COM

Korean

KOREA HOUSE

FINALISTS: CHOSUN GALBI, AN NYEONG K TOFU & BBQ, KORIENTE, OSEYO

"A classic for a reason. They do bulgogi right and they don't skimp on the banchan." — INNES WALKER

2700 W. ANDERSON #501, KOREAHOUSEAUSTIN.COM

Japanese

UCHI

FINALISTS: CRAFT OMAKASE, KOMÉ, OTOKO, UCHIKO

"Fried ice cream, yum." — ANNA SU

801 S. LAMAR, UCHIAUSTIN.COM

Vietnamese

ELIZABETH STREET CAFÉ

FINALISTS: HAI KY, SIP PHO, SUNFLOWER VIETNAMESE CUISINE, TAN MY

"Obsessed with their Tofu Spring Rolls. Will drive across town to pick them up." — JENA UMSTATTD

1501 S. FIRST, ELIZABETHSTREETCAFE.COM



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

Chinese

WU CHOW

FINALISTS: CHINA FAMILY RESTAURANT, DIN HO CHINESE BBQ, HOUSE OF THREE GORGES, LING WU

"Best braised eggplant on the planet." — LILA OSHATZ

500 W. FIFTH #168, WUCHOWAUSTIN.COM



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DISHES ★★★



PHOTO BY JANE YUN / COURTESY OF GIANT NOISE

Pizza

HOME SLICE PIZZA

FINALISTS: BUFALINA, EAST SIDE PIES, PINTHOUSE, VIA 313

“Always perfect. Consistency is key. Meatball and onion any day of the week.” – NORMAN THORNHILL

Sandwich

HOME SLICE PIZZA

FINALISTS: FOODHEADS, LITTLE DELI & PIZZERIA, NEWORLDELI, THUNDERCLOUD SUBS

“Their Italian was my first meal after giving birth and it SLAPPED.” – ERIKA SNELL

1415 S. CONGRESS, 1421 S. CONGRESS, 501 E. 53RD, HOMESLICE.COM

Breakfast Sandwich

BIRD BIRD BISCUIT

FINALISTS: BROOKLYN BREAKFAST SHOP, DAVID DOUGHIE'S, LITTLE OLA'S BISCUITS, NERVOUS CHARLIE'S BAGELS

“The Queen Beak is one of the best things I've ever eaten in my life! And I love these people!” – REGINA BOHMFALK

2701 MANOR RD., 1401 KOENIG, BIRDBIRDBISCUIT.COM

Breakfast Taco

VERACRUZ ALL NATURAL

FINALISTS: JOE'S BAKERY & COFFEE SHOP, LAZARUS BREWING CO., TACODELI, TACO JOINT

“The National Migas Taco of TX.”

– JOHN GROSS

Taco

VERACRUZ ALL NATURAL

FINALISTS: CUANTOS TACOS, NIXTA, TACODELI, TORCHY'S TACOS

“I've had a LOT of their tacos and they ALWAYS deliver the goods. It's a quick little trip back to Mexico.”

– ROBERTO PENA

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, VERACRUZALLNATURAL.COM



JANA BIRCHUM

Seltzer with a **WYUNK**TM of THC



PERFECT
THC : CBD
BALANCE

0
Calories
0
Sugar



Onset in
10-15 min

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drinkwynk.com



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

Noodles / Ramen

RAMEN TATSU-YA

FINALISTS: BLUEFIN SUSHI BAR & RAMEN, JULIE'S NOODLES, MICHU RAMEN, RAMEN512, SAZAN RAMEN

"The vibes, the broth, the tunes!" — RAFAEL SANTAMARIA

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, RAMEN-TATSUYA.COM

Burger

JEWBOY BURGERS

FINALISTS: CASINO EL CAMINO, HOPDODDY BURGER BAR, P. TERRY'S BURGER STAND, TURNSTILE

"The green chili burger is the best!"

— ANNETTE DONALDSON

5111 AIRPORT, JEWBOYBURGERS.COM

Veggie Burger

P. TERRY'S BURGER STAND

FINALISTS: ARLO'S, BOULDIN CREEK CAFE, HOPDODDY BURGER BAR, MISSION BURGER CO.

"Black beans are king."

— JED TAYLOR

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, PTERRYS.COM

Sushi

UCHI

FINALISTS: KOMÉ, NORI, OTOKO, UCHIKO

"Consistently fabulous with a great selection. The happy hour is a great deal as well."

— LYNN ROBINSON

801 S. LAMAR, UCHIAUSTIN.COM

Dumplings

LIN ASIAN BAR + DIM SUM

FINALISTS: FAT DRAGON, DUMPLING WORLD, JULIE'S NOODLES, NEW FORTUNE 2

"I crave the soup dumplings."

— MARTY HAND

1203 W. SIXTH, LINASIANBAR.COM

Salad

VINAIGRETTE

FINALISTS: BARTLETT'S, BOULDIN CREEK CAFE, CHEZ ZEE, JACK ALLEN'S KITCHEN

"I love the giant live oak, I love the food, I love the location, I love how the patio feels cool despite how unbearably hot Austin is. It's a little slice of heaven." — AVERY PEARSON

2201 COLLEGE AVE., VINAIGRETTEONLINE.COM/AUSTIN

Steak

JEFFREY'S

FINALISTS: ALC STEAKS, J. CARVER'S OYSTER BAR & CHOP HOUSE, JUSTINE'S, MAIE DAY

"Best in class." — JENNIFER CARLSON

1204 W. LYNN, JEFFREYSOFAUSTIN.COM

Wings

PLUCKERS

FINALISTS: HIWINGS, LAO'D BAR, TOMMY WANT WINGY, WINGZUP

"Can anyone compete with Dr Pepper sauce? Also the official wings of the Texas Longhorns and the Verde."

— REGINA BOGAN

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, PLUCKERS.COM



DAVID BRENDAN HALL

Chicken-Fried Steak

HOOVER'S COOKING

FINALISTS: CHEZ ZEE, JACK ALLEN'S KITCHEN, MOONSHINE GRILL, WATERLOO ICE HOUSE

"No one makes 'em like this anymore." – RICHARD MARTINEZ

2002 MANOR RD., HOOVERSCOOKING.COM

Ice Cream / Frozen Treat

AMY'S ICE CREAMS

FINALISTS: GATI, LICK HONEST ICE CREAMS, LUV FATS, ZED'S

"Crush'ns! Always a show!"

– ANTHONY ROZADA

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, AMYSICECREAMS.COM



JOHN ANDERSON

Enchilada

ELDORADO CAFE

FINALISTS: CISCO'S, ENCHILADAS Y MAS, MATT'S EL RANCHO, VIVO

"Rene's Awesome is my fav, but they're all great, and the sauces are killer."

– JOHN HAUG

3300 W. ANDERSON, ELDORADOCAFEATX.COM

Our fresh, never frozen, jumbo wings tossed in 29 different sauces house-made by the owner are what set us apart from the rest.



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Tamale season is here!



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WWW.TAMALEADDICTION.COM





BEVERAGES ★★★



JANA BIRCHUM

Frozen Cocktail

LORO

FINALISTS: AUSTIN'S VERY OWN SALT, THE GOLDEN HORN, LAO'D BAR, LIL' EASY

"Gotta love a frozen G&T." – JENNA HENDERSON

2115 S. LAMAR, LOROEATS.COM

Brewery

MEANWHILE BREWING

FINALISTS: JESTER KING, LAZARUS BREWING CO., PINHOUSE, ZILKER BREWING CO.

"Every beer here is always the best beer I've ever had. Most beautiful tap room in Austin, with the most kind and educated staff." – SAMUEL JUNK

3901 PROMONTORY POINT,
MEANWHILEBEER.COM

Winery

WILLIAM CHRIS VINEYARDS

FINALISTS: THE AUSTIN WINERY, C.L. BUTAUD, DUCHMAN FAMILY WINERY, WANDERLUST WINE CO.

"A real Texas winery that has fabulous wine, location, and more and more recognition from the world of wine."

– TINA MELCHER

10352 U.S. HWY 290, HYE;
WILLIAMCHRISWINES.COM

Distillery

STILL AUSTIN

FINALISTS: DEEP EDDY, FIERCE WHISKERS, TITO'S, TREATY OAK

"Amazing bourbons, and a very unique gin." – MATTHEW BROWN

440 E. ST. ELMO, STILLAUSTIN.COM

Margarita

DE NADA CANTINA

FINALISTS: EL ALMA, ELDORADO CAFE, MATT'S EL RANCHO, TRUDY'S

"Nothing hits like a De Nada margarita in the iconic pink plastic cup!"

– ALEE JABLONSKY

4715 E. CESAR CHAVEZ, DENADACANTINA.COM



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Tequila Selection

SUERTE

FINALISTS: DE NADA CANTINA, LA CONDESA, LA HOLLY, LAS PERLAS

“The servers know so much about the tequilas that I was tempted to just admire them. But I ended up drinking them too.”

— JAMES RENOVITCH

1800 E. SIXTH, SUERTEATX.COM

Whiskey Selection

THE GRACKLE

FINALISTS: KINFOLK, LAMBERTS, SEVEN GRAND, WATERTRADE

“A crazy good whiskey selection, without all the fancy-pants BS.”

— LLOYD THOMPSON

1700 E. SIXTH, FB.COM/THEGRACKLEAUSTIN

Beer Selection

PINTHOUSE

FINALISTS: BANGER'S SAUSAGE HOUSE AND BEER GARDEN, DRAUGHT HOUSE PUB & BREWERY, TURNSTILE, WORKHORSE BAR

“Brew it, we will come!”

— LANCE REICHERT

4729 BURNET RD., 4236 S. LAMAR, 2800 HOPPE TRL., ROUND ROCK; 2201 E. BEN WHITE BLVD., PINTHOUSEPIZZA.COM

Cider Selection

AUSTIN EASTCIDERS

FINALISTS: THE BREWTORIUM, CIDERCADE, FAIRWEATHER CIDER CO., TEXAS KEEPER CIDER

“Love the rosé!” — EMILY LANDGREN

979 SPRINGDALE #130, AUSTINEASTCIDERS.COM



JANA BIRCHUM

Wine Selection

BUFALINA

FINALISTS: JUSTINE'S, LOLO, THREE LEGGED GOAT, WINK

“Happy hour wine pricing!!! Great curated selection.” — MARK NORTON

2215 E. CESAR CHAVEZ, 6555 BURNET RD., BUFALINAPIZZA.COM

Creative Cocktail

TIKI TATSU-YA

FINALISTS: DRINKWELL, HERE NOR THERE, HOLIDAY, THE TIGRESS PUB

“HELL YEAH. I dream about their boat drinks.” — NATALIE SWARTZ

1300 S. LAMAR, TIKI-TATSUYA.COM

Mocktail

ARMADILLO DEN

FINALISTS: THE CAVALIER, THE DIRDIE BIRDIE, SANS BAR, VINAIGRETTE

“The bartenders really make this place special! The Fords Ranch Water is my favorite and so refreshing.” — STEVEN FULLER

10106 MENCHACA RD., ARMADILLODENAUSTIN.COM

Milkshake

P. TERRY'S BURGER STAND

FINALISTS: AMY'S ICE CREAMS, HOPDODDY BURGER BAR, MILKY WAY SHAKES, SANDY'S

“Our kids always tell us they're hungry and want P. Terry's. An hour later, the burgers are uneaten in the back seat, but the milkshake is empty.”

— SETH JOHNSON

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, PTERRYS.COM



JANA BIRCHUM

Juice / Smoothie

JUICELAND

FINALISTS: BLENDERS AND BOWLS, CONSCIOUS CRAVINGS, THE SOUP PEDDLER, WONKY BLENDS

“Simply the best. I love the Percolator.”

— RACHEL CLARK

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, JUICELAND.COM

¡Gracias!

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PHOTO BY JUSTIN COOK (@COOKSCAMERA-7202)

Pop-Up

ZEE'S WIENER SYSTEM

FINALISTS: CHILLY'S PHILLYS, CUSTARD PRISON, EL PIZZA BOYS, SICCA PALETTE (DEEPA SHRIDHAR)

"Hands down, the top 5 hot dogs I've ever had in my life came from Zee's. This guy is so passionate, so kind, and truly cares about his customers." — NELIDA DOWNIE

WIENERSYSTEM.COM

Happy Hour

BAR PEACHED

FINALISTS: BUFALINA, LIL' EASY, LORO, UNCLE NICKY'S

"Love their patio, the Big Breezy, and the variety of food offered. I've tried all items on the Social Hour menu and they are all amazing." — KRISTI NYBRO

1315 W. SIXTH, BARPEACHED.COM

Allergy-Friendly

BOULDIN CREEK CAFE

FINALISTS: EMMER & RYE, ODD DUCK, PICNIK, THE WELL

"Very appreciative of servers' sensitivity to customers' allergies and requests." — PAMELA ELLEN FERGUSON

1900 S. FIRST, BOULDINCREEKCAFE.COM

Bathrooms

EBERLY

FINALISTS: BUSTY'S, CASA BIANCA, CODEPENDENT COFFEE + COCKTAILS, JUNIPER

"Every inch of this place is classy and fun." — VANESSA MILLER

615 S. LAMAR, EBERLYAUSTIN.COM

Dog-Friendly

COSMIC

FINALISTS: THE ABGB, CHERRYWOOD COFFEEHOUSE, MEANWHILE BREWING, REDBUD ICEHOUSE

"Our dog's favorite place besides Zilker." — TOM RICKS

— TOM RICKS

121 PICKLE #111, COSMICHOSPITALITYGROUP.COM

Food Event / Festival

AUSTIN FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL

FINALISTS: AUSTIN CHRONICLE HOT SAUCE FESTIVAL, FIELD GUIDE FESTIVAL, HOT LUCK, JESTER KING'S FUNK N' SOUR

"It's our city's premier foodie festival." — KEVIN SCAWTHORN

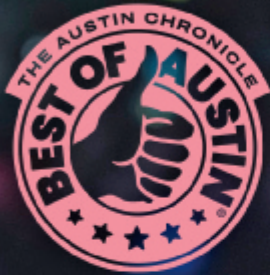
— KEVIN SCAWTHORN



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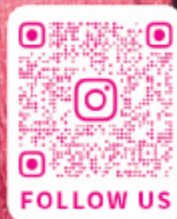


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REDROSEAUSTIN.COM



ZEKE BARBARO

Worth the Drive

JESTER KING

FINALISTS: KREUZ MARKET, THE SALT LICK, TILLIE'S, TRATTORIA LISINA

"There is something serene about sitting at one of the picnic tables in the shade, sipping amazing sour beers, and eating either some of the on-site pizza or a bring-your-own snack. It's always a treat at JK." — MICHAEL PIEHL

13187 FITZHUGH, JESTERKINGBREWERY.COM

Lakeside Dining

MOZART'S

FINALISTS: THE COUNTY LINE, HULA HUT, QUINCE, SKI SHORES CAFE

"Bring me Christmas time!!!!"

— MARTHA HILLEY

3825 LAKE AUSTIN BLVD.,
MOZARTSCOFFEE.COM

View

THE OASIS

FINALISTS: NIDO, P6, STEINER RANCH STEAKHOUSE, SWAY

"Sunset at Oasis is simply the best view in the Hill Country."

— DANNY MOYER

6550 COMANCHE TRL., OASIS-AUSTIN.COM

Patio

LORO

FINALISTS: ARMADILLO DEN, EASY TIGER, THE GROVE, JUSTINE'S

"Superb food, love the patio dining.

Austin original!" — PHYLLIS BARRON

2115 S. LAMAR, LOROEATS.COM

Playscape

MEANWHILE BREWING

FINALISTS: THE BOAT, PHIL'S ICEHOUSE, REDBUD ICEHOUSE, WATERLOO ICE HOUSE

"KIDS! KIDS EVERYWHERE!"

— MARY MENDEZ

3901 PROMONTORY POINT,
MEANWHILEBEER.COM

Ambience

JUSTINE'S

FINALISTS: FONDA SAN MIGUEL, HONEY MOON SPIRIT LOUNGE, LUTIE'S, ODD DUCK

"It's all in the details. The art, the menu, the lighting, and creative energy that goes into the Winter Tent and every single special event. Merci, Justine's!" — TOBIN LEVY

Romantic Dinner

JUSTINE'S

FINALISTS: FABRIK, INTERO, JEFFREY'S, JUNIPER

"I mean, it's just so sexy."

— COLBY JAMES

4710 E. FIFTH, JUSTINES1937.COM

Service

UCHI

FINALISTS: CRAFT OMAKASE, EMMER & RYE, ODD DUCK, OLAMAIE

"They truly anticipate your needs before you do." — MARY MCMULLEN

801 S. LAMAR, UCHIAUSTIN.COM

Wild Card: Outside the Box

SOUPLEAF (HOT POT DINING)

FINALISTS: ATX BEER PARTY (beer community events), CABANA CLUB (pool/clubhouse/remote workspace), SPACE COWBOY (robot service), WANDERLUST WINE CO. SPEAKEASY (multicourse tastings in a wine cave)

"OBSESSED with Soupleaf. Everything is so fresh and the ambience is delightful."

— CARSON ARKINSON

6929 AIRPORT BLVD., SOUPLEAFHOTPOT.COM



COURTESY OF LAUNDERETTE

Weekend Brunch

LAUNDERETTE

FINALISTS: CHEZ ZEE, DISTRICT KITCHEN + COCKTAILS, MAIE DAY, MOONSHINE GRILL

"The outside when it's a little cooler is sublime." — ROBERT CAHN

2115 HOLLY, LAUNDERETTEAUSTIN.COM

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STAFF PICKS ★★★



LAUREN JOHNSON

Best Pepperoni Pizza on a Patio

LOVE SUPREME

This pepperoni pizza is so delicious, probably my current favorite in the city. The addition of Calabrian chiles takes it over the top, and I've had it an embarrassing amount of times in the last couple of months. I appreciate that Love Supreme feels casual, yet still a culinary treat. Their spacious patio is perfect for doggo parents, UT football watchers, and anyone trying to soak up some time outside.

— ASSOCIATE ART DIRECTOR LAUREN JOHNSON

2805 MANOR RD., LOVESUPREMEPIZZABAR.COM

Most Wonderful 1am Burger

THE LITTLE DARLIN'

Sometimes you want to eat a burger after midnight, and sometimes you don't want to fire up your hot girl IBS on the level that In-N-Out or Whataburger is certain to do. If what you seek is a juicy chunk of meat cooked by people who are classy enough to ask for your preferred doneness, topped off with the right cheese-to-sauce ratio and fries that slap, look no further than the Little Darlin's cheeseburger.

— NEWS EDITOR MAGGIE QUINLAN

6507 CIRCLE S RD., THELITTLEDARLIN.COM

Best Way to Wow Others With Your Understated Sophistication

LAUNDERETTE

I recently found myself at a dinner party at Launderette. A friend, a connoisseur of music and much else, ordered wine for the table and two of each appetizer. Then, two of each vegetable. A hazy hour later, the entrées arrived. I won't attempt to describe the exquisite broth wherein bathed a mound of opened mussels, but suffice it to say my colleagues appraise me differently now. Want the respect you deserve? Order the mussels.

— STAFF WRITER BRANT BINGAMON

2115 HOLLY, LAUNDERETTEAUSTIN.COM



KIMBERLEY JONES

Best Deployment of Peanut Butter Since PB&J

BAMBINO

At this Springdale pizzeria, you can follow up a slice of pie (pizza) with a slice of pie (chocolate peanut butter). The pizza's great, but it's the latter this peanut butter addict drools for. You think you know creamy peanut butter? Chef Fiore Tedesco's PB mousse is downright luscious – airy and sky-high, piped on top of a sturdy slab of chocolate graham cracker crust. A slice is big enough to share, but *good god why would you???*

— EDITOR KIMBERLEY JONES

979 SPRINGDALE, BAMBINOAUSTIN.COM

Best Way to “Have Dinner” in Milwaukee Without Suffering Through AUS

UPTOWN SPORTS CLUB

On Sunday nights at Uptown Sports Club, Aaron Franklin's restaurant in East Austin, diners can indulge in a very Midwestern culinary adventure known as Frankie's Supper Club. This pop-up draws inspiration from Wisconsin dining traditions, serving hearty dishes like French onion soup, ribeye with blue cheese sauce, pork chops with balsamic-glazed peaches, and chocolate mousse cake. I loved all of these stick-to-your-ribs treats, but the ultimate can't-miss item is the relish tray, a Wisconsin-supper-club staple of perfectly pickled vegetables, crackers, and a cheese ball studded with nuts.

— RESTAURANT CRITIC TAYLOR TOBIN

1200 E. SIXTH, UPTOWNSPORTS.CLUB

Best Curation of Crestview Cold Cuts

LITTLE DELI

Ever since I watched *The Sopranos* for the first time last year, all I ever crave is an Italian sub. Austin's got many a sandwich artist to choose from, but I rate Little Deli's Classic Italian at No. 1. The shop stacks its buns with the most delicious, generous portions of capicola, salami, ham, and pepperoni; I'd eat these meats in front of the fridge too, if I could.

— STAFF WRITER CARYS ANDERSON

7101-A WOODROW AVE.,
LITTLEDELIANDPIZZA.COM

The Hungry Vegan's Best Bet for Last-Minute Lunch

EAST SIDE KING

Girl, I always forget to eat lunch on time and that leaves me starving but indecisive. Yet East Side King's veggie bento – stacked with tofu karaage, a roasted Brussels sprouts salad, beet home fries, and a fried avocado bao bun – gets me fed without weighing me down. Star-maker use of Thai basil puts ESK in the legend argument.

— CALENDAR EDITOR JAMES SCOTT

2310 S. LAMAR, EASTSIDEKING.COM



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JONAH LEMM

Most Spotlight-Stealing Dip

EZOV

Baba ganoush is the better hummus. However, it's rare that this eggplant-tahini paste, usually a side dish, is so good that you no longer crave a main course. I've experienced this in Israel and in Arab backstreet restaurants in Berlin. And at Ezov. I was there for my birthday. This baba ganoush was smoky and so smooth, you could simply scoop it out of the bowl with the accompanying fregene bread. A real gift.

— VISITING BURNS FELLOW JONAH LEMM (DER SPIEGEL)

2708 E. CESAR CHAVEZ, EZOVATX.COM

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Belldiver 7PM

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Johnny McGowan

10/29
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10/30
Warren Hood

11/1
Del Castillo
Sister Golden Hair

11/2
Brewskies & Baddies Drag Brunch

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