

THE 2024 DINING AWARDS

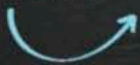
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The City's Magazine

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GUIDE



THE 2024 DINING AWARDS

A note from Orlando magazine: Welcome to *Orlando* magazine's 2024 Dining Awards, our annual guide to the finest cuisine in Central Florida. This year, our guide is bigger than ever, with selections by readers in more than 70 categories—we've added nine new categories to our list! From the fanciest spots in town to places where it's easy to kick back and relax, the Orlando dining scene is a vibrant mix of cultures and concepts. Let's celebrate those who excel at their craft.

Written by **Jennifer McKee and Brendan O'Connor**
Principal photography by **Roberto Gonzalez**
Art Direction by **Milena Wambold**

Searced Diver Harvest
Sea Scallops with Butternut
Squash Stuffed Tortellini
from Norman's, Readers'
Choice for Best Restaurant.



**READ ON FOR YOUR
2024 READERS'
CHOICE WINNERS AND
BRENDAN'S CHOICE.**



BEST RESTAURANT

NORMAN'S

Restaurant Row

Is there anything better than sitting on Norman's covered outdoor patio, sipping wine as you enjoy the gentle Florida breezes? Or kicking back indoors in a refined space to savor an exquisite menu of fresh seafood, steak, chicken and pork entrees? Obviously not, since Norman's takes top honors as our readers' favorite overall restaurant. The critics agree as well, adorning Chef Norman Van Aken with a lengthy list of honors that's too long to recount here, but he's the only Florida chef who's been inducted into the James Beard Foundation's list of "Who's Who in American Food and Beverage" and is known as the "Founding Father of New World Cuisine." You can also thank Van Aken for introducing the word "fusion" into the dining lexicon. He's a true Sunshine State treasure and has been hailed as "Florida's Culinary Icon." normans.com

From top to bottom: Chocolate Pate a Choux; Pan-Cooked Fillet of Key West Yellowtail Snapper. Opposite page: Chef Norman Van Aken pours Brazilian Styled Shrimp & Mussel Chowder.



CREATING MENUS IS SOMETHING I LOVE TO DO. IT IS THE INTEGRATION OF SEASONALITY, THE FOOD STORIES OF FLORIDA I HAVE BEEN TELLING FOR DECADES.

—Chef Norman Van Aken

READERS' CHOICE
WINNERS LIST

BEST RESTAURANT

- 1 **Norman's**
RESTAURANT ROW
normans.com
- 2 **Luke's Kitchen and Bar**
MAITLAND
eatatlukes.com
- 3 **Reel Fish Coastal Kitchen + Bar**
WINTER PARK
reelfishcoastal.com

BEST CHEF

- 1 **Seito Sushi - Huy Tin**
BALDWIN PARK
seitosushi.com
- 2 **Kres Chophouse - Mari Fonseca**
DOWNTOWN ORLANDO
kresrestaurant.com
- 3 **Aashirwad Indian Food and Bar - Amit Kumar**
UNIVERSAL AREA
aashirwadrestaurant.com

BEST NEW RESTAURANT

- 1 **Nami**
LAKE NONA
namilakenona.com
- 2 **Ceiba**
LAKE BUENA VISTA
hilton.com/en/hotels/orlci-ci-conrad-orlando/dining
- 3 **ÔMO by Jônt**
WINTER PARK
omobyjont.com



BEST NEW RESTAURANT

NAMI

Lake Nona

A culinary gem located inside the Lake Nona Wave Hotel, Nami sparkles with its flawless dishes, cocktails that are works of art and its mirrored entrance. Any dining experience here is an exciting one, with on-point selections of crudo, maki rolls and meats from the robata grill, but the Chef's Counter experience is extra-special—Michelin-Starred Chef Freddy Money and Chef Jason Beliveau take you through a 20-course bite tasting menu, designed to tantalize your senses. Seats fill up fast, so waste no time securing your reservation. Love expertly curated cocktails? The mixologists are pros, and you'll get to sample some of their best drinks during Nami Nights (on Fridays and Saturdays), plus a special late-night menu. The energy level stays high thanks to Nami's in-house DJ. namilakenona.com



Nami's imaginative and flawless dishes make dining here an extra-special experience. Opposite page: Club-worthy cocktails and flame-licked meats tempt at The H Orlando.



BEST INSTAGRAMMABLE RESTAURANT

THE H ORLANDO

Dr. Phillips

Sometimes, well, most times, style does not match substance in the restaurant world. I see lots of places open up that are flashy or promise an out-of-planet experience, but they tend to fall a bit short when you're saddling up to dinner. The H Orlando doesn't have that problem. It's a Mediterranean/Turkish steakhouse in Dr. Phillips, with an open-fire kitchen cranking out slow-cooked barbecue, charcoal oven-fired and sustainable dishes. Their vegetarian options should have made them a contender for Best Veggie-Forward Eats, but I'm bad at my job. The dining room feels like a millionaire's treehouse, the bar is always full of beautiful people with beautiful bank accounts, and the food looks just as good as it tastes. They prepare pappardelle on a giant wheel of cheese and carve gold-encrusted steaks close enough to your table you could sneak it all home in your purse. And if you stay late enough, it gets a little Miami clubby and you can wiggle off some of those calories you just packed on. thehorlando.com

RUNNERS UP

CHUAN FU **BACAN**



@NAMI

READERS' CHOICE WINNERS LIST

BEST NEIGHBORHOOD RESTAURANT

- 1 **Maxine's on Shine**
THORNTON PARK
maxinesonshine.com
- 2 **The Osprey**
BALDWIN PARK
theospreyorlando.com
- 3 **The Tap Room at Dubsdread**
COLLEGE PARK
taproomatdubsdread.com

BEST APPETIZERS

- 1 **Chef's Table at the Edgewater - Tasting Room**
WINTER GARDEN
chefstableattheedgewater.com

- 2 **Tori Tori**
MILLS 50
toritoripub.com

- 3 **Cocina 214**
WINTER PARK
cocina214.com

BEST BAKERY

- 1 **Charlie's Bakery & Creamery**
CURRY FORD WEST
charliesbakery.com
- 2 **Buttermilk Bakery**
WINTER PARK
buttermilk-bakery.com
- 3 **Orlando Fresh Bread**
ALTAMONTE SPRINGS
orlandofreshbread.com