

THE 2024 DINING AWARDS

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The City's Magazine

MORE CUISINE CHOICES THAN EVER

Sample the delights of
Norman's, your Best
Restaurant winner.

Norman's
New World Cuisine



HOLIDAY PIE POLL

DID YOUR FAVORITE
MAKE THE CUT?

SPIRITS OF THE SEASON

CRAFT A STUNNING
COCKTAIL

COLLEGE
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**

Seared Oliver Harvest
Sea Scallops with Butternut
Squash Stuffed Tortellini
from Wynn's, Readers'
Choice for Best Restaurant.

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

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Brendan O'Connor celebrates local restaurants and culinary creators that truly shine, including choices for best Instagrammable restaurant and veggie-forward eats. Meanwhile, readers pick their favorites in 70+ categories.

Okaya in Lake Eola Heights takes top honors as a Brendan's Choice award winner for Best Bar Food. The Michelin-loved Filipino restaurant serves dish after stunning dish like elevated pancit, lumpiang and oxtail kare-kare.

73 COLLEGE GUIDE

Explore Florida's wide variety of quality colleges and universities.

COMING UP

DECEMBER

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FEBRUARY

Date-Night Ideas
Weddings



ON THE COVER

The chilled beef tenderloin tataki, seared diver harvest sea scallops with butternut squash stuffed tortellini and watermelon sorbet at Norman's.

Photography: Roberto Gonzalez
Art Direction: Milena Wambold

ROBERTO GONZALEZ



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/orlcici-conrad-orlando/dining
- 3 **ÔMO by Jônt**
WINTER PARK
omobyjont.com



BEST BEER

HOURGLASS BREWING

Hourglass District

With its mantra of no artificial dyes, extracts or flavors, you can count on a fresh, flavorful and uncommon glass of beer every time at Hourglass Brewing. Ingredients are hand-selected from local and international purveyors—tropical fruits from Florida, herbs from India malt from Chile and Scotland and hops from Japan are but a few examples. It's both the perfect stop for those beginning to dip a toe into the world of craft beer or the seasoned craft drinker, with dozens of selections to taste test (our favorites are Long Drinks on the Beach and Million Bees and Some Hops). Beware, however, Hourglass just may spoil you for all other beers. hourglassbrewing.com

READERS' CHOICE

WINNERS LIST

Best Service continues

- 2 **Norman's**
RESTAURANT ROW
normans.com
- 3 **deep blu Seafood Grille**
LAKE BUENA VISTA
deepbluorlando.com

BEST SOUTHERN

- 1 **The Pinery**
IVANHOE VILLAGE
thepineryorlando.com
- 2 **Chef Art Smith's Homecomin'**
DISNEY SPRINGS
homecominkitchen.com

- 3 **Voodoo Bayou**
RESTAURANT ROW
voodoobayou.com/orlando-location

BEST SPANISH

- 1 **Jaleo by José Andrés**
DISNEY SPRINGS
jaleo.com/location/jaleo-disney-springs
- 2 **Santiago's Bodega**
MILLS 50 / ALTAMONTE SPRINGS
santiagosbodega.com

- 3 **Bulla Gastrobar**
WINTER PARK
bullagastrobar.com

BEST STEAKHOUSE

- 1 **Ruth's Chris Steak House**
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS
ruthschris.com
- 2 **The Venetian Chop House**
LAKE BUENA VISTA
cariberoyale.com/orlando-resort-restaurants/fine-dining-orlando-fl
- 3 **Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar**
MULTIPLE LOCATIONS
flemingssteakhouse.com