

The
2011

Fort Worth, Texas magazine

Culinary Awards

We annually ask our readers for their thoughts on the food scene in and around Fort Worth. It's kind of like homework, because the categories are many and varied. But they are up to it. Or at least 406 of our readers were in this last round.

Once we have those votes, the meetings in the office begin. In most cases, the vote totals are clear. The restaurant with the most votes gets first position in the listings and a small write-up. Nos. 2 and 3 are simply listed.

But in instances where there is no clear consensus, the editors of the magazine make a decision based on personal experience, the opinions of other staff members and trusted foodies outside the magazine. It becomes a judgment call.

Nominees must meet at least one of the following criteria: a local business; a national business founded in North Texas; a business founded elsewhere in Texas with 10 or fewer locations in the state; a national business with eight or fewer locations in the nation; or a business considered a national landmark.

After Theater Dining

Zambrano Wine Cellar

Owner Cef Zambrano has deep Fort Worth ties starting with the Old Swiss House. His tastefully designed and comfortable establishment offers more than 325 wines from around the world — 50 or more by the glass. The menu includes bistro-style lunch and dinner offerings.

910 Houston St., Ste. 110, 817.850.9463,
zambranowines.com

Ferre Ristorante and Bar, 215 E. 4th St.,
817.332.0033, ferrerestaurant.com

Piranha Killer Sushi, 335 W. 3rd St.,
817.348.0200, piranhakillersushi.com

Appetizers

MICHAELS Restaurant and Ancho Chile Bar

Creative ranch cuisine involves a sometimes unusual combination of ingredients such as a goat cheese tart with pesto toast and raspberry chipotle vinaigrette or fried quail and pecan waffles with an orange-jalapeño syrup. Yum.

3413 W. 7th St., 817.877.3413,
michaelscuisine.com

Eddie V's Prime Seafood, 3100 W. 7th St.,
817.336.8000, eddiev.com

Bonnell's Fine Texas Cuisine,
4259 Bryant Irvin Road, 817.738.5489,
bonnellstexas.com

Atmosphere/Décor

Grace

Dine inside or outside or just meet for a drink at this comfortable modern setting reminiscent of restaurant venues in destination cities across the nation.

777 Main St., 817.877.3388,
gracefortworth.com

Bailey's Prime Plus, 2901 Crockett St.,
817.870.1100, baileysprimeplus.com

Reata Restaurant, 310 Houston St.,
817.336.1009, reata.net

Bagels

Yogi's Bagel Cafe

Yes, there are bagels here along with other

breakfast offerings. But the menu is more extensive than the uninitiated might suspect, and that keeps the parking lot full.

2710 S. Hulen St., 817.921.4500,
yogisbagels.com

Boopa's Bagel Deli

6513 N. Beach St., 817.232.4771,
boopasbageldeli.com

Iris Bagel and Coffee House

5801 W. Interstate 20, Arlington 76017,
817.561.9989, irisbagel.com

Bakery

Blue Bonnet Bakery

This consistent favorite is famous for all things baked but especially for pecan pies, fruit pies, Texas fudge cakes, carrot cakes, Italian cream cakes and on and on. Did we mention decorated birthday cakes? And Blue Bonnet was doing creative cupcakes before they were a trend food.

4705 Camp Bowie Blvd., 817.731.4233
bluebonnetbakery.com

Worthington, 200 Main St., 817.210.2222,
tinyurl.com/vidalias-FW

Thai Tina's, Embassy Suites Hotel, 600
Commerce St., 817.332.0088, thaitinas.com

Ice Cream/Frozen Treat

Sweet Sammie's

This is a cookie place, but it's widely known for the signature offering — the Sweet Sammie. It's a roll-your-own ice cream sandwich. Pick any two cookies and the Blue Bell flavor of your choice. Instant heaven.

825 Currie St., 817.332.0022,
sweetsammies.com

Curley's Frozen Custard, 4017
Camp Bowie Blvd., 817.763.8700,
curlsyzfrozencustard.com

Paciugo Gelato & Caffè, 2926 Crockett St.,
817.885.7725, 308 Houston St., 817.870.2725,
paciugo.com

Indian

Maharaja Indian Restaurant and Bar

The signature here is tandoor dishes and the breads made in the clay pit oven. But there is an extensive menu of other items that reflect northern India. And to keep from having to make too many decisions, you can always catch the lunch buffet.

6308 Hulen Bend Blvd., 817.263.7156

Bombay Grill, 4625 Donnelly Ave.,
817.377.9395, bombaygrillfortworth.com

Tandoor Indian Restaurant, 532 Fielder
N. Plaza, Arlington, 76012, 817.261.6604

Italian

Nonna Tata

What makes Nonna Tata the hottest Italian restaurant in town? Could be the size. It's small enough that scoring a table is a mark of victory. Could be the food. It is amazingly good. Probably it's the chef, Donatella Trotti. She's worth the wait alone, and the food here is true Italian with recipes from her mother and grandmother.

1400 W. Magnolia Ave., 817.332.0250,
tinyurl.com/nonna-tata-fw

Piola Restaurant and Garden, 3700
Mattison Ave., 817.989.0007, fwpiola.com

Patrizio, 2932 Crockett St., 817.698.0003,
patrizios.net

Japanese

Tokyo Café

Tokyo Café consistently ranks as the Best of Japanese in our annual readers poll, and for good reason. The dishes are traditional but innovative, and the full-meal salads are just that, especially the seared tuna. Also famous are Tok Fries — fresh cut potato fries seasoned

with Japanese spices and chili mayo dipping.

5121 Pershing Ave., 817.737.8568,
thetokyocafe.com

Japanese Palace, 8445 Camp Bowie W.,
817.244.0144, japanesepalace.net

Piranha Killer Sushi, 335 W 3rd St.,
817.348.0200, piranhakillersushi.com

Ladies Lunch

Lunch Box

Eat lunch here, and you may see all your old friends, your new friends and your soon-to-be friends. And many of them will be having the chicken salad.

6333 Camp Bowie Blvd., Ste. 115,
817.738.2181

McKinley's Fine Bakery and Café, 1616
S. University Drive, Ste. 301, 817.332.3242,
mckinleysbakery.com

Café Modern, Modern Art Museum of
Fort Worth, 3200 Darnell St., 817.840.2157,
thecafemodern.com

Late Night

OP' South Pancake House

We say "late night," but we could say "all night." This standby operates 24/7 much to the delight of TCU students cramming for an exam and night people suddenly struck by cravings for pancakes at unusual hours. Southern and Texas ambiance and waitresses who call you "Honey" round out the experience. Try the German pancakes. Nobody does them better.

1509 S. University Drive, 817.336.0311,
olsouthpancakehouse.com

Taco Heads, 2700 W. 7th St.,
facebook.com/Tacoheads

Fuzzy's Taco Shop, 2917 W. Berry
St., 817.924.7943, Multiple Locations,
fuzzystacoshop.com

Light Menu

Ellerbe Fine Foods

Many places speak of farm-to-fork cooking, but Chef Molly McCook is among the leaders. Vegetarians will find a good selection here. And "light menu" depends on whether you saved room for the innovative desserts.

1501 W. Magnolia Ave., 817.926.3663,
ellerbefinefoods.com

Spiral Diner and Bakery, 1314 W.
Magnolia Ave., 817.332.8834,
spiraldiner.com

Zodiac Room, Level Two, Neiman Marcus
2100 Green Oaks Blvd., 817.989.4650,
tinyurl.com/zodiac-fw

Mac and Cheese

The Wild Mushroom Steak House and Lounge

Time was when you went to a restaurant to avoid another home-cooked meal of macaroni and cheese. Now you pay big bucks and

Congratulations
Buttons Food
and Music
for The Soul

Fort Worth, Texas magazine's
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- ★ Best Restaurant with Live Music
- ★ Best Southern Cuisine

Buttons
FOOD & MUSIC
For the Soul

4701 W. Fwy Suite 100 (Near Central Market)
Fort Worth, Texas 76107
817-735-4900
ButtonsRestaurant.com

“Much love to the cool Katz of Fort Worth. Thank you for your continued support; I can't do this without you.”
- Chef Keith “Buttons” Hicks