Micro breweries, seafood markets, craft distilleries, steakhouses, chocolatiers, and cheese shops—we have all kinds of culinary delights here on the Seacoast. We established over 80 categories, and asked you to tell us your favorites in each one. We tallied your votes, and the result is this guide to the Seacoast’s finest mouthwatering choices.

We offer congratulations and a big thank you to all the chefs, restaurateurs, brewers, bakers, sommeliers, farmers, and other food and drink professionals who have created so many delicious destinations. It’s your hard work that makes the Seacoast such a fabulous place to be. And now—the Best of Taste 2017-2018!
BAR FOOD

Cava Tapas & Wine Bar
Blink and you might miss the whimsical brick-laid street where Cava is located. Tucked away from the main drag, embellished with greenery, the outdoor space features a handful of cozy wooden tables and chairs set alongside a pedestrian-only alley, providing patrons with a quiet getaway in the heart of downtown Portsmouth. Sip wine, share a few tapas, and marvel at this hidden gem. 10 Commercial Alley, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-319-1575, cavatapasandwinebar.com

RUNNERS-UP
The Black Birch Kitchen & Drinks, Kittery, Maine, theblackbirch.com
The District, Portsmouth, N.H., thedistrictnh.com
Mombo, Portsmouth, N.H., momborestaurant.com

The Black Birch Kitchen & Drinks
A cozy nest with welcoming friendliness, The Black Birch is a home away from home. This busy hot spot offers excellent beverages and the food to go with them, and each dish is as delectable as the divine hospitality. Grab a few plates to share, such as the Poutine and Duck Confit, or the crispy Deep-Fried Shortrib topped with horseradish cream. 2 Government Street, Kittery, Maine, 207-703-2294, theblackbirch.com

RUNNERS-UP
The 401 Tavern, Hampton, N.H., the401tavern.com
The Portsmouth Brewery, Portsmouth, N.H., portsmouthbrewery.com
Thirsty Moose Taphouse, multiple locations, thirstymoosetaphouse.com

BAKERY/BREAD

When Pigs Fly
Offering an assortment of breads like no other, When Pigs Fly’s main bakery greets you with the scent of dough mixed with nuts and fruits. The breads are on display like in a museum, with plenty of samples. The artisanal loaves are tantalizing; from Blueberry and Raspberry with Lemonade to Pumpernickel, there’s surely a favorite slice for every bread lover. 460 U.S. Route 1, Kittery, Maine, 207-439-3114, sendbread.com; and other locations

RUNNERS-UP
Beach Pea Baking Co., Kittery, Maine, beachpeabaking.com
Ceres Bakery, Portsmouth, N.H., ceresbakery.com
Popovers on the Square, Epping and Portsmouth, N.H., popoversonthesquare.com

BAR

Thirsty Moose Taphouse
With several dozen tap lines and a motto of “Live Free, Drink Beer,” Thirsty Moose Taphouse continues to deliver for beer aficionados, as it is a repeat winner in this category. The atmosphere is not just perfect for those over 21, though, as its spacious layout and classic bar-and-grill-style food attracts families, too. 21 Congress Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-427-8645, thirstymoosetaphouse.com; and other locations

RUNNERS-UP
Martingale Wharf, Portsmouth, N.H., martingalewharf.com
The Portsmouth Brewery, Portsmouth, N.H., portsmouthbrewery.com
The 401 Tavern, Hampton, N.H., the401tavern.com
BARTENDER

Alex Aviles, WHYM Craft Beer Cafe
As the owner of WHYM, Alex Aviles wanted to create a space where people interested in and passionate about beer could come to taste blends from around the world. “What I do is try and pour the best of the best,” says Aviles. “We want to pour beverages from small businesses that we respect, and I think in turn, the customer expects that. My favorite part is sharing the excitement of the product with the customer.” 3458 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-501-0478, whymportsmouth.com

RUNNERS-UP
Keri Mahoney, STREET, Portsmouth, N.H., streetfood360.com
Ashleigh Hamilton, Wiggly Bridge Distillery, York, Maine, wigglybridgedistillery.com
Chris Gansburg, Ristorante Massimo, Portsmouth, N.H., ristorantemassimo.com

BEER SELECTION

Thirsty Moose Taphouse
With more than 116 beers from which to choose, “thirsty” patrons have no shortage of hoppy options at Thirsty Moose Taphouse, which recently added a location in Exeter. Founded by a group of friends who enjoy beer, Thirsty Moose features everything from IPAs and seasonal favorites to sours, stouts, ales, lagers, and more. 21 Congress Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-427-8645, thirstymoosetaphouse.com; and other locations

RUNNERS-UP
The Portsmouth Brewery, Portsmouth, N.H., portsmouthbrewery.com
The Black Birch Kitchen & Drinks, Kittery, Maine, theblackbirch.com
Redhook Brewery, Portsmouth, N.H., redhook.com

BBQ

MoJo’s BBQ Grill and Tavern
Taking first place for 10 years in a row, Mojo’s is Portsmouth’s primary destination for barbecue. Try a rack of the signature “Fall Off The Bone” Ribs or The Yardbird, a half chicken brined in apple cider and served with Arkansawce. Balance the smoke and fire with homemade sides, including warm cornbread and red-skinned mashed potatoes. 95 Brewery Lane, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-436-6656, mojosportsmouth.com

RUNNERS-UP
The Tuckaway Tavern & Butchery, Raymond, N.H., thetuckaway.com
Goody Coles Smokehouse, Brentwood, N.H., goodycoles.com
Yankee Smokehouse, Ossipee, N.H., yankeesmokehouse.com

BLOODY MARY

STREET
STREET retains the title for this category once again. The secret to co-owners Michelle Lozuaway and Josh Lanahan’s success is the production method. “We started pureeing all of our ingredients,” Lanahan says. “It gives it a really silky texture, but also then blends the ingredients more. The flavors marry better.” They also prepare the mixture a couple days before it’s served, allowing all the flavors to marinate. 801 Islington Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-436-0860, streetfood360.com

RUNNERS-UP
Roundabout Diner, Portsmouth, N.H., roundaboutdiner.com
The Friendly Toast, Portsmouth, N.H., thefriendlytoast.com
Rudi’s Portsmouth, Portsmouth, N.H., rudisportsmouth.com

PHOTOGRAPHS: THIS PAGE LEFT: COURTESY OF ALEX AVILES; OPPOSITE PAGE: TONY SCARPETTA
**BREAKFAST**

**The Friendly Toast**
Seacoasters love breakfast at all times of the day, which is just one of the many reasons for the The Friendly Toast love. The extensive menu at the retro joint covers all breakfast inclinations, from savory to indulgently sweet. 113 Congress Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-430-2154, thefriendlytoast.com; and other locations

**RUNNERS-UP**
The Golden Egg, Portsmouth, N.H., goldeneggrestaurant.com
The Big Bean, Newmarket, N.H., thebigbeancafe.com
Colby's Breakfast & Lunch, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-436-3033

**BREWPUB**

**The Portsmouth Brewery**
Making award-winning beer and great food in the heart of downtown Portsmouth since 1991, The Portsmouth Brewery is a repeat winner in this category. "We are honored to be selected as best brew pub with so many new places offering quality craft beer," says Brennen Rumble, general manager. "Even after 26 years, we want to prove ourselves each and every day to our loyal customers." 56 Market Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-431-1115, portsmouthbrewery.com

**RUNNERS-UP**
Throwback Brewery, North Hampton, N.H., throwbackbrewery.com
7th Settlement, Dover, N.H., 7thsettlement.com
Hayseed Restaurant at Towle Farm, Hampton, N.H., smuttynose.com

**BRUNCH**

**STREET**
Taking home the title of best brunch for the first time, STREET co-owners Michelle Lozuaway and Josh Lanahan couldn't be more excited. "I've been wanting to win brunch for the entire time we've been open because Josh has a particular affinity for eggs and all things breakfast," says Lozuaway. "That makes me happy. We are humbled." Their best-selling item is the B.A.S.H.: bacon, avocado, scrambled eggs, and hollandaise, piled on a crispy butter-grilled bun. 801 Islington Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-436-0860, streetfood360.com

**RUNNERS-UP**
The Old Salt Restaurant, Hampton, N.H., oldsaltnh.com
Wentworth by the Sea, New Castle, N.H., wentworth.com
Applecrest Farm Bistro, Hampton Falls, N.H., farmbistro.com

**BURGER**

**Lexie's Joint**
For anyone craving a burger with flavor, Lexie's is surely a burger "crafted with love." The casual burger joint that began with a boy-meets-girl love story (co-owners K.C. Cargill and Alexis "Lexie" Wile) has grown not only with locations but also with crafty burger combinations. Try the Green Meunster with bacon, avocado, chipotle aioli, and muenster cheese; or choose to build your own masterpiece. Pair your burger with a creamy, thick milkshake. 212 Islington Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-437-3217, peaceloveburgers.com; and other locations

**RUNNERS-UP**
The Tuckaway Tavern & Butchery, Raymond, N.H., thetuckaway.com
BRGR Bar, Portsmouth, N.H., brgr-bar.com
Wild Willy's Burgers, York, Maine, and Rochester, N.H., wildwillysburgers.com
BUTCHER SHOP

The Tuckaway Tavern & Butchery
Originally opened as a meat market in 2012, The Tuckaway has expanded to include a wide variety of in-house crafted specialty foods, local beers, and a wide assortment of wine. Meat options are impressive, with beef graded from Upper Choice to Prime, 20-plus house-made sausages and seasoned burgers, and freshly ground chuck. Patrons may also be surprised to find a complete organic section featuring nuts, granola, fruit bars, chips, desserts, and more. 58 Route 27, Raymond, N.H., 603-244-2431, thetuckaway.com

RUNNERS-UP
Carl’s Meat Market, Kittery, Maine, 207-439-1557
McKinnon’s Markets, Portsmouth, N.H., mckinnonsmarkets.com
Joe’s Meat Shoppe, North Hampton, N.H., joesmeatshoppe.com

CAFE/COFFEEHOUSE

Breaking New Grounds
The coffee bean aroma beckoning from Breaking New Grounds fills the Market Square air from before dawn until well past dusk. Everyone’s favorite coffee shop offers a cozy spot to sip on rich, strong coffee or munch on sweet pastries. Perch by the window and watch the hustle and bustle along the brick sidewalks, select a table to rest your notebook on, or take your coffee to go. 14 Market Square, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-436-9555, bngcoffee.com

RUNNERS-UP
Lil’s Cafe, Kittery, Maine, lilscafe.com
Popovers on the Square, Epping and Portsmouth, N.H., popoversonthesquare.com
Caffe Kilim, Portsmouth, N.H., caffekilim.com

CAKE and CUPCAKES

Beach Pea Baking Co.
When you need a treat for yourself—or someone you care about—Beach Pea Baking Co. never fails to deliver. Their cakes are topped with fresh, natural ingredients for any sweet tooth indulgence. Try the Almond Raspberry Cake with raspberry whipped cream and white chocolate cream cheese frosting, or choose from at least a half dozen chocolate cake options. Cupcake selections abound as well. If cheesecake is your guilty pleasure, try the Passion Fruit Curd, which is just one of Beach Pea’s many cheesecake flavors. 53 State Road, Kittery, Maine, 207-439-3555, beachpeabaking.com

RUNNERS-UP
Popovers on the Square, Epping and Portsmouth, N.H., popoversonthesquare.com
Clyde’s Cupcakes, Exeter, N.H., clydscupcakes.com
Wicked Sweet Sugar Boutique, Hampton, N.H.,thewssugarboutique.com

BURRITO

Loco Coco’s Tacos
The best burrito is one that needs to be held with two hands. Add in French fries for an even better experience. Loco Coco’s California Burrito is a patron favorite; in addition to the fries, the tortilla is packed with steak, cheese, pico de gallo, avocado sauce, and sour cream. Other burrito fillings include grilled shrimp, BBQ pork, and fajita peppers and onions. Order to go from the walk-up counter, or relax with a sit-down meal at the bar or dining area. 36 Walker Street, Kittery, Maine, 207-438-9322, lococos.com

RUNNERS-UP
Las Olas Taqueria, multiple locations, lasolastaqueria.com
Agavé Mexican Bistro, Newburyport, Mass., and Portsmouth, N.H., agavemexicanbistro.com
Dos Amigos Burritos, multiple locations, dosamigosburritos.com

BUSINESS LUNCH

The Library Restaurant
Housed in a building that is steeped in history—it dates back to 1785—The Library Restaurant is also an establishment where you can get incredible value for your lunch. “Customers deserve the best possible meal in a beautiful environment at a reasonable price,” explains owner Bruce Belanger, who says he has not raised prices in years. 401 State Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-431-5202, libraryrestaurant.com

RUNNERS-UP
Rudi’s Portsmouth, Portsmouth, N.H., rudisportsmouth.com
The 401 Tavern, Hampton, N.H., the401tavern.com
Paddy’s, Portsmouth, N.H., paddysgrille.com

The Library Restaurant
Sanborn’s Fine Candies
For 60 years, Sanborn’s has been creating all things confectionary. These include chocolate options like homemade nonpareils, truffles, and bon bons filled with flavored creams, jellies, and caramel. Non-chocolate options include peanut brittle, pastel-shaded sugar mints, and fresh, buttery caramel corn. Pure New Hampshire maple sugar candy comes in Old Man of the Mountain and New Hampshire state shapes. 293 Lafayette Road, Hampton, N.H., 603-926-5061, sanbornscandies.com

Yummies, Kittery, Maine, yummies.com
The Goldenrod, York, Maine, thegoldenrod.com
Calef’s Country Store, Barrington, N.H., calefs.com

CHEESE AND WINE SHOP
C’est Cheese
A trip to Brittany, France, inspired owner Nancy Briggs Guilmette to open C’est Cheese in 2003. Cheeses from around the state, country, and world are offered, with tastes available. There are cheeses made from cow, goat, and sheep milk available. In addition to finding the perfect cheese, you’ll also gain insight and recommendations on what wine and specialty foods to pair it with, also carried there. The shop provides an out-of-this-country setting for cheese experts and novices alike. 61 Lafayette Road, North Hampton, N.H., 603-964-2272, cestcheesenh.com

Corks and Curds, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-431-5564
Fiddlehead Farms Marketplace, Somersworth, N.H., fiddleheadfarmsmarket.com

CHEF
Aaron Duval, The 401 Tavern
Aaron Duval has already made a positive impression on patrons after only about a year at The 401 Tavern. A 10-year veteran of the industry, Duval enjoys giving classical dishes a more upscale presentation and values his customers’ input on menu items. “The best feedback you can get is from your customers,” he says. “There’s more to a chef than just good cooking; leadership, drive, passion, all of these things have to come into a perfect flow.” 401 Lafayette Road, Hampton, N.H., 603-926-8800, 401tavern.com

The White Apron, Dover, N.H., thewhiteapron.com
Liberty Lane Catering, Hampton, N.H., libertylanecatering.com
MoJo’s BBQ Grill & Tavern, Portsmouth, N.H., mojosportsmouth.com

Portsmouth Catering Company
A company that truly caters to you, Portsmouth Catering starts from scratch for each occasion—this means no preset menus, as each event may have unique requirements. There are lots of options that you can customize to your taste. There are creative twists on comfort food, like Duck Pot Pie, Chilled Ginger Carrot Soup Shooters, and Local Jonah Crab Cake Lollipops. Chef-owners Michael Prete and Matthew Greco (who also own The Kitchen) are happy to adapt dishes to match your needs, and to help with planning your event. 1 Liberty Lane, East Hampton, N.H., 603-866-2546, portsmouthcatering.com

The Portsmouth Brewery, Portsmouth, N.H., portsmbrewery.com
Loco Coco’s Tacos, Kittery, Maine, locococos.com
The Kitchen, Portsmouth, N.H., thekitchennh.com

The 401 Tavern
Keeping in line with providing comfort food to its guests, The 401 Tavern’s chili recipe is the perfect dish to dive into on a cold day or night. It includes a chef-made secret sauce, a hearty dose of meat and veggies, a dash of paprika, and cheese on top. Each bite is better than the next. 401 Lafayette Road, Hampton, N.H., 603-926-8800, the401tavern.com

Cork’s and Curds, Portsmouth, N.H., portsmbrewery.com
Loco Coco’s Tacos, Kittery, Maine, locococos.com
The Kitchen, Portsmouth, N.H., thekitchennh.com
CHOCOLATIER

The Chocolatier
From rum truffles to chocolate fudge to chocolate-covered espresso beans, the rich flavors of fine chocolate fill The Chocolatier, a multi-time winner. The shop provides the Seacoast with everything a chocolate lover could ever want. 27 Water Street, Exeter, N.H., 603-772-5253, the-chocolatier.com

RUNNERS-UP
Byrne & Carlson, Portsmouth, N.H., and Kittery, Maine, byrneandcarlson.com
Sanborn’s Fine Candies, Hampton, N.H., sanbornscandies.com
Lindt, multiple locations, lindtusa.com

CLAM CHOWDER

The Old Salt Restaurant
Their chowder is so rich, creamy, stomach-filling, and popular, that The Old Salt offers it both in the restaurant and in cans to ship or take home. Co-owner Mike Higgins’s recipe has been on the menu since the Lamie’s Inn restaurant opened in 1986. 490 Lafayette Road, Hampton, N.H., 603-926-8322, oldsaltnh.com

RUNNERS-UP
Petey’s Summertime Seafood and Bar, Rye, N.H., peteys.com
Bob’s Clam Hut, Kittery, Maine, bobsclamhut.com
River House, Portsmouth, N.H., riverhouse53bow.com

COMFORT FOOD

The Tuckaway Tavern & Butchery
Featuring everything from burgers and steaks to fried seafood, The Tuckaway Tavern is anything but pretentious. The Chili & Cheese Corn Holes was featured on the Food Network’s Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives. The homey poutine—fries, gravy, cheddar curds, chopped scallion—is an already noteworthy item that can be further elevated with steak tips or a duck egg. 58 Route 27, Raymond, N.H., 603-244-2431, thetuckaway.com

RUNNERS-UP
The Maine Diner, Wells, Maine, mainediner.com
Roundabout Diner, Portsmouth, N.H., roundaboutdiner.com
The 401 Tavern, Hampton, N.H., the401tavern.com

COOKING CLASSES

Stonewall Kitchen
Winning this category year after year, Stonewall Kitchen hosts entertaining, tasty, and educative experiences for all looking to bring home new recipes and cooking skills. Classes are taught by in-house and local chefs, visiting celebrity chefs, and cookbook authors. 2 Stonewall Lane, York, Maine, 877-899-8363, stonewallkitchen.com

RUNNERS-UP
Chez Boucher, Hampton, N.H., chezboucher.com
Attrezzi, Portsmouth, N.H., attrezziinh.com
Karimah’s Kitchen, Kensington, N.H., karimahskitchen.com

CRAB CAKES

Jumpin’ Jay’s Fish Cafe
Jumpin’ Jay’s keeps its crab cakes classic, loading them with fresh meat caught in York, Maine, and adding just enough bread crumbs to hold them together. The outside is seared to a nice crispness, complementing the tender inside. Chef Nikki Nocella adds a pinch of jalapeno. Fixings change with the seasons. 150 Congress Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-766-3474, jumpinjays.com

RUNNERS-UP
Robert’s Maine Grill, Kittery, Maine, robertsmainegrill.com
Seaglass Restaurant & Lounge, Salisbury, Mass., seaglassoceaside.com
Mike’s Clam Shack, Wells, Maine, mikesclamshack.com

CRAFT BEER STORE

Prost Specialty Beer & Wine
The shop carries more than 450 different varieties of craft beer from throughout the U.S., Europe, and Canada, with strong support for local brewers. Prost stocks selections from about 50 New England breweries, and offers weekly tastings. 44 Lafayette Road, North Hampton, N.H., 603-964-0953, prostcraftbeer.com

RUNNERS-UP
Gary’s Beverage, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-436-5854
Carl’s Meat Market, Kittery, Maine, 207-439-1557
Tully’s Beer & Wine, Wells, Maine, tullysbeerandwine.com

CRAFT COCKTAILS

STREET
Co-owners Josh Lanahan and Michelle Lozuaway use unique flavor profiles for their drinks, walking the line between sweet and savory. “Neither Josh nor I like overly sweet cocktails,” Lozuaway says. 801 Islington Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-436-0860, streetfood360.com

RUNNERS-UP
Wallingford Dram, Kittery Maine, thewallingford.com
The Black Birch Kitchen & Drinks, Kittery, Maine, theblackbirch.com
Tinos Kitchen & Bar, Hampton, N.H., galleyhatch.com
DECK

Martingale Wharf
Located right on the edge of the Piscataqua River, Martingale Wharf has again nabbed honors for best deck on the Seacoast. “We expanded our deck this year to make our riverfront dining even more comfortable and spacious and to accommodate larger parties as well as anyone just joining us for a cocktail or appetizer,” says General Manager Cecil Abels. “The firepits and blankets we provide also allow us to extend the experience earlier and later in the seasons.” Deck-worthy victuals include a generous number of seafood options, as well steaks and tempting desserts. 99 Bow Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-431-0901, martingalewharf.com

RUNNERS-UP
River House, Portsmouth, N.H., riverhouse53bow.com
Latitudes, New Castle, N.H., wentworth.com/latitudes-waterfront
Old Ferry Landing, Portsmouth, N.H., oldferrylanding.com

DELI

McKinnon’s Markets
Maintaining its deli winning streak for another year, McKinnon’s is stocked with an expansive selection of domestic and imported meats and cheeses. The deli also features homemade chicken salad and other tasty selections like Tailgate Chili, Pot Roast Dinner, and Green Bean Almondine. McKinnon’s also offers recipes to complement their offerings, keeping in mind budget and dietary restrictions. 2454 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-559-5714, mckinnonsmarkets.com

RUNNERS-UP
Joe’s Meat Shoppe, North Hampton, N.H., joesmeatshoppe.com
Carl’s Meat Market, Kittery, Maine, 207-439-1557
Calef’s Country Store, Barrington, N.H., calefs.com

DESSERT

Popovers on the Square
Popovers offers a variety of sandwiches, salads, entrees, and—most importantly—desserts. From breakfast pastries like Cinnamon Butterscotch Scones to fine cakes, Popovers prepares all forms of sweet indulgences. Choose from a smorgasbord of chocolate cakes, like Chocolate Mint Cake glazed with a rich creamy ganache, or go for fruity combinations like a warm cranberry peach crisp. Cookies, crème brûlée, tarts, and pies are available for your enjoyment. 8 Congress Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-431-1119, and 11 Brickyard Square, Unit 23, Epping, N.H., 603-734-4724, popoversonthesquare.com

RUNNERS-UP
Beach Pea Baking Co., Kittery, Maine, beachpeabaking.com
Galley Hatch, Hampton, N.H., galleyhatch.com
Ceres Bakery, Portsmouth, N.H., cercerbakery.com

DINNER

Roundabout Diner
Another year, another win for Roundabout, which serves classic breakfast-through-dinner diner fare from a scratch kitchen. Potatoes are hand cut, the beef is slow cooked, and eggs are cage-free. “We try to use as much local stuff as we can,” says owner Dan Posternak. 580 U.S. 1 Bypass, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-431-1440, roundaboutdiner.com

RUNNERS-UP
The Maine Diner, Wells, Maine, mainediner.com
Gilley’s PM Lunch, Portsmouth, N.H., gilleyspm lunch.com
The Golden Egg, Portsmouth, N.H., goldeneggrestaurant.com

DISTILLERY

Flag Hill Distillers
In 2004, Flag Hill Distillers became the first distillery to open in New Hampshire since Prohibition. They offer whiskey, vodka, gin, rum, brandy, grappa, moonshine, and liqueurs, all made with as many local ingredients as possible. 297 North River Road, Lee, N.H., 603-659-2949, flaghill.com

RUNNERS-UP
Wiggly Bridge Distillery, York, Maine, wigglybridgedistillery.com
Sea Hagg Distillery, North Hampton, N.H., seahagghostillery.com
Smoky Quartz Distillery, Seabrook, N.H., smokyqd.com

FINE DINING

Black Trumpet
When Evan and Denise Mallett opened Black Trumpet 11 years ago, they did so with the intent to give guests an all-around amazing experience. “We still adhere to a belief that when people go out to eat at a restaurant like ours they deserve special attention,” Evan Mallet says. 29 Ceres Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-431-0887, blacktrumpetbistro.com

RUNNERS-UP
Ristorante Massimo, Portsmouth, N.H., ristorantemassimo.com
The Library Restaurant, Portsmouth, N.H., libraryrestaurant.com
CR’s The Restaurant, Hampton, N.H., crshersrestaurant.com

PHOTOGRAPH: COURTESY OF POPOVERS ON THE SQUARE
**GOURMET FOOD MARKET**

Philbrick’s Fresh Market

Philbrick’s earns the title as best gourmet market for another year. Operating under the motto, “Eat well. Live well. Every day,” Philbrick’s carries fresh seafood, quality meats, fine wines, cheeses, produce, and a bakery full of breads and pastries. Occasional in-store wine tastings allow you to sample bottles from their collection. Shelves are lined with all kinds of specialty foods, including many from local purveyors. Lafayette Plaza, Route 1, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-422-6758, and 69 Lafayette Road, North Hampton, N.H., 603-379-2500, philbricksfreshmarket.com

**RUNNERS-UP**
Stonewall Kitchen, York, Maine, stonewallkitchen.com
McKinnon’s Markets, Portsmouth, N.H., mckinnonsmarkets.com
Golden Harvest, Kittery, Maine, goldenharvestproduce.com

**HEALTH FOOD MARKET**

Trader Joe’s

Trader Joe’s is all about value—great food at great prices. The market provides a comprehensive list of all items in the store that are gluten-free, non-dairy, kosher, or vegan. Trader Joe’s also carries organic and non-GMO items, along with Whole30-compliant food, making shopping for any diet a breeze. 45 Gosling Road, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-431-2654, traderjoes.com, and other locations

**RUNNERS-UP**
Portsmouth Health Food Center, Portsmouth, N.H., portsmouthhealthfood.com
Philbrick’s Fresh Market, Portsmouth and North Hampton, N.H., philbricksfreshmarket.com
Hampton Natural Foods, Hampton, N.H., hamptonnaturalfoods.com

**INEXPENSIVE EATS BREAKFAST**

The Golden Egg

Patrons have been flocking to The Golden Egg for a hearty, homemade breakfast since 1983. Fully loaded omelets and benedicts (seven options, including traditional, sauteed shrimp, and spinach-mushroom) go for under $12 and a full stack of pancakes is less than $8. The granola is homemade, as is the delectable Cardamom Coffee Cake. 960 Sagamore Avenue, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-436-0519, goldeneggrestaurant.com

**RUNNERS-UP**
Colby’s Breakfast & Lunch, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-436-3033
Betty’s Kitchen, North Hampton, N.H., bettyskitchen.com
The Country View Restaurant, Greenland, N.H., thecountryview.com

**HOTEL RESTAURANT**

Salt Kitchen & Bar, Wentworth by the Sea

Salt’s menu changes with the seasons, but continuously incorporates prime cuts of meat, fresh seafood and veggies, homemade pasta, and delicious baked goods into its breakfast, lunch, and dinner menus. On the weekends, stop in for the build-your-own Bloody Mary and mimosa bar, and then grab a seat by the window to enjoy the beautiful view. 588 Wentworth Road, New Castle, N.H., 603-422-7322, wentworth.com/new-castle-salt-kitchen-bar

**RUNNERS-UP**
The Old Salt Restaurant, Lamie’s Inn, Hampton, N.H., oldsaltnh.com
1637, York Harbor Inn, York, Maine, yorkharborinn.com
Epoch Restaurant & Bar, The Exeter Inn, Exeter, N.H., epochrestaurant.com
ICE CREAM

Lago’s Ice Cream
For more than 35 years, Lago’s has been serving up homemade ice cream and traditional favorites like root beer floats, ice cream sodas, frappes, and banana splits. Creative original flavors include Scotty Lago’s Bronze Run, Muddy Sneakers, and Salty Sailor. If you need a pick-me-up, go for the Polar Joe, your favorite flavor blended with cold coffee. 71 Lafayette Road, Rye, N.H., 603-964-9880, lagosicecream.com

RUNNERS-UP
Annabelle’s Natural Ice Cream, Portsmouth, N.H., annabellesicecream.com
Memories Ice Cream, Kingston, N.H., memoriesicecream.com
Ice House, Rye, N.H., theichehouserestaurant.com

INEXPENSIVE EATS LUNCH

The 401 Tavern
Although forever changing its menu to stay with the times, The 401 Tavern keeps its prices fair. “What we do well here is we adjust to the moment and we’re adjusting to whatever is going on in the Seacoast,” says owner Desi Lanio. “Right now, we’re doing comfort foods.” Lunchtime offerings include Petite Baked Haddock served with a cup of seafood chowder and a demi salad and Twin Buffalo Chicken Sliders served with chips, both less than $14.

RUNNERS-UP
Lexie’s Joint, multiple locations, peacloveburgers.com
Beach Pea Baking Co., Kittery, Maine, beachpeabaking.com
Popovers on the Square, Epping and Portsmouth, N.H., popoversonthesquare.com

INEXPENSIVE EATS DINNER

STREET
When STREET co-owners Josh Lanahan and Michelle Lozuaway first opened their restaurant in 2010, they did so with the consumer in mind, and they’ve won for best inexpensive dinner for four years running. “We thought it was really important to offer consistent quality food at a reasonable price,” Lanahan says. “I think people are seeing that we do that.” STREET has a variety of tasty salads and bowls, along with a great selection of sandwiches, many for $10 and under. 801 Islington Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-436-0860, streetfood360.com

RUNNERS-UP
Lexie’s Joint, multiple locations, peacloveburgers.com
The Maine Diner, Wells, Maine, mainediner.com
Roundabout Diner, Portsmouth, N.H., roundaboutdiner.com

KID FRIENDLY

Flatbread Company
Every Flatbread menu displays a child-drawn illustration, and one of your children could be the next featured artist if they submit a drawing they create at the table. Once coloring becomes old news, Flatbread toasts children a ball of dough to roll around as their pizza bakes. Kids love the basics, like Jay’s Heart, with wood-fired cauliflower tomato sauce and whole milk mozzarella and parmesan cheeses. And adults can sit back and enjoy all-natural pizza with toppings like organic caramelized onions and free-range chicken, while being warmed by the crackling fire. 138 Congress Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-436-7888, flatbreadcompany.com; and other locations

RUNNERS-UP
The Friendly Toast, Portsmouth, N.H., thefriendlytoast.com
The Community Oven, Hampton, N.H., thecommunityoven.com
Margaritas Mexican Restaurant, multiple locations, margs.com

LATE-NIGHT DINING

The Friendly Toast
The Friendly Toast serves its full menu (including all those breakfast goodies) Friday and Saturday until 2 a.m. Grab a seat in a cozy red booth, or dangle your feet at one of several bar stools, order an omelet, or pancakes, or tacos, and admire the eccentric artwork hanging on the walls. Regardless of the time, the dining experience at The Toast is always delightfully unique. 113 Congress Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-430-2154, thefriendlytoast.com; and other locations

RUNNERS-UP
The Friendly Toast, Portsmouth, N.H., thefriendlytoast.com
The District, Portsmouth, N.H., thedistrictnh.com
Gilley’s PM Lunch, Portsmouth, N.H., gileyspmlunch.com

INN

York Harbor Inn
Each of the York Harbor Inn’s 62 rooms offers a different feel and style. Ocean views, fireplaces, Jacuzzis, and heated tile floors are just some of the many luxurious options available at the upscale country inn. The inn’s staff makes you feel like family, whether you’re a regular or first-time visitor. “We always say we want to enhance the experience of the guests,” says Restaurant and Events Manager Gregori Silva. “A room is a room and a dinner is a dinner, but if they have an amazing experience it’s going to be 10 times better.” Expanded continental breakfast comes with the rooms and includes goodies like homemade pastries, granola, and fresh fruit, plus hyper-local honey from Chef Gerald Bonsey’s hives.

RUNNERS-UP
The Exeter Inn, Exeter, N.H., theexeterinn.com
Three Chimneys Inn, Durham, N.H., threechimneysinn.com
The Hotel Portsmouth, Portsmouth, N.H., thehotelportsmouth.com

LATE-NIGHT DINING

The Friendly Toast
The Friendly Toast serves its full menu (including all those breakfast goodies) Friday and Saturday until 2 a.m. Grab a seat in a cozy red booth, or dangle your feet at one of several bar stools, order an omelet, or pancakes, or tacos, and admire the eccentric artwork hanging on the walls. Regardless of the time, the dining experience at The Toast is always delightfully unique. 113 Congress Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-430-2154, thefriendlytoast.com; and other locations

RUNNERS-UP
The Friendly Toast, Portsmouth, N.H., thefriendlytoast.com
The District, Portsmouth, N.H., thedistrictnh.com
Gilley’s PM Lunch, Portsmouth, N.H., gileyspmlunch.com
LOBSTER DINNER

Chauncey Creek Lobster Pier
There’s nothing better than a waterfront picnic with lobster as the entrée. The Spinney family has been serving up the fresh-caught delicacy since the 1930s. At Chauncey’s, bring your own tablecloth and alcohol, and settle down on the colorful picnic tables situated on the pier. Pick out a 1- to 4-pound lobster to be broiled to order, and complete the meal with sides of coleslaw, potato salad, and steamed clams. 16 Chauncey Creek Road, Kittery Point, Maine, 207-439-1030, chauncycreek.com

RUNNERS-UP
Warren’s Lobster House, Kittery, Maine, lobsterhouse.com
Petey’s Summertime Seafood and Bar, Rye, N.H., peteys.com
Newick’s Lobster House, Concord and Dover, N.H., newicks.com

LOBSTER ROLL

The Beach Plum
For nine years in a row, patrons have agreed there’s no better place to get a lobster roll than at The Beach Plum. Grab a 5-, 6-, 8-, or 10-ounce sandwich that’s packed with chunks of lobster and no fillers. Choose from light mayo or hot butter with chips or onion rings on the side. “It’s the highest quality lobster roll, that you’re not going to find anywhere else,” says Director of Marketing Lorraine Petrini. 2800 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-433-3339, thebeachplum.net; and other locations

RUNNERS-UP
The Tuckaway Tavern & Butchery, Raymond, N.H., thetuckaway.com
Bob’s Clam Hut, Kittery, Maine, bobsclamhut.com
Warren’s Lobster House, Kittery, Maine, lobsterhouse.com
LOCALLY SOURCED MENU

Applecrest Farm Bistro
Surrounded by farmland and apple orchards, Applecrest Farm Bistro brings a true farm-to-table experience to its guests. With around 225 acres of land used for planting, Applecrest grows every type of vegetable and fruit you could imagine. “For the entire growing season, whatever could be in season that time of year is coming out of our fields and orchards,” says owner Todd Wagner. “We try and use every single iteration—it’s sort of the snout to tail approach.” 133 Exeter Road, Hampton Falls, N.H., 603-926-0006, farmbistro.com

RUNNERS-UP
STREET, Portsmouth, N.H., streetfood360.com
The Black Birch Kitchen & Drinks, Kittery, Maine, theblackbirch.com
Moxy, Portsmouth, N.H., moxyrestaurant.com

MARGARITA

Agavé Mexican Bistro
There’s no better margarita out there than what they’re shaking up at Agavé. With more than 125 tequilas available—from Sauza Gold to Burdeos Gran Patrón—there’s something for everyone. And with fresh lime juice, orange liquor, and simple syrup, each sip of margarita is deliciously refreshing. The original house margarita is perfectly tart, or if you’re looking for something sweeter, try the Red Cactus, which features pureed raspberries and Chambord. 111 State Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-427-5300, and 50 State Street, Newburyport, Mass., 978-499-0428, agavemexicanbistro.com

RUNNERS-UP
Vida Cantina, Portsmouth, N.H., vidacantinanh.com
STREET, Portsmouth, N.H., streetfood360.com
Margaritas Mexican Restaurant, multiple locations, margs.com

MARTINI

Cure
Featuring classic American cuisine in an intimate setting with exposed-brick walls and a patio, Cure also serves up some terrific cocktails, which explains their best martini nod. Creative specials have included a Cinco de Mayo Martini with coconut, tequila, chili pepper, and pineapple and a Rum Chata-Salted Espresso Tini. Cure’s small, cozy bar has become a favorite amongst locals since the restaurant opened in early 2014. 189 State Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-427-8258, curerestaurantportsmouth.com

RUNNERS-UP
The Red Door, Portsmouth, N.H., reddoorportsmouth.com
The Library Restaurant, Portsmouth, N.H., libraryrestaurant.com
Rudi’s Portsmouth, Portsmouth, N.H., rudisportsmouth.com

MEALS TO GO

Mr. Mac’s Macaroni & Cheese
Mr. Mac’s offers 21 macaroni and cheese variations, all available to go, or as take and bake servings in a variety of sizes (gluten-free options available). There’s Pulled Pork Mac with Citrus Chipotle BBQ sauce; Taco Mac includes chicken and tortilla chips. “We have received such a warm welcome into the greater Portsmouth community and receiving this award as we approach our first-year anniversary is really special,” says owner Harry Cheema. 2600 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-380-7916, mr-macs.com; and other locations

RUNNERS-UP
Philbrick’s Fresh Market, North Hampton and Portsmouth, N.H., philbricksfreshmarket.com
On the Vine Marketplace, Exeter, N.H., onthevinemarketplace.com
Fiddlehead Farms Marketplace, Somersworth, N.H., fiddleheadfarmsmarket.com
STREET

STREET’s eclectic menu offers globally inspired brunch, lunch, and dinner selections that cater to every diet, palate, and wallet. “The food you travel the world for is just down the STREET,” the website declares, and the menu includes varied dishes from many countries. You’ll find mouthwatering options like Bibimbap (a Korean dish of rice, sautéed veggies, a sunny-side egg, and Gochujang sauce), Mexican Pozole stew, Middle Eastern Lamb Shawarma, and an all-American burger.

Co-owners Josh Lanahan and Michelle Lozuaway couldn’t be more honored to have earned this title. “A good friend said years ago, ‘Just make good food and people will come’—like, if you build it they will come,” Lozuaway says. “Josh, that’s what he does. He makes good food.” A full liquor menu rounds out the experience, with a short-but-sweet wine list, great local beers on tap, and a tempting array of creative cocktails. 801 Islington Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-436-0860, streetfood360.com

RUNNERS-UP

Urban Farmhouse Eatery, North Hampton, N.H., 603-379-9965
The Pointe, Badger’s Island, Kittery, Maine, thepointerestaurant.com
Tuscan Kitchen, Portsmouth, N.H., tuscanbrands.com

Otis Restaurant

Attached to the recently remodeled Inn by the Bandstand in downtown Exeter, Otis Restaurant is located in the former home of the Otis Sleeper Jewelry Store, built in 1910. Chef-owner Lee Frank creates modern American food that features locally sourced ingredients. The seasonal menu might include Sunchoke Soup with almonds; Sirloin with marrow, potatoes, celery root, onions, and Swiss chard, with Sticky Toffee Pudding for dessert. 4 Front Street, Exeter, N.H., 603-580-1705, otisrestaurant.com

RUNNERS-UP

The Press Room, Portsmouth, N.H., pressroomnh.com
Thirsty Moose Taphouse, multiple locations, thirstymoosetaphouse.com
The Red Door, Portsmouth, N.H., redoorportsmouth.com

Portsmouth Gas Light Co.

With an outdoor deck that often features live music, a pizza pub, restaurant, and nightclub, Portsmouth Gas Light Co. is often the place to be on the Seacoast. “We’re honored that we were awarded best nightlife,” says Dustin Bourque, marketing manager. “We feel that we have always been a great place for people of all ages and take pride in being Portsmouth’s top gathering spot.” 64 Market Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-430-9122, portsmouthgaslight.com

RUNNERS-UP

LaFesta Brick & Brew, Dover, N.H., lafestabrickandbrew.com
When Pigs Fly Wood-Fired Pizzeria, Kittery, Maine, whenpigsflypizzeria.com
Bratskellar, Portsmouth, N.H., dinnerhorn.com

Flatbread Company

Crispy-edged, organic, wood-fired pizza is what you’ll find at repeat winner Flatbread. The menu features combos that combine complementary ingredients. Manager Caleb Peterson says, “Local produce is hand-delivered by farmers. On top of this, cooking in our wood-fired oven is an overall unique style of cooking, producing great flavor.” 138 Congress Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-436-7888, flatbreadcompany.com; multiple locations

RUNNERS-UP

LaFesta Brick & Brew, Dover, N.H., lafestabrickandbrew.com
When Pigs Fly Wood-Fired Pizzeria, Kittery, Maine, whenpigsflypizzeria.com
Bratskellar, Portsmouth, N.H., dinnerhorn.com
1. STREET, Portsmouth, N.H., streetfood360.com
2. The Black Birch Kitchen & Drinks, Kittery, Maine, theblackbirch.com
3. The Tuckaway Tavern & Butchery, Raymond, N.H., thenuckaway.com
4. Ristorante Massimo, Portsmouth, N.H., ristorantemassimo.com
5. Moxy, Portsmouth, N.H., moxyrestaurant.com
6. The 401 Tavern, Hampton, N.H., the401tavern.com
7. Mombo, Portsmouth, N.H., momborestaurant.com
8. Popovers on the Square, Portsmouth and Epping, N.H., popoversonthesquare.com
9. Louie’s, Portsmouth, N.H., louiesportsmouth.com
10. Mistol, Kittery, Maine, mistolcafebistro.com
11. CR’s The Restaurant, Hampton, N.H., cstrerestaurant.com
12. Cure, Portsmouth, N.H., curerestaurantportsmouth.com
13. Bintliff’s, Ogunquit, Maine, bintliffsogunquit.com
15. The Kitchen, Portsmouth, N.H., thekitchennh.com
16. Jumpin’ Jay’s, Portsmouth N.H., jumpinjays.com
17. Surf, Portsmouth, N.H., surfseafood.com
18. Cava Tapas & Wine Bar, Portsmouth, N.H., cavatapasandwinebar.com
19. The Library Restaurant, Portsmouth, N.H., libraryrestaurant.com
20. Otis, Exeter, N.H., otisrestaurant.com
22. The Community Oven, Hampton, N.H., thecommunityoven.com
23. The Pointe, Badgers Island, Maine, thepointeportsmouth.com
24. Applecrest Farm Bistro, Hampton Falls, N.H., farmbistro.com
25. WHYM Craft Beer Cafe, Portsmouth, N.H., whymportsmouth.com
27. Laney & Lu Cafe, Exeter, N.H., laneyandlu.com
28. 900 Degrees Neapolitan Pizzeria, Epping, N.H., 900degrees.com
29. Tuscan Kitchen, Portsmouth, N.H., tuscanbrands.com
30. BG’S Boat House, Portsmouth, N.H., bgsboathouse.com

RESTAURANT VIEW

Martingale Wharf
Whether from the recently expanded deck or from one of its three dining rooms, Martingale Wharf provides guests with unparalleled views of the Piscataqua River. “Locals and tourists alike love congregating and dining on the riverfront where they can watch a bustling working port and westward facing sunsets not often found on the East Coast,” says General Manager Cecil Abels. 99 Bow Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-431-0901, martingalewharf.com

RUNNERS-UP
Latitudes, Wentworth by the Sea, New Castle, N.H., wentworth.com/latitudes-waterfront
Seaglass Restaurant & Lounge, Salisbury, Mass., seaglassoceanside.com
River House, Portsmouth, N.H., riverhouse53bow.com

ROMANTIC DINNER

The Carriage House
A stone fireplace, soft lighting, and views of the Atlantic Ocean make The Carriage House the perfect backdrop for a romantic dinner. “This has always been a special occasion restaurant—just a little off the beaten path,” says owner Paul Mackey, who opened The Carriage House in 1983. “It has a warmth that attracts people and the food is great.” 2263 Ocean Boulevard, Rye, N.H., 603-964-8251, carriagehouserye.com

RUNNERS-UP
Ristorante Massimo, Portsmouth, N.H., ristorantemassimo.com
Black Trumpet, Portsmouth, N.H., blacktrumpetbistro.com
The Wellington Room, Portsmouth, N.H., thewellingtonroom.com

Best of Taste 2017-2018
Bob's Clam Hut
Bob’s Clam Hut has been a seafood icon since 1956. “The Seacoast has a rich culinary history and vibrant food scene, which makes this honor quite special,” says owner Michael Landgarten. 315 U.S. Route 1, Kittery, Maine, 207-439-4233, bobsclamhut.com

RUNNERS-UP
Petey’s Summertime Seafood and Bar, Rye, N.H., peteys.com
Al’s Seafood, North Hampton, N.H., alsseafoodnh.com
Newick’s Lobster House, Concord and Dover, N.H., newichs.com

Jumpin’ Jay’s Fish Cafe
Jumpin’ Jay’s keeps its title in this category as the cafe continues to delight diners with a menu that features a lot of fish. Serving local species as well as those from exotic locations, the eatery includes a raw bar. 150 Congress Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-766-3474, jumpinjays.com

RUNNERS-UP
Petey’s Summertime Seafood and Bar, Rye, N.H., peteys.com
Warren’s Lobster House, Kittery, Maine, lobsterhouse.com
Surf Restaurant, Nashua and Portsmouth, N.H., surfseafood.com

Popovers on the Square
Popover’s soups are hearty and satisfying, starting with their staples of New England Clam Chowder and a creamy Tomato Bisque, and an ever-changing daily special. “Our rotating soup of the day is based mainly off of the seasons and what the local farmers have available to purchase,” explains Executive Chef Ethan Clark. 8 Congress Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-436-1119, and 11 Brichyard Square, Unit 23, Epping, N.H., 603-734-4724, popoversonthesquare.com

RUNNERS-UP
The Soupery, Durham and Portsmouth, N.H., wickedgoodsoup.com
Seacoast Soups, North Hampton, N.H., seacoastssoups.com
The Green Bean, multiple locations, nhgreenbean.com

Ristorante Massimo
Brick and stone walls with mahogany finishes contribute to the elegant ambiance at Ristorante Massimo. Offering authentic dishes from all regions of Italy, the restaurant is also known for its world-class service, which completes the special occasion dining out experience. 50 Penhallow Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-436-4000, ristorantemassimo.com

RUNNERS-UP
Black Trumpet, Portsmouth, N.H., blacktrumpetbistro.com
Latitudes, Wentworth by the Sea, New Castle, N.H., wentworth.com/latitudes-waterfront
Martingale Wharf, Portsmouth, N.H., martingalewharf.com
SPORTS BAR

Thirsty Moose Taphouse
A repeat winner, Thirsty Moose Taphouse provides a lot more than great food and an incredibly large selection of beer with more than 115 tap lines. With more than two dozen televisions and two 12-foot projector screens, the Moose is the place to watch the game. Grab some friends and a seat, it’s time to cheer your favorite team. 21 Congress Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-427-8645, thirstymoosetaphouse.com; and other locations

RUNNERS-UP
The 401 Tavern, Hampton, N.H., the401tavern.com
Buffalo Wild Wings, multiple locations, buffalowildwings.com
Paddy’s American Grille, Portsmouth, N.H., paddysgrille.com

SUSHI

Shio Japanese Restaurant & Sushi Bar
With a menu that often features new items and daily specials, Shio Japanese Restaurant & Sushi Bar is the go-to place for any sushi fan. Try the Winter Roll, with a triple hit of yellowtail, tuna, and salmon, enhanced with scallion, cucumber, avocado, chili mayo, and crispy rice. The fish is uber fresh, and there also many veggie sushi choices. 2454 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-319-1638, shiorestaurant.com

RUNNERS-UP
Surf Restaurant, Nashua and Portsmouth, N.H., surfseafood.com
Kume Japanese Steakhouse, Epping, N.H., kumesteakhouse.com
Saigon & Tokyo, Dover, N.H., 603-750-4127

STEAKHOUSE

The Library Restaurant
With a history as rich as the city of Portsmouth itself, The Library Restaurant is much more than an elegant dining experience. It is one with some serious “chops,” as it once again takes top honors for best steakhouse. “A great steak deserves to be accompanied by a great glass of wine,” says owner Bruce Belanger, who tries to ensure guests have numerous options on an “affordable wine list.” 401 State Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-431-5202, libraryrestaurant.com

RUNNERS-UP
The Tuckaway Tavern & Butchery, Raymond, N.H., thetuckaway.com
Demeters Steakhouse, Portsmouth, N.H., demeterssteakhouse.com
The Steakhouse, Wells, Maine, the-steakhouse.com
**VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT**

**Green Elephant Vegetarian Bistro & Bar**
A popular Asian-inspired vegetarian bistro, the Green Elephant is the creation of chefs and owners Dan Sriprasert and Bob Wongsaichua. Their vision was to strike a culinary balance between compassion and indulgence, health and gratification. The result satisfies vegetarians and carnivores alike. 35 Portwalk Place, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-427-8344, greenelephantinh.com

**RUNNERS-UP**
STREET, Portsmouth, N.H., streetfood360.com
Blue Moon Evolution, Exeter, N.H., bluemoonevolution.com
Laney & Lu Cafe, Exeter, N.H., laneyandlu.com

**WINE LIST**

**Cava Tapas & Wine Bar**
The wine list at Cava is impressive, with wines from around the world. Every bottle is purchased to pair well with current menu offerings. Co-owner John Akar believes that wine is “kind of the simpatico, if you will; wine and food, they both go hand-in-hand.” 10 Commercial Alley, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-319-1575, cavatapasandwinebar.com

**RUNNERS-UP**
The 401 Tavern, Hampton, N.H., the401tavern.com
Ristorante Massimo, Portsmouth, N.H., ristorantemassimo.com
Black Trumpet, Portsmouth, N.H., blacktrumpetbistro.com

**WINERY**

**Flag Hill Winery**
Flag Hill has one of New Hampshire’s largest vineyards, with grapes used to make white, sparkling, and red wines. They also offer fruit wines made with local produce, including Apple Cranberry and Red Plum. Visit Flag Hill for a tasting, walk the vineyard, and sip fruit from a glass. 297 North River Road, Lee, N.H., 603-639-2949, flaghill.com

**RUNNERS-UP**
Jewell Towne Vineyards, South Hampton, N.H., jewelltownevineyards.com
LaBelle Winery, Amherst, N.H., labellewinerynh.com
Zorvino Vineyards, Sandown, N.H., zorvino.com

**ETHNIC CUISINE**

**CHINESE**

**Ocean Wok**, 7 Ocean Boulevard, Hampton, N.H., 603-926-6633, oceanwok.com

**RUNNERS-UP**
Saigon & Tokyo, Dover, N.H., 603-750-4127
Kim Lai Chinese Restaurant, Portsmouth, N.H., kim-lai.com
Pink Bamboo Hot Pot Cafe, Portsmouth, N.H., pinkbamboocafe.com

**GREEK**

**Cafe Nostimo**, 72 Mirona Road, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-436-3100, cafenostimo.com

**RUNNERS-UP**
Tinos Kitchen & Bar, Hampton, N.H., galleyhatch.com
Pauly’s Pockets, Durham, N.H., 603-868-3110
Athens, Manchester, N.H., athensnh.com

**INDIAN**

**Tulsi**, 20 Walker Street, Kittery, Maine, 207-451-9511, tulsiindianrestaurant.com

**RUNNERS-UP**
Shalimar India, Portsmouth, N.H., shalimarindia.com
Taste of India, Dover, N.H., taste-of-india.org
Jewel in the Crown, Newburyport, Mass., newburyportjewel.com

**IRISH PUB**

**Holy Grail**, 64 Main Street, Epping, N.H., 603-679-9559, holygrailrestaurantandpub.com

**RUNNERS-UP**
Rí Rá, multiple locations, rira.com
British Beer Company, multiple locations, britishbeer.com
Cara Irish Pub, Dover, N.H., carairishpub.com

**PHOTOGRAPHS**: KINDRA CLINEFF
ITALIAN

Ristorante Massimo, 50 Penhallow Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-436-4000, ristorantemassimo.com

RUNNERS-UP
The Rosa, Portsmouth, N.H., therosa.com
Café Mediterráneo, Portsmouth, N.H., cafe-mediterraneo.com
Ron Jillian’s Italian Bar and Grill, Hampton, N.H., ronjillians.com

JAPANESE

Shio Japanese Restaurant & Sushi Bar, 2454 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-319-1638, shiorestaurant.com

RUNNERS-UP
Kume Japanese Steakhouse, Epping, N.H., kumesteakhouse.com
Saigon & Tokyo, Dover, N.H., 603-750-4127
East Restaurant & Lounge, Wells, Maine, eastdining.com

MEXICAN

Vida Cantina, 2456 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-501-0648, vidacantinanh.com

RUNNERS-UP
Loco Coco’s Tacos, Kittery, Maine, locococos.com
Agavé Mexican Bistro, Newburyport, Mass., and Portsmouth, N.H., agavemexicanbistro.com
Margaritas Mexican Restaurant, multiple locations, margs.com

THAI

5 Thai Bistro, 40 Pleasant Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-373-8871, 5thaibistro.com

RUNNERS-UP
Tasty Thai, Kittery, Maine, tastythaimaine.com
Thai House, Hampton, N.H., thaihousenh.com
Thai Paradise, Portsmouth, N.H., thaiparadiseportsmouth.com

WINE SHOP

South Street & Vine
South Street & Vine takes the title in this category for the second year in a row. Current owners and wine connoisseurs Rick Meyerkopf and Robin Lurie-Meyerkopf offer an extensive wine selection with varieties from around the world, including wine centers like France and Italy. A wine newbie? No worries, the couple offers tastings every Sunday, and will help you understand the ins and outs of wine pairing, 339 Marcy Street, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-430-2984, southstreetandvine.com

RUNNERS-UP
Corks and Curds, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-431-5564
Attrezzi, Portsmouth, N.H., attrezzinh.com
Dover Wine Company, Dover, N.H., doverwine.com

WINGS

Wing-Itz
If you love wings, you will be in heaven at Wing-Itz, which again grabs the top spot in this category. “We cut our wings fresh daily,” says owner Derek Fisher. “If you order 10 wings, we just hand cut them a couple hours prior—and we do that each and every day. We also take the time when we cut our wings to discard anything that is less than perfect. Our attention to detail separates us.” 2100 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, N.H., 603-436-9464, wing-itz.com

RUNNERS-UP
Buffalo Wild Wings, multiple locations, buffalowildwings.com
Bratskellar, Portsmouth, N.H., dinnerhorn.com
The 401 Tavern, Hampton, N.H., the401tavern.com

PHOTOGRAPHS: KINDRA CLINEFF