

PEOPLE'S CHOICE 2009

We asked, you answered. Now presenting your favorite local restaurants as determined by our poll at indianapolismonthly.com. Drumroll, please.

BEST RESTAURANT

Eddie Merlot's

3645 E. 96th St., 846-8303

"Consistently great steaks and sides. Friendly, attentive service. And even in this economy they haven't watered down their drinks!"

"Eddie's is both elegant and casual at once. My wife and I celebrate all our birthdays and anniversaries there."

BEST ITALIAN

Mama Carolla's Old Italian Restaurant

1031 E. 54th St., 259-9412

"Nothing better than their chicken lasagna and bread. Unless it's the chicken lasagna, bread, wine, and sitting on their outdoor patio ..."

"Everything is yummy and the atmosphere is great."

BEST MEXICAN

Cancun Mexican Restaurant

6714 E. 82nd St., 578-7054; 6473 N.

Keystone Ave., 253-5973; 511 S. Range Line Rd., Carmel, 580-0333

"Great prices and great food."

"I am not even a big fan of Mexican food, but I love their chips and salsa and chicken enchiladas."

BEST JAPANESE

Sakura

7201 N. Keystone Ave., 259-4171

"Generous portions of eel on these rolls, and the edamame is always crisp and sea-salty."

BEST CHINESE

P.F. Chang's

49 W. Maryland St., 974-5747; 8601

Keystone Crossing, 815-8773

"No doubt the best Chinese in town. Try the lettuce wraps—wow!"

"I especially appreciate that they offer a separate gluten-free menu."

BEST THAI

Sawasdee

1222 W. 86th St., 844-9451

"Great food, great prices, and the sticky rice with egg custard is an incredible dessert."

"The food is so good and the owner will win you over with his tableside manner."

BEST SEAFOOD

The Oceanaire Seafood Room

30 S. Meridian St., 955-2277

"There is no other dining experience like it in Indy—superior service and an impressive chef make this the place to celebrate your special night."

"Everything we tasted was superb."

BEST BRUNCH

Traders Point Creamery

9101 Moore Rd., Zionsville, 733-1700

"One of the finest Sunday brunches in a relaxing casual environment. The rotating menu makes it so you don't feel like you always have the same entree."

"Great organic, hearty options in a nice ambience."

BEST GREEK

Santorini Greek Kitchen

1417 Prospect St., 917-1117

"The flavors are unforgettable. The fish kabobs rule."

"Nothing more to say—it's just the best."

BEST STEAKHOUSE

St. Elmo Steak House

127 S. Illinois St., 635-0636

"Nowhere else comes even close."

"The steaks are great, and the history of this iconic Indy steakhouse makes it the best."

BEST BURGER

Scotty's Brewhouse

3905 E. 96th St., 574-0101;

1 Virginia Ave., 571-0808

"Perfect combination of food, drink, atmosphere, and the college-like culture."

"The Shewman Special—peanut butter, jalapeños, cheddar cheese, and bacon—sounds like a 5-year-old created it, but tastes like an expert joined these flavor forces triumphantly."

BEST DESSERT

The Cheesecake Factory

8701 Keystone Crossing, 566-0100; 1251 U.S.

Hwy. 31 South, Greenwood, 887-8440

"I love the desserts at the Cheesecake Factory. The pumpkin cheesecake is my favorite. Or the Kahlua one ..."

"Plenty of choices, and they are all wonderful!"

BEST NEW RESTAURANT & BEST FAMILY RESTAURANT

Arni's Restaurant

4705 E. 96th St., 571-0077; 1691 W. Curry Rd., Greenwood, 881-0500

"Very kid-friendly, with a wide variety of meals."

"Reasonably priced food for the whole family. Always friendly and prompt, with good service."

BEST PLACE TO TAKE OUT-OF-TOWNERS

St. Elmo Steak House

127 S. Illinois St., 635-0636

"Out-of-towners will know what being a Hoosier is by sitting at the bar during a Colts game."

"It's fun to watch out-of-towners gasp when they consume the shrimp cocktail."

MOST ROMANTIC

The Melting Pot

5650 E. 86th St., 841-3601

"The food is decadent, fun, and delicious. Very memorable. Don't bring the kids!"

"Every booth is secluded, and they don't rush you out."

BEST BREAKFAST

Zest! Exciting Food Creations

1134 E. 54th St., 466-1853

"So many choices and sunny windows to look out of while reading the morning paper."

"Incredible bacon-egg panini and to-die-for creme brulee French toast."

BEST SUSHI

Naked Tchopstix

6253 N. College Ave., 252-5555;

3855 E. 96th St., 569-6444

BEST PIZZA

Bazbeaux Pizza

334 Massachusetts Ave., 636-7662; 811 E.

Westfield Blvd., 255-5711; 111 W. Main St., Carmel, 848-4488

"This is 'the' Indianapolis pizzeria. Multiple crust and sauce options along with a wide selection of toppings is all I could ask for in a pizzeria."

"Intimate dining with mouthwatering optional pizza toppings."