



BEST OF BUFFALO

FOOD

: NOMINEES ARE LISTED IN RANDOM ORDER :

PAPAYA



PHOTO BY ROSE MATTREY

In the history of the Artvoice Best of Buffalo poll—now nearly a decade old—there are certain winners that have held steady throughout. While our readers have been fairly changeable in their top restaurant picks, when asked about the **Best Reason to Live in Buffalo** a top answer has invariably been “the food.” Year after year the Food & Drink section has been the one that gets the biggest response out of all the categories. It is also the largest in number, and counting the ballots is no small task. It is particularly daunting due to the sheer amount of different places that are offered as potential “bests.” With a few notable exceptions—the bus station for Best Breakfast?—all the candidates are worthy.

In terms of national image, Buffalo is hardly known for “foodiness,” a questionable word that smacks of pretension, a quality the majority of Buffalonians seem to detest. The term “foodiness” implies a certain amount of frivolity that neither the people nor the restaurants in this city have embraced—despite one of the **Best New Restaurant** nominees being named **La Tee Da**. (Don’t let the name fool you, the food is carefully prepared, ambitious and quite delicious.) Nowhere in Buffalo can you find bacon-and-egg ice cream, or spinach-date fritters fried in beer batter and dusted with confectioner’s sugar, both of which were dishes described in last Sunday’s *New York Times* food column. What one can find is an abundance of gimmick-free fare served in all manner of styles and settings. Restaurants with an ethnic bent are terrifically popular, perhaps because the city’s “melting pot” population lends authenticity to many culinary ventures and dislodges Buffalo’s blue-collar, meat-and-potatoes reputation. Still, steakhouses and traditional bar food are just as popular, and diners’ loyalties to their choices for **Best Steak** and **Best Burger** have remained pretty consistent through the years.

Illustrating this point, notable nominees this year in Best Steak include **Fiamma** and **Prime 490**, both brand new and both nominated for **Best New Restaurant** as well. The other three nominees in Best Steak are long-standing Buffalo establishments that seem to pop up on the list just about every time. (Much like the previously glorious but now defunct steakhouse Lord Chumley’s, R.I.P.)

Not surprisingly, **Best Sushi** got loads of votes for the bygone **Kuni’s Sushi Bar**. We kept it as a nominee partly out of respect for Kuni’s tremendous 10-year run, but also due to the whispers of a Kuni’s take-out joint happening on Lexington—as well as the now confirmed sale of his former business on Elmwood. If this means there will be two good places to get sushi within the city limits, it *might* make up for the suffering undergone by sushi-deprived city-dwellers. (Had enough of the guilt trip yet, Kuni?)

Some categories necessitated an expansion of our five-nominee limit. You may notice that **Best Bakery** is a huge list with eight possible winners. **Best Deli** has nine nominees, and **Best Italian** and **Best Patio** both have seven. While this may seem extreme, having so many nominees in the food categories is bound to benefit those who attend Monday’s free **Best of Buffalo Party**, since all the nominees have been asked to donate “tastes” of their specialties.

Now that ought to get people there, considering just how many of you voted for the food as the best thing about our city.

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Best Vegetarian

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Best Bagel

Wegmans Food Markets
Spot Coffee
Elmwood Bagel and Sandwich
Bagel Jay's

Best Bakery

Romeo & Juliet Bakery
Cafe
Pumpnick 'n' Pastry Shoppe
Eileen's Centerview Bakery
Dolci
DiCamillo Bakery
Delish!
Costanzo's Bakery
Butterwood Desserts

Best Barbecue

One-Eyed Jack's
Smokehouse Grill
Kentucky Greg's Hickory Pit
Fat Bob's Smokehouse
BW's Barbecue
Al-E-Oops

Best Beef on Weck

Swiston's Beef & Keg
Schwabl's Restaurant
Laughlin's Beef & Barrel
Charlie the Butcher
Bar Bill Tavern

Best Brunch

Pano's Restaurant
Left Bank
Deco at Adam's Mark Hotel
Cole's Restaurant
Betty's

Best Chinese

Ying's Pizza and Subs
Taste Good Chinese
Restaurant
Ming Teh Chinese
Restaurant
May Jen Chinese
Restaurant
Chang's Garden

Best Clams

Steve's Clam Bar
Root Five
Marrotto's
Cozumel
Boston Hotel

Best Deli

X-Cel Produce
Wegmans Food and Markets
Niagara County Produce
Marco's Italian Deli
Lexington Real Foods
Community Co-op
Guercio & Sons
Globe Market
Chris's New York Deli
Bidwell Farmers Market

Best Dessert

Sweet Tooth
Frosty's
Dolci
Dessert Deli
Delish!
Butterwood Desserts

Best Diner

Woodlawn Diner
The Towne
Lake Effect Diner
Bertha's Diner
Amy's Place

STEVE, OWNER OF STEVE'S CLAM BAR



Best Fish Fry

Meister's Pub
McPartlan's
Jade's
Hoak's
Hamlin House

Best French Fries

Ted's Jumbo Red Hots
Papa Jake's
Louie's Original
Jim's Steakout
Anderson's

Best Greek

Towne Restaurant
Pano's Restaurant
Mythos
Kostas Family Restaurant
Ambrosia

Best Hamburger

Zebb's Deluxe Bar & Grill
Ted's Jumbo Red Hots
Jimmy Mac's
Grover's Bar and Grill
Cole's Restaurant

Best Hot Dog

Ted's Jumbo Red Hots
Taffy's
Louie's Original
George's Hot Dogs (Boston, NY)
Dunn Tire Park

Best Ice Cream/Frozen Custard

Sweet Tooth
Hanna's Frosty Treats
Fran-celle (Blasdel)
Anderson's

Best Indian

Taste of India
Tandoori's
Star of India
Kabob & Curry
India Gate

Best Italian

Sinatra's Trilogy
Santasiero's
Salvatore's Italian Garden
Ristorante Lombardo
Frank's Sunny Italy
Chef's Restaurant
Carminé's

Best Japanese/Sushi

Tsunami
Shogun
O Restaurant and Lounge
Kuni's
Fuji Grill

Best Kept Secret Restaurant

Mother's Restaurant
Left Bank
Café in the Square
Betty's
Amy's Place

Best Mexican

Mighty Taco
Lone Star Fajita Grill
Gramma Mora's Mexican
Restaurant
El Canelo
Cozumel Grill & Tequila Bar
Cinco de Mayo

Best Middle Eastern

Teta's Middle Eastern
Cuisine
Sahara Grill
Falafel Bar
Byblos Restaurant
Amy's Place

Best New Restaurant

Vado Pazzo
Prime 490
La Tee Da
Fiamma Steak House
Amaryllis

Best Patio

Cozumel Grill & Tequila Bar
Mother's Restaurant
Pano's Restaurant
The Rendezvous
Dock at the Bay
Cecelia's Ristorante & Martini Bar
Astoria

Best Pizza

NY Pizza (Allen St)
Mister Pizza
La Nova
Just Pizza
Bocce's

Best Polish

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Most Romantic Restaurant

Salvatore's Italian Garden
Rue Franklin
Oliver's Restaurant
Mother's Restaurant
Left Bank

Best Salad

Poppysseed
Le Metro Bakery & Cafe
Globe Market
Café Allegro
Brodo

Best Sausage

Spar's European Sausage
Scime's Sausage
Peter's @ Broadway
Market
Mineo & Sapio
Hanzillan's

Best Seafood

Tsunami
La Marina Seafood Market
& Grille
Hayes Fish Company
Harry's Harbour Place
Brownstone Seafood
House & Oyster Bar

Best Service (Restaurant)

Tsunami
Oliver's Restaurant
India Gate
Hutch's
Carminé's

Best Steak

Prime 490
Kennedy's Cove
Fiamma Steak
E.B. Green's
Buffalo Chophouse

Best Sub

Wegmans
Mike's Subs
John and Mary's
Jim's Steakout
DiBella's Old Fashioned
Submarines

Super-cheap Breakfast

The Towne
Perison's
Pano's Restaurant
JJ's
Amy's Place
Acropolis

Best Takeout/Delivery

Mister Pizza
La Nova
Just Pizza
Jim's Steakout
Great Wall

Best Thai

The King & I
Taste of Thai
Saigon Café
Saigon Bangkok
Rice Paddy
Jasmine

Best Vegetarian

Off the Wall
Lexington Real Foods Co-
op
Falafel Bar
Betty's
Amy's Place

**Best Waterfront
Restaurant**

The Hatch
Shanghai Red's
Root Five
Hoak's
Harry's Harbour Place
Dock at the Bay

Best Wings

Nonna's
La Nova
Gabriel's Gate
Duff's
Anchor Bar

Best Wine Selection

Oliver's Restaurant
Mother's Restaurant
Left Bank
Brodo
Bacchus Wine Bar &
Restaurant
Allen Street Hardware



E.B. GREEN'S

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