



Pet Grooming The Little Dog House

5758 Hollister Ave., Goleta; 964-2446;
doggroomerssantabarbara.com

"The dogs, of course, are a favorite part of working at the Little Dog House. Every aspect—from different breeds, different ages, different dog personalities to the different types of grooms—makes the job fun and never dull. No two days are ever the same, but every day, dogs come in, get groomed, and come to play. Every day at the shop is a favorite day," said owner Tyrelle Leger. "As a team, we hope it's apparent when you drop off and pick up your fur baby that we all work together and love what we do. We all share the passion of what we do, how we care for your pooch and always appreciate your patronage and patience."

Runner-Up: For Paws Salon

Dog Park [See Out & About: Beach]

Dog Trainer K-Nine Solutions

126 E. Haley St., Ste. A-8; 451-2458;
kninesolutions.com

The life of a beloved dog trainer is anything but dull. "The dogs! OMG, they can be such goofballs," said Eric Smith, cofounder/head trainer of K-9 Solutions, which has won Best Of Santa Barbara® honors for four years in a row. "I once had a client with a very highly trained German shepherd come in for more advanced training. The client spent a *ton* of money on this dog, but the dog wouldn't do anything she asked. He would just lie there and stare at her. Something told me to just start speaking German to the dog, and *bam!* He woke right up. We were all very relieved and had a good laugh about it later, but it was pretty stressful in the beginning."

Runner-Up: Nathan Woods Dog Trainer



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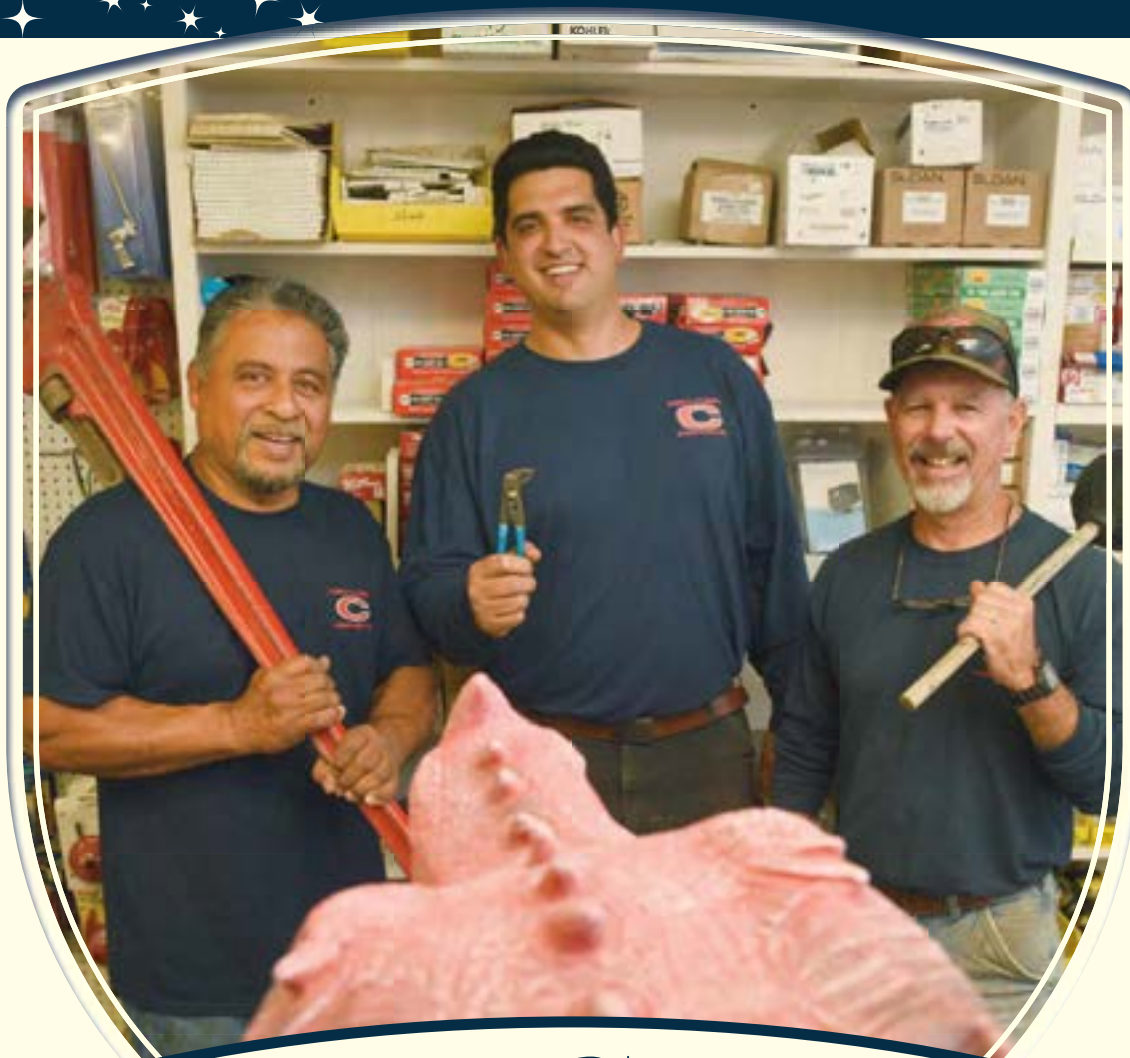
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HOUSING



Plumber

Carroll Plumbing & Maintenance

2825 De la Vina St.; 687-2677;
carrollplumbingsb.com

"Our favorite part of the job is interacting with customers," said Pat Carroll, owner of Carroll Plumbing & Maintenance. Providing reliable service to both residential and commercial customers since the 1970s, Carroll is one of the oldest family-owned-and-operated plumbing companies in this area, offering plumbing installations, repairs, and replacements as well as drain cleaning, camera inspections, new construction, and remodeling services. "Being the best means being hardworking," said Carroll. "And this award means that we need to keep going strong."

Runner-Up: Wilson Plumbing

Nursery

La Sumida Nursery

165 S. Patterson Ave.; 964-9944; lasumida.com

Their favorite part of the job is "helping our customers make Santa Barbara beautiful," according to Amy and Travis Weber, owners of La Sumida Nursery, which has served generations of loyal customers since 1958. Travis, the grandson of founders Harold and Ethel Sumida, said, "A Best Of award is a great compliment and keeps us inspired to keep striving to improve." The nursery is a happy place to work, said the couple, and "there is something new and funny every single day. We are always laughing."

Runner-Up: Terra Sol Garden Center

Home Furnishing

Pottery Barn

110 S. Hope Ave.; 687-6707; potterybarn.com

What began as an outlet for slightly imperfect pottery and tabletop closeouts in 1949 is now a thriving retail giant. The local La Cumbre Plaza Pottery Barn outpost has furniture and home decor, as well as complimentary decor and design services from design studio specialists. Wedding registries are easy to use here, with a plethora of one-style-fits-almost-all gift items (scented candles, picture frames, pretty napkins and napkin holders) that are ideal for when you don't know your hosts very well. Plus, you can't beat the seasonal sales and holiday decor.

Runner-Up: Porch



Real Estate Company

Village Properties Realtors

Multiple locations; 969-8900; villagesite.com

"Thank you so much for choosing Village Properties as the best real estate company in Santa Barbara. We feel honored to serve you," said Executive Director Leanne Wood. "We feel honored that our community recognizes all we do for our clients and our community." As for her favorite part of the job? "Seeing our clients happy, knowing that the process of selling or buying their new home has been a successful one. And having agents who have a happy, balanced, and successful life."

Runner-Up: Compass Real Estate

Real Estate Team

The Hall Team

801 Chapala St.; 450-8923; hallteamsb.com

"Real estate is very competitive, and there are many great agents in town. To have been chosen as the best is in line with our slogan, 'The Hall Team Cares,'" said Kevin Hall, Hall Team Member at Compass. "We really do care, and we always strive to leave no detail undone, no matter how small. When you can go back to someone—after one year or three or 10—and have them tell you what a joy it is to live in the home of their dreams, it feels amazing to know that we contributed to that!" Added Team Member Lesley Hall, "The smile of a first-time buyer when we hand them the keys is a moment that always stays with us."

Runner-Up: Riskin Partners

Real Estate Agent

Kevin Hall, Compass Real Estate

801 Chapala St.; 451-9998; hallteamsb.com

"Buying or selling a home is like completing a puzzle and a maze at the same time. Every home sale is different, and I love being able to figure out the best way to achieve my client's goals," said Kevin Hall. "I also love all of Santa Barbara's unique neighborhoods. It makes it so that everyone can find their place in the world!" What's our readers' favorite real estate agent's favorite part of his job? "Every part of my job is essentially that of a problem solver and troubleshooter. I'm also very competitive and love negotiating and helping my clients 'win' whether I'm representing them as a buyer or a seller. It's so humbling to have been voted the best of Santa Barbara, as I really do think the real estate agent community here is a cut above other areas."

Runner-Up: Kat Hitchcock

Continued

HOUSING

Mortgage Company [See Living Well: Bank]

Mortgage Agent Austin Lampson

924 Laguna St.; 869-7100; homeownersfg.com

Our readers' top pick for mortgage agent for the third year in a row, Austin Lampson and Lampson Team at Homeowners Financial Group are obviously crushing it when it comes to helping homeowners. Her favorite part of the job? "Helping people achieve their goals — and getting to have fun while doing it. My team and I give our all to our clients; we love the community we live in, and we want to help people live here too."

Runner-Up: Kelly Marsh

Moving Company Movegreen

1 N. Calle César Chávez, Ste. 130; 1 (866) 684-7336; movegreen.com

"We love being able to structure each move to accommodate the individual needs and challenges of each client, reducing their stress, making their transitions feel seamless, even fun," said Erik S. Haney, CEO of Movegreen, *Indy* readers' pick for best moving company. The eco-friendly moving company was established in Santa Barbara in 2007; has since expanded to Ventura County, Orange County, and Los Angeles County; and is beginning to franchise the business nationwide, Haney said. "At Movegreen, our top priority is the experience of our clients. We want to exceed your expectations at every point. This award means the most because it is a reflection of our customer satisfaction rating in our community."

Runner-Up: Mammoth Moving & Storage

Architect Jeff Shelton

119 Fig Ave.; 965-8812; jeffsheltonarchitect.com

If you walk by a building in Santa Barbara and the vibrant colors and whimsical touches make your heart sing and bring a smile to your face, chances are good that architect Jeff Shelton had something to do with it. From the Seussian skinny curves of Ablitt Tower on West Haley to the "house of a thousand paintings" homage on Santa Barbara Street that is Vera Cruz, Shelton always finds a way to make things a little more fun. His humble response to *Indy* voters: "Thanks! We are very grateful that people are taking the time to consider architecture as a part of the community. I think that people see that at least we are putting a lot of effort into each building, and that we believe that every building needs to positively impact the experience on the street."

Runner-Up: AB Design Studio

Contractor ♦ Handyman Service Allen Construction

Two locations; 884-8777; builddallen.com

"There are some great builders in the Santa Barbara area, and we are honored to be nominated and so proud to have received the votes from the community," said Eric Johnson, vice president of Allen Construction, which won for best contractor and best handyman service. "We have been in business in Santa Barbara for over 35 years and hope to be building beautiful homes well into the future. We would like to continue to be a place where talented people want to work, to continue to be at the forefront of green building and a leader in sustainable building practices."

Runner-Up (Contractor): Jed Hirsch

Runner-Up (Handyman Service): Santa Barbara Handyman

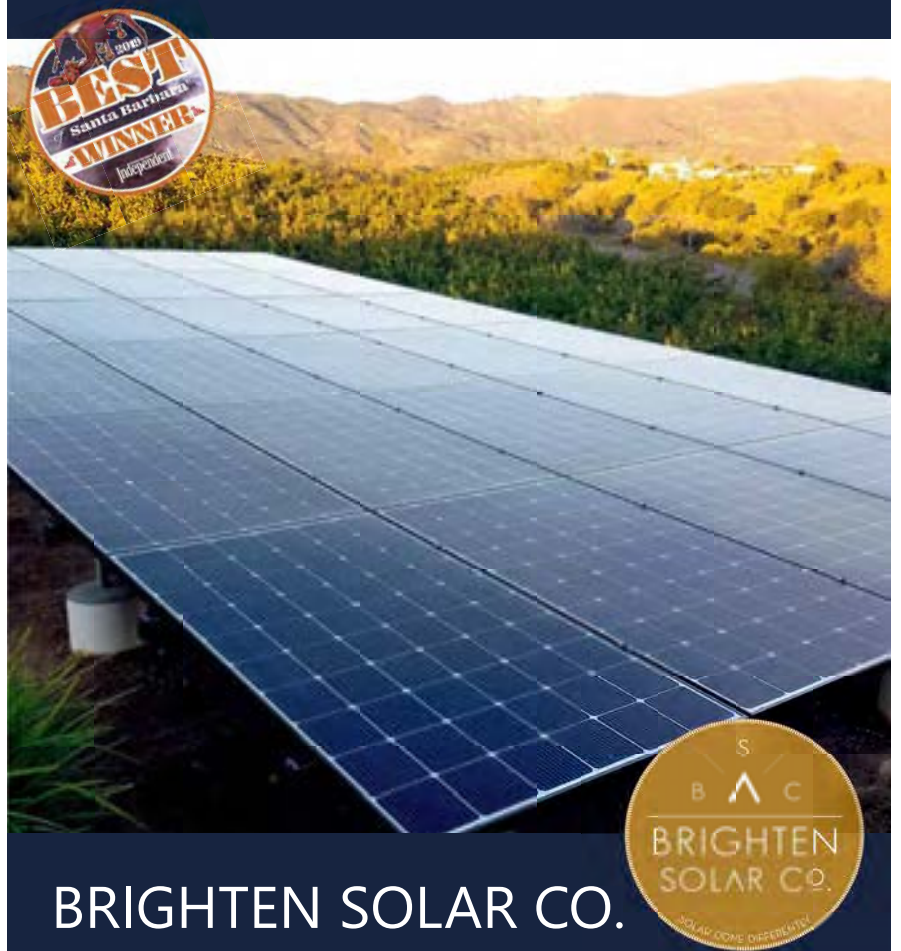
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HOUSING

continued



Roofing Service

Action Roofing

534 E. Ortega St.; 966-3696; arooofing.com

Founded by Jack Martin in 1985, Action Roofing now has 95 full-time employees, many of whom have been there since the company started. "My favorite part of my job is meeting all the people that I get to work with and become friends within this fantastic community," said Martin, whose title is president and working owner. "Being the best means hard work. If you care about what you do and work very hard, you can achieve being the best. That is a great feeling. The recognition of an award like this shows that the hard work pays off."

Runner-Up: Martin Roofing Co.

Painting Contractor

Mesa Painting

452-9449; mesapaint.net

Once again voted *Indy* readers' favorite painting contractor, Mesa Painting has been serving Santa Barbara County, from Camarillo to Buellton, since 2011. In addition to offering all types of professional painting services — everything from prep work to repairs, power washing, covering, painting, staining, final walkthrough, and disposal — Mesa Painting prides itself on maintaining strict environmental standards. Owner Michael Gilm-

ore stresses the importance of using environmentally responsible supplies and paint and ensuring the proper disposal of these items.

Runner-Up: Cordero Painting Company

Antique Store ♦ Vintage Store

The Blue Door

4 E. Yanonali St.; 364-5144; thebluedoorsb.com

As regular patrons know, you have to be nimble to shop vintage. The Blue Door owners Brian Garwood and Carolyn Petersen say their favorite part of the job is the constant change of inventory. "It's so much fun having new pieces every single day and never having the same thing twice. Our regular customers know they have to act fast if they see something they like!" Winning the Best of Santa Barbara® award for their ever-evolving space, which was established in the Funk Zone in 2014, "helps drive our passion to continue curating a unique and inspiring shopping experience. We're honored that the Santa Barbara community enjoys the shopping experience we've created as much as we do."

Runner-Up (Antique Store): Antique Alley

Runner-Up (Vintage Store): Punch Vintage

Place to Buy Carpet/Rugs

Carpeteria

5610 Hollister Ave., Goleta; 284-0269;

carpetonesantabarbara.com

Now known as Carpeteria Carpet One Floor & Home Santa Barbara, Carpeteria (actually located in Old Town Goleta) is part of a cooperative with 1,000 stores worldwide and partnerships with major manufacturers. Whatever kind of covering your feet — and your floor — desire, Carpeteria has one of the largest selections of carpet, hardwood, laminate, ceramic tile, vinyl, and area rugs in the county. In town since 1977, this store's proven track record for service and selection is the reason *Indy* readers continue to select it as their top place to buy carpets and rugs.

Runner-Up: Santa Barbara Design Center

Continued

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805-964-9944 www.lasumida.com



HOUSING

continued

Mattress Store

Mattress Mike Furniture Gallery

7320 Hollister Ave., Ste. 5, Goleta; 685-4998;

mattressmikesb.com

"We are so fortunate to have the community support and to have provided sweet dreams for over 25 years," said Michael Gustason, owner of Mattress Mike. "This award means that our customers recognize the work our team puts into every sale and delivery, and we are grateful." As owners of a family-owned business, "it is our honor to be a part of your home." And people clearly feel at home at Mattress Mike. One of the funniest things that's ever happened? "A customer fell asleep on one of our beds in the showroom while testing it out."

Runner-Up: Ortho Mattress

Solar Power Company

Brighten Solar Co.

5380 Overpass Rd., Ste. B; 708-3654;

brightensolarco.com

"We love the Santa Barbara community for its diversity, natural beauty, and strong commitment to our environmental protection," said Marine

Schumann, CEO and cofounder of Brighten Solar Co., whose business model has been molded to specifically address the area market and answer the main obstacles to solar in Santa Barbara. "We brought a more flexible and customer-centric approach that particularly resonates with our local audience," said Schumann. "We're a team of passionate individuals who really want to make a difference on how energy is sourced and supplied to people. We're genuinely interested in what we do, and the business community here has been very supportive of us and our passion."

Runner-Up: Sun Pacific Solar Electric Inc.

Gardening/Landscaping Services

Kitson Landscape

5787 Thornwood Dr.; 681-7010; kitsonlandscape.com

Founded in 1969 by husband-and-wife team Brent and Sally Kitson (with a single van and one employee), the Kitson Landscape tradition continues with Sarah Kitson (Brent and Sally's eldest daughter) at the helm, and her husband, Dave Fudurich, as the CFO. The booming Santa Barbara County Green Certified Business — and our readers' choice for best gardening/landscaping services — now has 46 trucks, 20 fully equipped maintenance trailers, 17 riding mowers, and 99 employees operating from a 1.25-acre headquarters in Goleta. Kitson Landscape is a consistent award winner of both the annual Santa Barbara Beautiful and Goleta Beautiful awards for its landscape and habitat restoration work, and its clients include Montecito Bank & Trust, Goleta Water District, Serenity House, and Tropicana Del Norte.

Runner-Up: EcoLawn S.B.

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"Our favorite part of our job is to have the opportunity to meet new people, the satisfaction of getting praise from satisfied customers, and providing our customers with free time and a clean house for them to enjoy without the pressure of having to clean it," said Oscar Zapata, vice president of Queen of Clean, the pick for best house cleaning service. As to the future, Zapata said, "We see our business evolving and growing with the times by adopting new technologies and techniques, along with a service that is detailed, honest, well-priced, and insured to keep providing the best services, just as we have done for the past 30 years."

Runner-Up: MasterCare Home Cleaning

Carpet Cleaning

Star Rug Cleaners

26 E. Cota St.; 966-0855; starrugcleaners.com

"Our favorite part of the job is learning the history behind many of the old rugs we clean, some over 100 years old, then treating them with care to bring them back to life," said Michael Jensen, owner of Star Rug Cleaners. When asked about the funniest thing that's ever happened, Jensen offered, "Would it be the time

we cleaned a taxidermied dog or giant crochet watermelon? Or maybe the time we cleaned a wooden rocking horse? We like a challenge." Being the best means "we put our best possible product out every time. We are always pushing to improve our methods and techniques," said Jensen, who serves as a boardmember of the Association of Rug Care Specialists.

Runner-Up: All Natural Carpet Cleaning

Hardware Store

Santa Barbara Home

Improvement Center

415 E. Gutierrez St.; 963-7825; sbhicare.com

"Cowabunga, we're stoked each and every year we get to take this Best of Santa Barbara award," said Gary Simpson, president and owner of Santa Barbara Home Improvement Center, now in its 52nd year in business. Simpson gives huge props to his staff: "They're the ones truly earning the accolades day in and day out and doing their very best at providing service par excellence. ... We are absolutely thrilled every year to know that we're staying on course and not losing sight of our purpose to be all that we can be as Santa Barbara's oldest, largest, and most complete home center."

Runner-Up: Home Depot



Tile Shop

Tileco

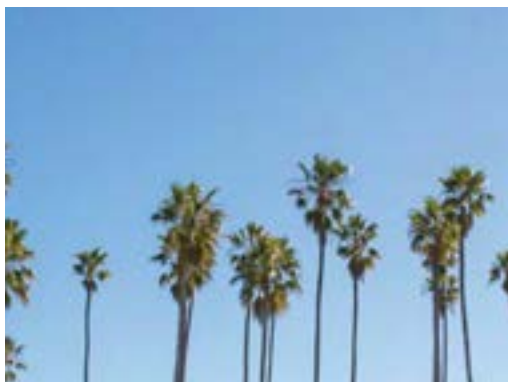
Two locations; tilecodist.com

"My favorite part of my job is I love getting to know our customers and being involved in their projects from inception to completion. Oftentimes, our customers become close friends. I look forward to coming in every day to see what we can create together using our handpicked products from all over the world," said Gina Burchiere Flint, president of Tileco. "Santa Barbarians love beautiful things, and tile is such an important part of the architecture in this town. I often think about how lucky we are to have a tile store here and to be able to contribute to its beauty."

Runner-Up: Buena Tile + Stone

Continued

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BEST
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DRIVING

Scooter Dealership

Ooty's Scooters

629 E. Haley St.; 965-8101; ootyscooters.com

"My favorite part of my job is just seeing more scooters and less cars on our busy streets and parking lots downtown," said Ryan Neely, owner of Ooty's Scooters. Ooty was the childhood nickname of his father, Chris, who founded the business and retired a few years ago. Ooty's continues its tradition of winning this award

and providing relatively inexpensive, high-gas-mileage scooters to Santa Barbara. "Being the best means that we are a store for locals and will stay the same as long as we are here. As always, thanks for everybody that voted for us, and we will keep providing the best service we can."

Runner-Up: Ducati of Santa Barbara

Continued

Auto Repair

Schneider Autohaus
2703 De la Vina St.; 617-0606;
schneiderautohaus.com

Specializing in bumper-to-bumper service for sexy, high-performance vehicles from Porsche, BMW, Mini, and Audi, Schneider Autohaus was voted our readers' favorite place to keep their motors purring for the second year in a row. "I love all the different people I meet on any day, keeping up to date on their families, kids, and dogs," said Paula Hinck, who owns the garage with her husband, Henry Hinck. "My favorite part of the job is interacting with the people. Santa Barbara is all about community. This makes it a great place to work and live. You really feel like you're part of something here; Santa Barbarans are here for each other. I love that."

Runner-Up: Oren's Automotive



DRIVING
continued

Motorcycle Dealership

Ducati of Santa Barbara

17 W. Montecito St.; 884-8443;

ducatiofsb.com

The perpetual winner of this category, the Dunne family's Ducati of Santa Barbara showroom is actually the oldest Ducati dealership in the United States. The celebrated high-performance Italian motorcycles have been sold here since 1978, in a shop that specializes in new and used European motorcycle sales and services for brands that also include Aprilia, Piaggio, Vespa, Harley-Davidson, Buell, Moto Guzzi, and BMW. In addition, Ducati of S.B. specializes in custom builds and national-caliber race bike prep and assembly. Want to try one out? They also offer rentals of motorcycles and scooters.

Runner-Up: Santa Barbara Motorsports

New Car Dealership

Santa Barbara Auto Group

402 S. Hope Ave.; 682-2000;

sbautogroup.com

The car is the star at Santa Barbara Auto Group, our readers' pick for best new car dealership. The area's leading luxury car dealer — with Acura, Audi, BMW, Jaguar, Land Rover, Mercedes-Benz, and Porsche all available under one roof — offers a one-stop shop for car shoppers looking to drive a high-end, premium vehicle. In addition, the service department is well regarded, and there is also a wide assortment of pre-owned vehicles (a highfalutin term for good old-fashioned "used cars") available on the lot.

Runner-Up: Toyota of Santa Barbara

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DRIVING
continued

BEST
of Santa Barbara

Used Car Dealership

Milpas Motors

735 N. Milpas St.; 884-8102; milpasmotors.com

Our readers have given a big thumbs-up to Milpas Motors, and so have their customers. Wrote Ashlee, "I bought a Fiat a few months back from Milpas Motors and had a wonderful buying experience. ... I waited three months to write this review just to make sure I still had that warm fuzzy feeling you get after buying a car, and I do!" Alana P. chimed in with, "Awesome experience with these guys. My son was buying his first car and had done years of research to find just the one he wanted when he got his license. Steve was great and helped him through this exciting purchase." They've been in town since 2001 and sell everything from Alfa Romeos to Volkswagen buses — Milpas Motors is the spot to find the wheels of your dreams.

Runner-Up: Toyota of Santa Barbara

Car Wash/Detailing

Educated Car Wash

3735 State St.; 687-8800; educatedcarwash.com

There's something so satisfying about getting the grit and grime off of your car, and the team at Educated Car Wash is consistently first rate. A readers' pick for more than a decade, Educated Car Wash not only cleans and/or details your car 100 percent by hand but also has the cheapest petrol prices in town. Family owned and operated for more than 30 years, Educated Car Wash uses biodegradable soaps and provides top-to-bottom cleaning, speck-free vacuuming, and sparkling-clean windows — usually in fewer than 15 minutes.

Runner-Up: Fairview Car Wash

Quick Oil Change

Ian's Tires & Auto Repair

4299 State St.; 683-0716; ianstire.com

"My favorite part of my job is being able to see and meet all kinds of different people, both returning customers and new customers. I also enjoy the work employee culture that is fostered here," said Eric Miller, owner of Ian's Tires & Auto Repair, a two-generation, family-owned-and-operated business that has provided top-notch service and customer satisfaction — including oil changes — since 1987. When asked what being the best means to him, Miller offered, "I'm not sure how 'best' is measured, but I try and make sure we are the best business that we can be in customer service and in doing quality work. It is an honor to be recognized for what we do here."

Runner-Up: Big Brand Tire & Service

Place to Get Tires ♦ Eyewear Selection

Costco

7095 Market Pl. Dr., Goleta; 685-3199

Amazon may be the largest retailer in the world, but there are certain things you want to literally — and metaphorically — kick the tires on before you buy them, and Costco just happens to be *Indy* readers' top choice for purchasing both tires and eyewear! Both departments offer high-quality and good-value selections, with the friendly level of service we've come to depend on from Goleta's favorite big-box retailer.

Runner-Up (Place to Get Tires): Big Brand Tire & Service

Runner-Up (Eyewear Selection): Occhiali Fine Eyewear

Car Rental

Enterprise Rent-a-Car

Multiple locations; enterprise.com

Convenience is key in the rental car game. With four outposts in our area, including the airport and UCSB-adjacent location, Enterprise Rent-a-Car is certainly one of the most practical and easy picks for renting a car in town. Part of the world's largest fleet, Enterprise has more than 1.7 million vehicles in more than 85 countries, which puts them in a position to offer lots of special deals and rates, including one-way trips to big airport cities such as Los Angeles and San Francisco and discount weekend rates.

Runner-Up: Hertz

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MEDIA



Columnist

Starshine Roshell

Santa Barbara Independent; independent.com

Voted Santa Barbara's favorite columnist for the 11th year in a row, the *Independent's* esteemed wordsmith Starshine Roshell's reaction to the honor is: "It means that I can't slack off! 'Not bad in Santa Barbara' would be an easier gig, but Best

Of means I've got to bring entertaining topics, a fresh voice, and an engaging perspective to every single column — and I try to do that." Columnizing is clearly a labor of love for Roshell, whose new (fourth) book of columns — *Lather, Rage, Repeat* — comes out this month. Recently awarded the prestigious National

Headliner Award by the Association of Women in Communications, Roshell shows no sign of slowing down. "Without your eager and discerning eyeballs, I am but a ranty typist clacking out missives to no one, and that's not a good look."

Runner-Up: Nick Welsh

S.B. Radio Station

KJEE 92.9 FM

kjee.com

The self-described "intern who just never stopped showing up," KJEE 92.9 afternoon host Ricky Biggs sheds some insight on the station's favorite local radio status. What does being the best mean to you? "It means we get to rub it in KTYD's face for another year!" What does this award mean to you? "Hopefully getting a free drink or lunch or something." What do you want to say to those who voted for you? "Dave Hanacek would like to thank you personally. Please feel free to contact us, and we'll give you his personal cell phone number. What can we say? He really cares." What's the funniest thing that's ever happened at KJEE? "You're talking to him."

Runner-Up: 99.9 KTYD

S.B.-Based Website

Independent.com

"It is an honor for our readers to recognize us as the best website in Santa Barbara," said the *Independent's* publisher, Brandi Rivera. "In the summer of 2017, we made the decision to actively pursue a new website design and platform. After many drafts of site maps, redesigns, and testing, we launched the new and improved *independent.com* in March 2019. We are incredibly proud of our new site, not just for its clean, new look, but also for its functionality. Our website is a constant source of inspiration, and it challenges us to push and develop our content further than it has ever been before. Every story we write, every photo that's taken, every page that is designed is all done with the goal of informing our readers and connecting them to their community."

Runner-Up: Noozhawk.com

S.B. Twitter Follow ♦ S.B. Instagram Follow

John Palminteri

@JohnPalminteri (Twitter), @johnpalminterinews (Instagram)

He's been in town since 1981 and has barely seemed to age — or skip a beat in his busy schedule. As time and technologies come and go, Santa Barbara's own John Palminteri is an eternal, hardworking presence on the area news scene. "The Palm" or "JP" as some call him, the town's real-life Ron Burgundy is seemingly everywhere with his high-wattage grin and unmistakably manicured mustache, not to mention his conscientious reporting. Whether you love him on KEYT, KJEE, KCLU, Twitter, or Instagram, our town is a better, more-informed place because of this beloved newshound.

Runner-Up (S.B. Twitter Follow): @NathanielGray_

Runner-Up (S.B. Instagram Follow): @sbgoodeats



Celebrity

Ellen DeGeneres

For the second year in a row, Ellen DeGeneres reigns supreme as our readers' favorite area celebrity. The affable comedian's support of the community after the Thomas Fire and subsequent debris flow was pretty remarkable. She's probably also our local real estate community's favorite house flipper. In the last couple of months, DeGeneres and her actress wife, Portia de Rossi, reportedly sold a \$23 million Carpinteria oceanfront retreat (to IT cosmetics mogul Jamie Kern Lima) and a 10.5-acre, \$6.982 million pastoral spread on the outskirts of the county (to Nickelodeon president Brian Robbins). According to *Variety*, the couple still owns a \$27 million Balinese-style estate near Montecito.

Runner-Up: John Palminteri