

Montecito Restaurant

The Honor Bar

honorbar.com

With reader comments like “excellence in flavor, ingredients, preparation, presentation, and customer service,” “everything on the menu is delicious,” and “the staff loves to smile,” it’s no wonder that The Honor Bar is your pick for Best Montecito Restaurant. The patio at The Honor Bar, which is part of the nationally acclaimed Hillstone Restaurant Group, has cemented itself as the go-to place for eating, drinking, and being seen in Montecito.

Runner-Up: Bettina

Santa Ynez Valley Restaurant

Industrial Eats

industrialeats.com

Beckoning foodies to Buellton since Jeff and Janet Olsson opened Industrial Eats in late 2013, they’re still going strong, despite the global pandemic. When asked how they pivoted, Jeff (owner and self-titled busboy and trash can emptier) said, “Moving to our new parking lot dining room, loss of sales, loss of staff, trying to make food look nice in a cardboard box

— but it’s nothing every other restaurant hasn’t had to deal with.”

Runner-Up: S.Y. Kitchen

Appetizers/Tapas

Loquita

loquitash.com

“Thank you to all who voted for us for Best Appetizers/Tapas. We truly appreciate it. We would not be here today without your continued support, and for this we are truly thankful,” said GM Stephanie Perkins. “The community of Santa Barbara has always supported Loquita, so we want to be here to support our community during these challenging times. We are thankful and honored to serve you, and we look forward to hosting you again soon.”

Runner-Up: Milk & Honey

Breakfast

Cajun Kitchen

cajunkitchencafe.com

“It’s a great honor to be voted as Best Breakfast for another year,” said Operations Manager Jorge A. Peralta. Being named the best “confirms and validates our entire team’s hard work and dedication. We could not be in the position we’re in without them. Thank you from the front of the house, with their exceptional customer service, to our back of the house, with

their strong work ethic and production to be able to pump out amazing dishes at a lightning-fast pace.”

Runner-Up: Jeannine’s Restaurant & Bakery

Late-Night Eats

Dave’s Dogs Grill

davesdogs805.com

“Your support means the world to us,” said Cynthia Reynoso, Dave’s Dogs manager and wife of owner Dave Reynoso. “‘Never give up’ is a quote that Dave lives by. You will find this on the walls of his restaurant, and when he started his food cart, he had this quote on his cart. Five years later, here he is winning Best Late-Night Eats and feeling overjoyed with this news.”

Runner-Up: The Blue Owl

Sunday Brunch

[See Drinking: Bloody Mary]



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BAGEL



Café



EATING

Continued

Chinese Restaurant

China Pavilion

china-pavilion.com

"We want to thank those who took the time to vote for us. We understand that the honor comes with an undertone of responsibilities and challenges to continue the vigilance and innovation necessary to be worthy of the same honor next year," said owner Peter Chen. "The pandemic has hit restaurants particularly hard, and we're no exception. We've had to cut staff as we pivot to a 100 percent takeout/delivery business. Revenue is way down, and the name of the game is survival."

Runner-Up: China Palace

French Restaurant * Restaurant Wine List

bouchon

bouchonsantabarbara.com

With a focus on local, fresh ingredients and wines with a French culinary influence, bouchon once again wins our readers' hearts for both wine and cuisine. Proprietor Mitchell Sjerven said the Best Of honors mean "guests recognize and appreciate the professionals I have on my staff. Our kitchen staff is passionate about the cuisine, and our service team is truly dedicated to creating a wonderful dining experience for each and every guest."

Runner-Up (French Restaurant): Renaud's Patisserie & Bistro

Runner-Up (Restaurant Wine List): Wine Cask

Indian Restaurant

Flavor of India

flavorofindiasb.com

"Thank you so much for your continuous support and loyalty. You are the direct reason for our success, and we are truly humbled and honored," said Bitu and Anil Kainwal, owners of Flavor of India. "Being the best restaurant really comes down to making people happy as often as possible. 'Best' means meeting and beating their expectations on how they're going to feel when they leave my restaurant."

Runner-Up: Bibi Ji

Italian Restaurant

Ca'Dario

cadario.net

A consistent favorite for the *Indy's* readers, Ca'Dario is once again your pick for Best Italian Restaurant. With voter comments like, "authentic Italian recipes, cheerful service, generous portions," "delicious," "great food," "excellent food and service," and "excellence in flavor, preparation, presentation, quality of ingredients, customer service," it's no surprise that Ca'Dario remains Santa Barbara's number-one choice for exquisite Northern Italian food.

Runner-Up: Via Maestra 42

Mexican Restaurant *

Salsa

Los Agaves

los-agaves.com

Carlos Luna opened the first Los Agaves location on Milpas Street on Santa Barbara's Eastside in 2008. Now with multiple locations around town, there is always a line at each and every one. Fresh ingredients (and lots of award-winning salsa varieties) are the key to this family-owned-and-operated restaurant group. The expansive menu meshes old standbys (tacos, burritos, fajitas, enchiladas) with more unusual fare such as the piping-hot, stone-bowled "land and sea" molcajetes and the spicy Camarones à la Diabla.

Runner-Up: Los Arroyos



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EATING

Continued

Seafood Restaurant * Clam Chowder

Brophy Bros. Clam Bar & Restaurant
brophybros.com

Brophy Bros. can once again claim bragging rights as the top Seafood Restaurant and Clam Chowder spot (not to mention those killer views of the harbor). "It is humbling for Brophys to be considered the best," said Operating Partner John Bennett. "Our team is filled with a bunch of great people that really enjoy serving others. I am very grateful our community has acknowledged our team by voting them the best."

Runner-Up: Lure Fish House

Sushi Restaurant

Arigato Sushi
arigatosb.com

Diners have been crushing on Arigato for 35 years, showering well-deserved praise—and awards—for decades. It's clearly a local favorite, with our readers' accolades including compliments like, "There is no competing here. Their seafood is consistently fresh and their menu is always creative and accommodating to people of all diets. They do such a great job of making guests feel welcomed. Two thumbs up all the way," and "Their food and service instill addiction... in a good way."

Runner-Up: Sushi Teri

Thai Restaurant * Noodle Bar

Empty Bowl Gourmet Noodle Bar
emptybowlnoodle.com

"Thank you so much for all your support for the last five years. We could not have done it without all the noodle lovers out there," said Jerry Lee, co-owner. "I know right now times are hard, but we will all get through this together as one." When asked about being the best, he said, "It means that we have created a concept that the community truly enjoys. Being the best, you must provide everything as a whole: customer service, food, price, and quality."

Runner-Up (Thai Restaurant): Your Choice

Runner-Up (Noodle Bar): Nikka Ramen

Vegetarian/Vegan Restaurant *

Veggie Burger

The Natural Café
thenaturalcafe.com

"We know Santa Barbara has an overwhelming variety of dining options, and the fact they're still with us after 28 years is extremely gratifying," said owner Kelly Brown. During the pandemic, "we have kept all the stores open, kept everybody employed, and tried not to mess with the menu too much. Our staff, all 150 of them, deserve a huge round of applause, which we try to give them every day."

Runner-Up (Vegetarian/Vegan Restaurant): Mesa Verde

Runner-Up (Veggie Burger): Kyle's Kitchen

Sandwich

South Coast Deli

southcoastdeli.com

Serving up sandwiches since 1991, the South Coast Deli wins Best Of honors year after year. Being named the best means "that the hard work of our staff, day in and day out, for 29 years has not gone unnoticed," said owner/DeliBoy Jim St. John. "We are grateful for being able to operate continually throughout the pandemic (with reduced hours). Thanks to the support of our loyal customers and the community of S.B."

Runner-Up: Three Pickles



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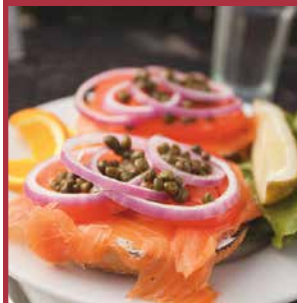
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EATING

Continued

Barbecue * Sidewalk Café/Patio

Shalhoob's Funk Zone Patio

shalhoob.com

"It means the world to us that the community supports our family business," said partner LJ Shalhoob, part of the third generation of Shalhoobs to join the business, a staple in the community for more than 40 years. "Being able to serve locals great food and drinks as a form of working is a dream that we never even realized could be so rewarding.... 'Thank you' doesn't even scratch the surface of our appreciation."

Runner-Up (Barbecue): The Creekside Restaurant & Bar

Runner-Up (Sidewalk Café/Patio): Shoreline Beach Café

Steak House

Holdren's Steaks & Seafood

holdrens.com/sb

To say this was a tough year for restaurants is an understatement. But after serving Santa Barbara seafood, meat, and poultry dishes complemented by copious wine and spirit choices since 2003, owner Clay Holdren said, "It is so fun to have this place and have the chance to meet so many outstanding people in our community. I am very lucky to share great stories, food, wine, and maybe a cocktail or two with everyone."

Runner-Up: Lucky's

Burger * Takeout

The Habit Burger Grill

habitburger.com

"We have grown over the years but have never forgotten where we came from or deviated from our core value: 'There's No Substitute for Quality,'" said founder Brent Reichard. "It is also important for our customers to know that all of the Santa Barbara County restaurants are still family owned and operated." He added, "There are lots of great burgers out there, but we will proudly put our burger up against all others at a \$3.95 price point."

Runner-Up (Burger): Mesa Burger

Runner-Up (Takeout): Los Agaves

Burrito *

Breakfast Burrito

Super Cucas

supercucasrestaurant.com

Super Cucas is known for their ginormous, forearm-sized burritos. As reader Dylan put it, "They literally serve the heartiest, beefiest, juiciest, and most delicious burritos in town, point blank. They are intensely filling and sometimes can make two meals for somebody. Literally no other place in town can match Super Cucas. And, yes, the same also applies for their breakfast burritos." With the addition of vegan options to the menu, Super Cucas really is superb.

Runner-Up (Burrito): Los Agaves

Runner-Up (Breakfast Burrito): The Daily Grind

Tacos

Lilly's Taqueria

lillystacos.com

Being voted the best means that "as a team, our hard work and dedication to bring you the best taco experience does not go unnoticed. Awards like this one motivate us to keep giving our community outstanding food and service," said owner Lilly Sepulveda. "Thank you. We owe everything to our clientele. Without their support, we simply wouldn't be Lilly's."

Runner-Up: Corazon Cocina



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The Natural Cafe

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BEST Vegetarian/Vegan Restaurant
BEST Veggie Burger

EATING

Continued



Pizza

Rusty's Pizza Parlor

rustypizza.com

A treasured local institution, as reader Jenna put it, "If Rusty's pizza isn't your favorite, are you even from here?" A little-known fact is that the original Rusty's specialized in roast beef. Roger and Carol Duncan opened Rusty's Roast Beef in Isla Vista in 1969 and — after realizing there wasn't a pizza place in town — soon converted the cuisine into what's become *Indy* readers' favorite pizza. Still family owned, Rusty's now has nine locations in the greater Santa Barbara area.

Runner-Up: Olio Pizzeria

Stellar Service

The Palace Grill

palacegrill.com

When it comes to stellar service, as reader Julia proclaimed, "Duh, the Palace. No one can even come close! They're genuinely delightful." The Palace Grill is a lively, friendly spot where the authentic Cajun and Creole cuisine has the soul of hospitality embedded into every dining experience. It's known for its unique style of "team service" (some of the team members have been there for more than a quarter of a century), and, from the moment you walk in, you'll know you've found a special place.

Runner-Up: bouchon

Paul Shields and some of the Savoy staff



BEST
of
SANTA BARBARA

Salad Bar * Parklet

Savoy Café & Deli

savoycafe.weebly.com

This year has been a roller coaster ride for restaurants. "I would never have guessed that we would have a window display of toilet paper and hand sanitizer to entice people into our café, but that's exactly what happened during the initial shutdown, and it's what helped keep Savoy alive during those difficult first few months," said owners Paul and Kathy Shields. "From all of us at Savoy, we warmly and gratefully say thanks for voting, and more importantly, thanks for your business."

Runner-Up (Salad Bar): Lazy Acres Market

Runner-Up (Parklet): Milk & Honey



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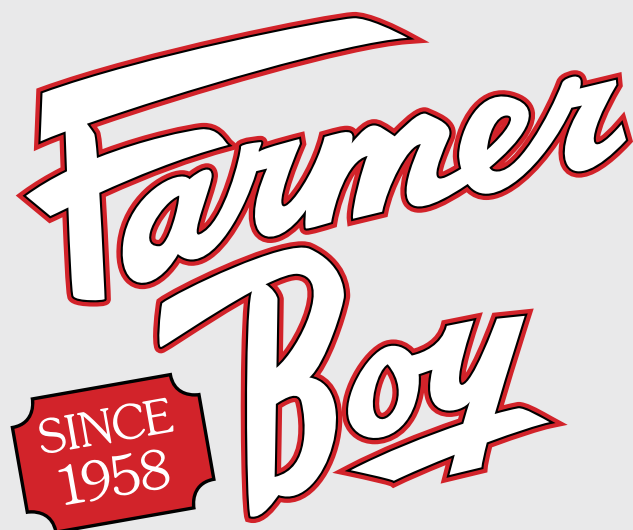
independent.com/local-hero

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DRINKING

Coffee House Handlebar Coffee Roasters

handlebarcoffee.com

"We want the community to know how thankful we are," said owner Kim Anderson. "It goes without saying that COVID has affected everyone in some way, some worse than others. However, the community has been there for us to make sure we endure, amazing! We in turn hope to show our thankfulness by providing support and strength to those we can lend a hand to. Times like this show how everything comes full circle and compassion and kindness are the driving force."

Runner-Up: The Daily Grind

Tea Selection Vices & Spices

vicesandspices.net

Blue Booth opened his little coffee and tea hideout on upper State Street in 1975, and the homey atmosphere of this small San Roque neighborhood spot has been brewing a rabid fan base ever since. Still family owned, Vices & Spices has an impressive and ever-growing collection of fine tea leaves, specialty coffees, exotic spices, and botanicals. There's also a great selection of unique gifts from around the world.

Runner-Up: Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf

Juicery * Smoothie Bar Blenders in the Grass

drinkblenders.com

"Thank you for voting us Best Of year after year. We very much appreciate it," said Keric Brown, owner of the popular juice bar, which opened its first store in Isla Vista in 1995. With stores throughout the California coast, Blenders is still headquartered in Goleta. Being named the best "means we remain a valued part of the community, which has always been our goal," said Brown.

Runner-Up (Juicery): Juice Ranch

Runner-Up (Smoothie Bar): Backyard Bowls

S.B. County Brewery Figueroa Mountain Brewing Co.

figmtnbrew.com

Excited to win Best Of honors, as well as for a new collaboration with Flying Embers Hard Kombucha in the Funk Zone taproom, owner Jaime Dietenhofer is also reflective about this year. "Being a brewery in 2020 has been nothing short of challenging," he said. "It is still an uphill battle with the restrictions, but we are taking it all in stride and having a positive attitude. All of the local breweries have fought hard to do what we love most."

Runner-Up: M. Special

Beer Selection on Tap * Funk Zone Spot

Lama Dog Tap Room + Bottle Shop

lamadog.com

"It's a great feeling to be able to put an idea into fruition and have it succeed," said owner Pete Burnham. "I also want to say thanks to our employees. Lama Dog could never have won Best Of without having the best crew in town. [The award] is a rare bright spot in an otherwise gloomy year. I can't wait to see everyone close-up and mask-less again!"

Runner-Up (Beer Selection on Tap):
Figueroa Mountain Brewing Co.

Runner-Up (Funk Zone Spot): Shalhoob's Funk Zone Patio

Valley Tasting Room Carhartt Vineyard

carharttvineyard.com

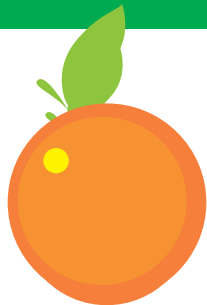
"When my parents, Brooke and Mike Carhartt, opened our 'shack' tasting room in 2005, they vowed to be open 'for the people,'" said co-owner/wine-maker Chase Carhartt. "To them, that meant eight hours a day, 364 days a year, for 15 years straight. The only thing to stop that record was a global pandemic. In that way, I am proud of our commitment to our craft and the folks who support it."

Runner-Up: Folded Hills



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DRINKING

Continued



Urban Tasting Room * S.B. County Winery Grassini Family Vineyards

grassinifamilyvineyards.com

Named Best Urban Tasting Room and Best S.B. County Winery for the third consecutive year was particularly meaningful to Grassini Family Vineyards as they shifted urban tastings to an outdoor space in El Paseo. CEO Katie Grassini is especially grateful for the team members. "They take the added task of cleaning and sanitizing everything between each visit so seriously and still manage to serve everyone with a genuine smile behind their face masks."

Runner-Up (Urban Tasting Room): Magerum Wine Company

Runner-Up (S.B. County Winery): Au Bon Climat

S.B. Wine Tour Company Sustainable Wine Tours

sustainablewinetours.com

"Our greatest joy and opportunity is being able to curate and share an amazing day with you in our stunning wine country, and provide you with an incredible, delicious, and unforgettable experience in the world and wonders of small-batch sustainable wine making," said owner Scott Bull. "To be voted for and acknowledged by all of you for succeeding in these efforts is an indescribable honor. Thank you for being the joy that drives us every day. We raise our glasses to you!"

Runner-Up: Captain Jack's

Restaurant Wine List [See Eating: French Restaurant]

Wine Bar

Santa Barbara Wine Therapy

santabarbarawinetherapy.com

Therapy is always in session at Wine Therapy, and no appointment is necessary! As reader Yolanda said, "The drinks are amazing, and it's a great place to hang out with friends." Between the expansive, dog-friendly patio in back and new outdoor seating on State Street, local beer and wine, rosé of the day, cornhole, and shelves and shelves of board games, everything about this friendly, unpretentious place encourages guests to pull up a chair and enjoy themselves.

Runner-Up: Satellite

Wine Shop Liquor & Wine Grotto

montecitovino.com

"Being named the best by the people is validation of the hard work both Jason Herick and I have put in over the last 11 years," said proprietor Brian Brunello. Established in 1976, the Montecito shop specializes in quality, small-production wines from around the world, with emphasis in California, French, and Italian wines. The store was well-equipped when the pandemic hit, using delivery service and its Dutch door (horizontally split in half) to serve customers from a safe distance.

Runner-Up: Renegade Wines

Martini * Stiffest Drinks Harry's Plaza Café

harryssb.com

"To our very loyal, best customers who voted for us, we thank you for your continued support and hope very soon we will see you inside for our best martini," said GM Kevin Hebert. "Adapting to the major changes we had to face in just a couple days — from all dining inside our wonderful restaurant to all



to-go — was the biggest hurdle for us. But the cocktails to go (served in pint-sized Mason jars) helped us.”

Runner-Up (Martini): The Good Lion

Runner-Up (Stiffest Drinks): Joe's Café

Margarita

Santo Mezcal

santomezcal.com

The readers have spoken, crowning Santo Mezcal margaritas the best in town for the third year in a row. Their comments say it all: “Refreshing and consistently great margaritas as well as the biggest mezcal selection in town,” “The best tequila selection and the best bartenders,” “The best tasting margaritas, and they are so artfully crafted,” and “I love their margarita because they use fresh ingredients and it has a great kick to it without being overpowering.”

Runner-Up: Carlitos Café y Cantina

Place for Craft Cocktails

The Good Lion

goodlioncocktails.com

“In light of how difficult a year 2020 has been for our industry, the story we are

happiest to share with your readers is one of gratitude,” said Brandon Ristaino, managing member of The Good Lion, voted Best Place for Craft Cocktails.

“We are thankful and relieved to have survived this catastrophe thus far, and it is due to our amazing team, my amazing wife, and our amazing guests that we’ve been able to do so.”

Runner-Up: The Imperial

Neighborhood Bar

The Pickle Room

threepickles.com

“Appreciation for a great cocktail lounge never goes out of style,” said Pickle Room owner Clay Lovejoy. “Bob Lovejoy [Clay’s late father] had a vision to keep this neighborhood bar going, and surely had the blessing of Tommy Chung [the owner of the historic Jimmy’s, which once was in the spot],” said Bar Manager Willy Gilbert. “All of us at the Pickle Room strive to continue the legacy that belongs to those two remarkable human beings.”

Runner-Up: The Press Room

Bloody Mary



Happy Hour * Sunday Brunch * Restaurant with a View * Bloody Mary

boathousesb.com

The sparkling views of the Pacific, just steps away from the sand and featuring ocean-inspired décor and a glassed-in patio, are more than enough to beckon us to the Boat-house. But even better are the fresh seafood selections, excellent cocktails (including a terrific happy hour), and brunch delights such as the smoked salmon eggs Benedict and huevos Hope Ranch. You may come for the view, but you’ll come again and again for the food and the drinks.

Runner-Up (Sunday Brunch): Jeannine's Restaurant & Bakery

Runner-Up (Happy Hour): Lure Fish House

Runner-Up (Restaurant With a View): Belmond El Encanto

Runner-Up (Bloody Mary): Brophy Bros. Clam Bar & Restaurant

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BEST of SANTA BARBARA®



OUT & ABOUT

Dance Club * College Night

Wildcat Lounge

wildcatlounge.com

"We had a great year going until March 17," said Wildcat owner Bob Stout. "We stayed closed longer than most other bars so that we could make sure we could reopen safely — and we have." Buying "all the AstroTurf at Home Depot," Stout took 1,600 square feet outdoors and created the Glitter-Box, complete with shade sails, awnings, and fire pits. "We even turned the 'W' in our logo upside down, so now we are the 'Mildcat.' Nobody gets it."

Runner-Up (Dance Club): SOhO Restaurant & Music Club

Runner-Up (College Night): Zodo's Bowling & Beyond

Place to Hear Live Music

Santa Barbara Bowl

sbbowl.com

"The Santa Barbara Bowl is blessed to be included in this amazing community that we all call home," said Program Director Eric Shiflett. "Even though we have not been able to host everyone for concerts this summer, nobody is far from our hearts and minds and we are excited to be recognized." He urged those who are able to consider support-

ing the Operational Shortfall fundraising campaign (sbbowl.com/2020Shortfall).

Runner-Up: SOhO Restaurant & Music Club

Gallery

Sullivan Goss, An American Gallery

sullivangoss.com

"We work hard to be a place where everyone feels welcome and is excited to visit," said Nathan Vonk, owner of Sullivan Goss, An American Gallery. "A lot of our business has moved online, and our daily visitors are down significantly, but the people who come in are especially excited to be in the gallery. We are fortunate to be well-suited for social-distanced visits."

Runner-Up: Waterhouse Gallery

Museum

Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

sbnature.org

Voted Best Museum for the second year in a row, President/CEO Luke Swetland said, "We work hard to be creative, dynamic, and accommodating, and this year has really shown our strengths as we navigate ever-changing guidelines and restrictions. This recognition makes all of that hard work worthwhile and gives us renewed energy to con-

tinue to find creative solutions to connect people to nature for the betterment of both."

Runner-Up: MOXI, The Wolf Museum of Exploration + Innovation

Dance Company

[See Sporting Life: Dance Studio]

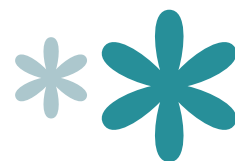
Theater Company

Ensemble Theatre Company

ensembletheatre.com

"We deeply appreciate your support and commitment to ETC, especially during this time," said Artistic Director Jonathan Fox. "We miss you all and look forward to seeing you back at live performances as soon as possible." Recent online events included actor/musician/writer Hershey Felder, the Young Actors Conservatory production of *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, the Young Playwrights Festival, and a virtual book club discussion of *American Son*. Plans are in the works for several live-streamed performances from the stage of The New Vic.

Runner-Up: UCSB Theater Group



OUT & ABOUT

Continued

Classical Ensemble

Santa Barbara Symphony

thesymphony.org

"The Symphony — and by that I mean the staff, professional musicians, board of directors, volunteers, technicians, and community supporters — are all working together from our virtual offices to make a difference," said interim CEO Kathryn R. Martin. "To lead when the path forward is uncertain. To have impact no matter what and to be there for our community when it needs us most."

Runner-Up: UCSB Middle East Ensemble

Restaurant/Bar to Watch Sports

Finney's Crafthouse

finneycrafthouse.com

Upon learning our readers voted Finney's the Best Place to Watch Sports for the second year in a row, owner Greg Finefrock said, "We are proud to be a part of this beautiful and strong community and

proud to win this award." To create a safe and welcoming environment for both team members and guests, Finney's "moved all of our tables outside, expanded our patio, and added heaters, umbrellas, plants, and decorative lights to create a comfortable outdoor dining experience for our guests."

Runner-Up: The Garden at Santa Barbara Public Market

Karaoke

The James Joyce

sbjamesjoyce.com

"We would like to thank everyone who voted for us, although it would be a lot more exciting if customers were allowed back inside our premises to actually sing karaoke," said The James Joyce owner Tommy Byrne. "Global pandemic and grievances aside, it is really nice to hear how much your readers continue to support us."

Runner-Up: Tiburon Tavern

Funk Zone Spot

[See Drinking: Beer Selection on Tap]

Whale-Watching Tour

Condor Express

condorexpress.com

Indy readers have spoken — "Super knowledgeable captain and guides on board to show you the amazing wildlife in our Santa Barbara Channel" (Katya), and "The captain inevitably finds the whales" (Barbara) — choosing *Condor Express* as the Best Whale-Watching Tour vessel once again. First launched in 1973, the current 75-foot catamaran is an ideal platform for just about any type of ocean outing, including whale watching, island excursions, weddings and receptions, company charters, dinner cruises, and educational and research trips.

Runner-Up: Santa Barbara Sailing Center



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Beach * Dog Park Hendry's Beach (Arroyo Burro Beach)

countyofsb.org/parks/day-use/arroyo-burro-beach.sbc
"Arroyo Burro Beach Park aka Hendry's Beach is very special because it has something for everyone to enjoy," said Deborah Williams, who selected it as one of the "50 Great Public Land Destinations" on her website 50greatpubliclanddestinations.org. "In addition to being a beautiful place to relax, sun, swim, play in the sand, throw Frisbees, walk and run, it has outdoor showers, a large off-leash dog area, self-serve dog wash stations, the Boathouse Restaurant, and an adjacent bird-filled estuary."

Runner-Up (Beach): Butterfly Beach

Runner-Up (Dog Park): Douglas Family Preserve

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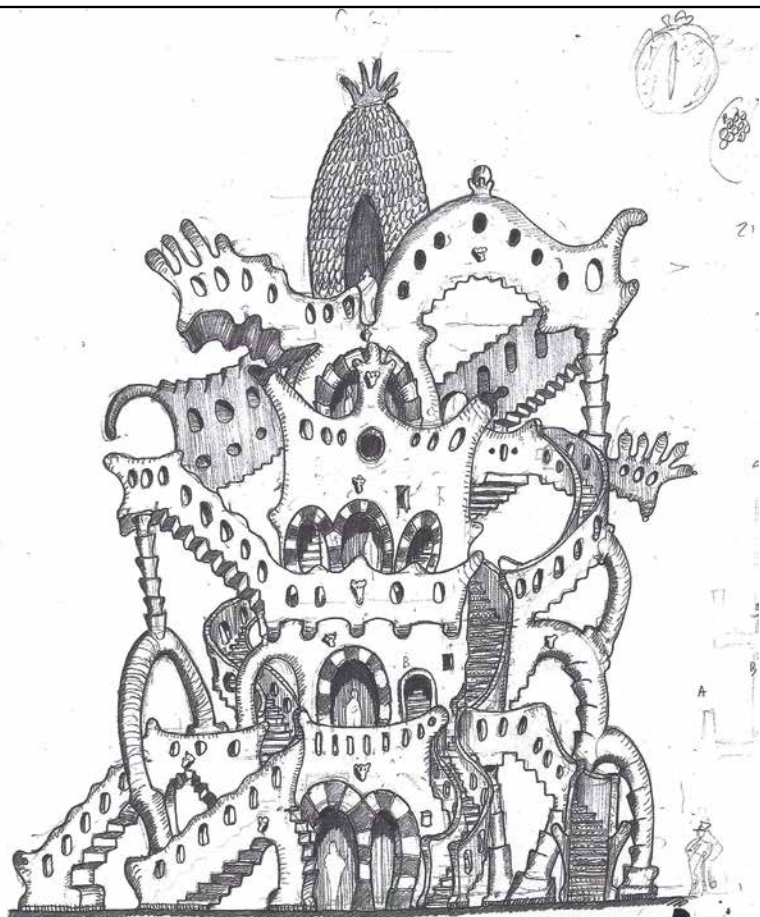
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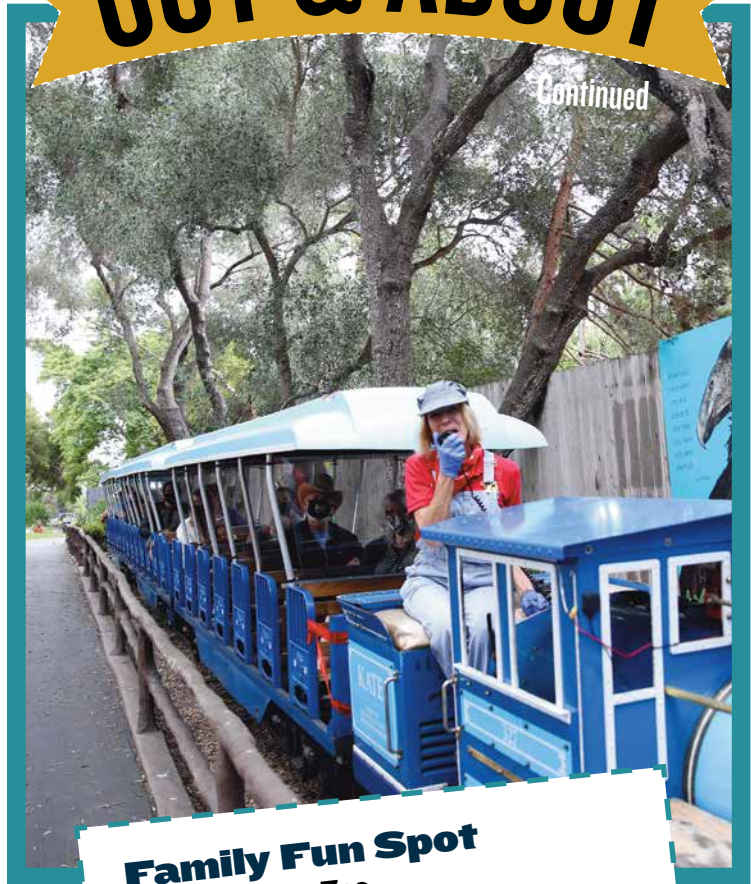
JEFF SHELTON
ARCHITECT

Laissez les bons
Temps Rouler



OUT & ABOUT

Continued



Family Fun Spot Santa Barbara Zoo

sbzoo.org

"This recognition means so much to us as it's an indicator of the public's trust in the Zoo and its programs," said President/CEO Rich Block. "This trust is earned every day, on every visit, and with every Zoo experience. It demonstrates how much the community values the Zoo and reflects on the contribution every Zoo employee makes to the experience of our guests and on our employees' dedication and commitment to the Zoo's mission."

Runner-Up: MOXI, The Wolf Museum of Exploration + Innovation

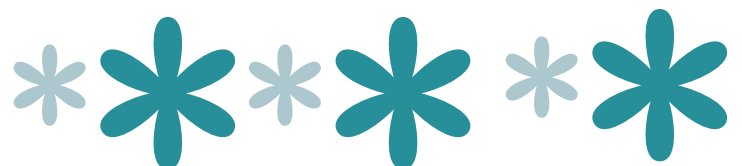
S.B. Tour Company

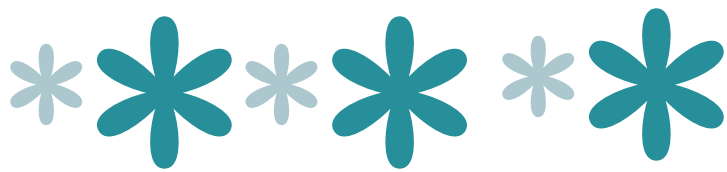
Land & Sea Tours: Land Shark

out2seesb.com

"To win again is exceptionally special and meaningful this year," said owner Captain Andre Manoux, who had to close operations for a time due to the pandemic. "Although operating at half capacity means operating at near zero profit, we are thankful that we are still able to provide locals and visitors the opportunity to experience the unparalleled beauty of our city on land and at sea."

Runner-Up: Santa Barbara Adventure Company





Stargazing Spot

Camino Cielo

Part of Los Padres National Forest, Camino Cielo Road is our readers' top spot to cast their gazes skyward and is always a treat. About two miles up Camino Cielo from Route 154 is a small pullout at the crest of the Santa Ynez range, with an elevated grassy hill with fantastic views to the north that are magically shielded from the lights of Goleta and Santa Barbara.

Runner-Up: Lizard's Mouth

Place to Watch the Sunset

Butterfly Beach

santabarbaraca.com/businesses/butterfly-beach

The unique east-west orientation of Montecito's Butterfly Beach makes for some truly spectacular sunsets — and sunrises. The shoreline is also ideal for swimming, surfing, kayaking, and sunbathing. At low tide, you can take a walk all the way to East Beach and beyond. Keep your eyes peeled for dolphins and sea lions, which are often found frolicking along these shores.

Runner-Up: Hendry's Beach (Arroyo Burro Beach)

Movie Theater

The Arlington Theatre

thearlingtontheatre.com

The Arlington certainly has excellent customer service. During one Santa Barbara International Film Festival, Tom Cruise was in the audience to present the final award. He wanted popcorn but couldn't leave his seat, so he asked security to get him some, said GM Karen Killingsworth. They had just closed the concession stand but made another batch of popcorn for a special guest in the theater. "I was allowed to help deliver the items to him personally," she said. "Tom Cruise was very pleased with his freshly popped popcorn!"

Runner-Up: SBIFF Riviera Theatre

Annual Event

Old Spanish Days Fiesta

oldspanishdays-fiesta.org

"Old Spanish Days is not something you can cancel; it lives in the heart. And while this is not how any of us expected this year to go, we adjusted our planning to focus on safe and adaptive ways that brought forward the Fiesta spirit and honored many of our rich traditions," said 2020 El Presidente Erik Davis. This honor "reinforces how this 96-year-old tradition truly is part of the fabric of our amazing community and is something that is cherished by many."

Runner-Up: Summer Solstice



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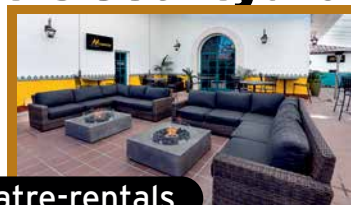
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Florist

Riley's Flowers

rileysflowers.com

Riley's Flowers is our readers' pick for Best Florist for the fifth year in a row, with no sign of slowing down this family-run operation, which began as a street flower stand in the 1970s. As reader Amy said, "They are the best; arrangements, availability, everything." Whether your flower arrangement is one of their daily deliveries or you design a bouquet for yourself by digging into the beautiful blossoms at their European-style bucket shop downtown, Riley's Flowers are sure to bring a smile.

Runner-Up: Kaleidoscope Flowers

Photographer

Mayra Romero Photography

mayraromero photography.com

Owner Mayra Romero celebrated her first year in business on June 1. "I built my clientele over the years and finally had the courage to pursue my photography career full time," she said. "I definitely didn't expect a global pandemic during my first year in business, but I keep telling myself, 'If I can get through this year, I can get through any year. I am only going up from here.'"

Runner-Up: Ashleigh Taylor Portrait

Stationery Store

Paper Source

papersource.com

Winning Best Stationery Store once again, Paper Source is a colorful wonderland of thoughtful gifts (try the quarterly subscription boxes for something fun), unique wrapping paper, personalized stationery and labels, and quirky calendars. They've got you covered if you're looking to scrapbook about your latest trip, create and send handmade invitations for your next big soirée (remember those?), or personalize your stationery to pen actual letters to friends.

Runner-Up: Letter Perfect Stationery

Wedding Planner

Tyler Speier Events

tylerspeier.com

"The very nature of our jobs is to bring people together, and that's the very thing we cannot do right now," said Tyler Speier, who started planning events as a college student to help pay his tuition. "I had no intention of ever making it my career." They've gone from producing budget-friendly soirees to full-blown weddings that are setting the trends for years to come. "Now 11 years later, I am so incredibly honored to be named the Best Wedding Planner in Santa Barbara."

Runner-Up: Jill & Co. Events

Wedding Venue

Santa Barbara Historical Museum

sbhistorical.org

"Sadly, we closed our doors to visitors on March 13, canceling lectures, 1st Thursdays, and film screenings, along with weddings and our largest fundraiser of the year," said Deputy Director Dacia Harwood. The event rental revenue is critical to keeping the museum running. Nearly 40 weddings had to be rescheduled during the pandemic, mostly moved to 2021. She said, "We recently began hosting ceremonies again, mostly intimate elopements, some of which have been shared by our couples across the world via Zoom."

Runner-Up: Rincon Beach Club

Event DJ

DJ Darla Bea

djdarlabea.com

It's five Best Of's in a row for DJ Darla Bea. While deejaying a wedding at Santa Barbara Historical Museum, Bea was playing "Lights" by Journey when the band's lead singer, Steve Perry (a guest), came up and asked, "Are they paying you to play my music?" "I said, 'Well, technically yes.'"

She played Journey songs all night, ending with "Don't Stop Believin'" — holding onto that feeling as the bride and groom were lifted onto the air to crowd surf over a sea of singing people.

Runner-Up: DJ Hecktik