



2017
READERS'
CHOICE
AWARDS

JULY 30, 2017

ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL

SPECIAL
SECTION

FOOD TRUCK

WINNER: Cheesy Street
facebook.com/
CheesyStreet

Creative and innovative grilled cheese sandwiches abound in this Albuquerque area food truck. Menu features a rotating selection of grilled cheese sandwiches along with fresh soup and desserts. Not afraid of mixing it up with different flavors and inspirations, Cheesy Street has a grilled cheese for everyone.

2. Chicharroneria Don Choche
facebook.com/
Chicharroneria-Don-Choche

3. Irrational Pie
irrationalpies.com



INDIAN

WINNER: Taj Mahal Cuisine of India
1430 Carlisle NE
255-1994,
tajmahalcuisineofindia.com

Tantalizing the taste buds with the many flavors of India, Taj Mahal is a three-time winner. Consider the Tandoori Khoobiyan, above, a mixed grill of tandoori chicken, lamb kebabs and shrimp.

2. Namaste
110 Yale SE
1520 Deborah Road SE,
Rio Rancho
namastenm.net

3. India Grill
6501 Wyoming NE
797-4243, indiagrillnm.com



WINNER DOUGHNUT SHOP

Food & Drink

Rebel Donut
2435 Wyoming NE
9311 Coors NW
rebeldonut.com

Fanciful flavors have won legions of fans for Rebel Donut, which is a four-time winner. Check out the Chocolate Dipped Red Velvet, the Red Chile Chocolate Bacon or the Cinnamon Crumb Cake.

2. Krispy Kreme Doughnuts
Multiple locations
krispykreme.com

3. Donut Mart
Multiple locations
donutmartusa.com

3. Dunkin' Donuts
Multiple locations
dunkindonuts.com

GREEN CHILE CHEESEBURGER

WINNER: Blake's Lotaburger
Multiple locations
lotaburger.com

As the local hamburger joint turns 65, it's not too surprising that it sits atop the green chile burger list, says Lucy Rosen, marketing director.

"We have extremely loyal fans who have passed down the love of Blake's Lotaburger to their children and some even to their grandchildren," she says. Using fresh ingredients and sizzling chile is the key to success, Rosen says.

"Nothing hits our grill until it is ordered, so everything is cooked to order," she says. "Our green chile is the best in town, and the hottest. And it's consistency, taking care of our customers. Everything from the minute they walk in the door until the minute they walk out, they're special to us."

Blake's also won for best burger.

2. Owl Café
800 Eubank NE
291-4900,
owlcafealbuquerque.com

3. 5 Star Burgers
Multiple locations
5starburgers.com

JAPANESE

WINNER: Japanese Kitchen
6521 America's Parkway NE
884-8937,
japanesekitchen.com

Japanese Kitchen was one of the first teppanyaki/hibachi style restaurants in the state. It is a three-time winner in this category.

2. Azuma Sushi & Teppan
4701 San Mateo NE
8104 Wyoming NE
azumaabq.com

3. Ichiban Japanese Restaurant
10701 Corrales Road
899-0095

NEW MEXICAN

WINNER: Sadie's
Multiple locations
sadiesofnewmexico.com

A four-time winner in this category — the salsa, the chile! — Sadie's also took first place for Mexican food this year.

2. Monroe's Restaurant
6051 Osuna NE
1520 Lomas NW
monroeschlie.com

3. El Pinto
10500 Fourth NW
898-1771, elpinto.com

3. Garcia's Kitchen
Multiple locations
garciaskitchen.com

SOUP

WINNER: Panera Bread
Multiple locations
panerabread.com

A repeat winner, Panera offers a half dozen soups daily. With a crusty baguette alongside, it's happiness in a bowl.

2. Annie's Soup Kitchen
3107 Eubank NE
296-8601,
anniessoupkitchen.com

3. Sweet Tomatoes
4901 San Mateo NE
10126 Coors NW
souplantation.com

ITALIAN

WINNER: Trombino's Bistro Italiano
5415 Academy NE
821-5974,
bistroitaliano.com

Another four-time winner, Trombino's has been a local favorite since 1979, serving up traditional as well as innovative dishes.

2. Mario's Pizza
Multiple locations
mariospizzaabq.com

3. M'tucci's
6001 Winter Haven Road NW
1908 Wellspring Ave. SE,
Rio Rancho
mtuccis.com

PIZZA

WINNER: Dion's
Multiple locations
dions.com

Dion's has surged from a small, local pizzeria into a growing enterprise with restaurants in three states. Yet the quality of the pie has remained a constant.

"The hand-crafted pizza is what makes us unique," says marketing director Deena Crawley. "We really do make each one from scratch."

Further, each pizza is made from the best ingredients possible.

"Our No. 1 value is great food," she says. "We never compromise with our ingredients."

As a matter of fact, years ago when Dion's cheese provider decided to expand its operations here from Wisconsin, it took awhile for the cows to adapt to the change and the flavor of the cheese changed, so Dion's continued using the original cheese until the cows adapted, Crawley says.

A four-time winner.

2. Farina Alto Pizzeria & Wine Bar
10721 Montgomery NE
298-0035, farinaalto.com

3. Pizza 9
Multiple locations
pizzanine.com

MEXICAN

WINNER: Sadie's
Multiple locations
sadiesofnewmexico.com

This venerable Albuquerque restaurant benefits from a 50-year history. A repeat winner, Sadie's also took first place in the New Mexican food category.

2. Monroe's Restaurant
6051 Osuna NE
1520 Lomas NW
monroeschlie.com

3. Garcia's Kitchen
Multiple locations
garciaskitchen.com

MARGARITA

WINNER: Garduño's Mexican Restaurant
Multiple locations
gardunosrestaurants.com

Why mess with perfection? From traditional to pink cactus to upside down to sunset gold, Garduño's has a menu of 16 margaritas to tickle your taste buds. This legacy of excellence started 30 years ago and emphasizes fresh and unique Mexican cuisine.

2. Sadie's
Multiple locations
sadiesofnewmexico.com

3. El Pinto
10500 Fourth NW
898-1771, elpinto.com

SANDWICH

WINNER: Dion's
Multiple locations
dions.com

Not in the mood for pizza? Dion's subs will happily fill you up. And feel free to customize. As they say, "If we've got it, we'll make it for you." A repeat winner, Dion's has 16 locations across the Albuquerque/Santa Fe area.

2. Subway
Multiple locations
subway.com

3. Relish
8019 Menaul NE
299-0001, relishabq.com

