

best of 2022



Best Special Art Exhibits — The Dalí Museum

This world-recognized museum in St. Petersburg not only displays its own collection of works by the celebrated artist Salvador Dalí, but also presents wondrous special exhibits to captivate your imagination. One Dalí Blvd, St. Petersburg, (727) 823-3767.

Best Special Events Venue

— The Historic Fort Harrison

This beautifully restored hotel has served as a hub for the community since the 1920s. Its exquisite ballrooms and first-class food service make it ideal for any type of special or charity event. 210 S. Fort Harrison Ave., Clearwater, (727) 467-5500.

Best Sports Bar — Ducky's Sports Lounge

Upscale food, craft cocktails and mini-bowling alleys make this a favorite spot for meeting friends and sharing good times. 1719 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, (813) 254-6060.

Best Sports Pub

— Fairway Pizza & Sports Page Pub

Since 1982, owners Kathie and Steve Jefferis have been famous for their delicious pizza, Greek salads and more that can be eaten indoors, or outside on their dog-friendly patio. The deck is heated during the winter months. You'll enjoy drinks from their two bars while listening to live entertainment or watching sports on one of their many television sets that have all the sports packages. They take phone orders and offer delivery. 2901 Alternate U.S. Highway 19 N., Palm Harbor, (727) 772-7060.

Best Steakhouse — Bascom's Chop House

With its ambience of an exclusive private club, this American steakhouse features top-of-the-line Angus grain-fed steer that is aged a minimum of 28 days. Generous portions, excellent service and extensive wine selections help to make your dining experience a pleasure. 3665 Ulmerton Road, Clearwater, (727) 573-3363.

Best Sunday Brunch — Island Way Grill

The lavish displays of delicious cuisine of this Baystar restaurant make their extensive Sunday Buffet offerings legendary. Serving everything from fresh omelets and waffles to sushi, this is a never-ending feast. The beautiful harbor views, the touch of Asian fusion and Pacific Rim style cuisine keep Island Way Grill busy every day of the year. 20 Island Way on Island Estates, Clearwater Beach, (727) 461-6617.

Best Tavern — Salt Rock Tavern

Frank Chivas created this modern tavern in Oldsmar. The menu is extensive and offers a variety of unique dishes. There are more than 25 craft brews available and a variety of handmade cocktails. Their Sunday buffet brunch is a bargain and includes two mimosas, screwdrivers or Bloody Mary's. 3689 Tampa Road, Oldsmar, (813) 336-4977.

Best Tearoom — The White Heron Tea & Gifts

Downtown New Port Richey's premier "Florida-inspired" tearoom has regularly scheduled tea experiences in its elegant tearoom, serving relaxing and intimate afternoon tea service. Reservations are required. 6228 Grand Blvd., New Port Richey, (727) 203-3504.

Best Tex Mex

— Marina Cantina Tequila Bar and Grille

Right in the heart of Clearwater Beach, this Baystar restaurant has fabulous views and phenomenal Mexican fare at bargain prices. Try the iron pan cornbread and the Beef Barbacoa Quesadillas with a house margarita or some sangria. This is a great gathering spot for all. 25 Causeway Blvd., Clearwater Beach, (727) 443-1750.

Best Thai Restaurant — Thai Spice

Owner Pannee Farooque makes delicious and beautifully plated presentations. Pad Thai, Stir Fry and Curry are some of the authentic Thai dishes you can enjoy, all reasonably priced and served by Pannee and her friendly staff. 2475 N. McMullen Booth Road at Enterprise, Clearwater, (727) 791-7050.

Best Theater Dining — Maestro's Restaurants

Maestro's three distinctly different dinner offerings at the David A. Straz Jr. Center for the Performing Arts allow patrons to enjoy creative presentations and inventive menus before the theater. They also cater in their own facility, or at the venue of your choice. 1010 N. W.C. MacInnes Place at the Straz Center, Tampa, (813) 229-STAR (7827).

Best Theatrical Productions — freeFall Theatre

By presenting a range of classical and new works that are bold, daring and diverse, this St. Petersburg theater group continuously draws rave reviews. Creative staging and multitalented performers help make their productions memorable. 6099 Central Ave., St. Petersburg, (727) 498-5205.



Best Travel Consultant

— Suzanne Carlson