

Best Patio/Beer Garden

1. Cornucopia Market & Deli
2. McMenamins North Bank
3. High St. Brewery & Café

Best Service

1. Café Soriah
2. LocoMotive
3. Mona Lizza

Best Décor

1. Café Lucky Noodle
2. Diablo's Downtown Lounge
3. Red Agave

Best Hangover Breakfast

1. Keystone Café
2. Brail's

Best Sunday Brunch

1. Studio One Café
2. SweetWaters
3. Glenwood

Best Business Lunch

1. Café Zenon
2. Ambrosia
3. Marché

Best Romantic Dinner

1. Café Soriah
2. Adam's Place
3. Beppe & Gianni's Trattoria

Best Takeout

1. Chao Pra Ya
2. Ring of Fire
3. Lotus Garden

Best Chef

1. Ibrahim Hamide/Café Soriah
2. Kevin Hyland/Koho Bistro
3. Pornwadee Garner/Ring of Fire

Best Wine List

1. Ambrosia
2. Café Zenon
3. Café Soriah

Best of Eugene

**BABY CAKES**

★ Best Place to Take the Kids

exotic lentil and a rich, creamy chowder.

Café Soriah is also the physical expression of one person, Ibrahim Hamide. He won the award for Best Peacemaker, as well as Best Chef, and in his restaurant you can sense his touch in the quiet jazz music, the warm peachy-pink walls and the fresh nosegays in vibrant fall colors at each table.

— Marina Taylor

Best New Restaurant: Chao Pra Ya

Not only did this little Thai diner win Best New Restaurant, it also swept the categories for Best Take-Out and Best Southeast

Asian. It's not every new business that can make all that happen in one year, and mainly by word of mouth. There's just something about the place that appeals: perhaps the friendly staff (mostly the family of chef Bangon Kaokept and her husband Vivat) who explain the dishes so kindly and serve the food so quickly. Perhaps the clean feel to the place, with its cool colors and fresh roses at every table. Could it be the easy location, or the reasonable prices?

Perhaps, but mainly it's just the great food. The menu is full of surprises: a rainbow of curries, fresh flavorful fish, traditional dishes and creative innovations. The fla-

vors are subtle and surprising, a dash of sweet or sour, an herb that is wonderful and totally unfamiliar, a little spice (or a lot, be careful of the heat level you ask for: "medium" at Chao Pra Ya is spicier than you'd find in another restaurant's hottest dish.) Every vegetable is cooked to tender and colorful perfection, nothing mushy, nothing raw. The portions aren't huge; this is not a place that confuses quantity with quality. Apparently, it's everything Eugene is looking for in a great Thai restaurant. — MT

Best Place to Take the Kids: BabyCakes

Eugene is a kid-friendly town: There are plenty of parks, good schools, kind people. Of course, if your kids are screaming their hearts out in a public place (say a restaurant for example) it's important to be in a *really* kid-friendly place. Many Eugene restaurants go out of their way to welcome families, but this year's winners are restaurants designed especially with children in mind (yes, even McDonald's I suppose).

BabyCakes, the first place winner, just opened this summer. The space in the restaurant, which used to be the very kid-friendly Bagel Bakery, is open and welcoming to little ones. The wall along one side is painted with chalkboard paint and decorated with an ever-changing blur of children's names, self-portraits and doodles. Baskets of toys, a wooden castle and doll house and a tall stack of books make it a little like visiting a friend's house, except you can order whatever you want to eat.

BabyCakes hosts story times, puppet

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Owner? ☐ Y ☐ N ☐

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE