

BEST SUSHI

1. **Mame** 541 Blair Blvd. 654-4378. wkly.ws/1lx.
2. **Sushi Domo** 1020 Green Acres Rd., 343-0935; 2835 Oak St., 484-7008. sushidomo Eugene.com.
3. **PURE** 296 E. 5th Ave. 654-0608. pureeugene.com.

Mame is the Whit's sushi joint, and head chef Taro Kobayashi and crew whip up delicious delicacies like bacon-wrapped scallops and hamachi sushi. Just make sure to call ahead, because Mame is tiny and the seats fill up fast!

BEST MEXICAN

1. **Chapala Mexican Restaurant** 136 Oakway Center, 434-6113; 68 W. 29th Ave., 683-5458. chapalamex.com.
2. **Tacovore** 530 Blair Blvd. 735-3518. tacovorepnw.com.
3. **Belly Taqueria** 454 Willamette St. 687-8226. eatbelly.com.

Three cheers for Chapala! A wellspring of amazing Mexican food for 20 years, Chapala is always trying something new. "We're adding a bit more spice to some recipes now," says Erin Pelayo, owner of Chapala. "We also recently came out with some low-calorie dishes that are going gangbuster, like our chicken lime cilantro salad." Pelayo says it's important to her that Chapala gives back to the community, so the restaurant donates to local school districts as well as supporting projects at the Maude Kerns Art Center. Looking forward, Pelayo says Chapala plans to offer delivery starting next year, and she's working to expand the restaurant's catering business. "As a restaurant, you have to keep changing," she says. "That's why we continue to grow and reach out to our customers."

BEST THAI

1. **Ta Ra Rin** 1200 Oak St. 343-1230. tararin.com.
2. **Sabai** 27 Oakway Center. 654-5424. sabaicafe.com.
3. **Sweet Basil** 941 Pearl St. 284-2944.

BEST KOREAN

1. **Noodle Bowl** 860 Pearl St. 686-1114. noodlebowlrestaurant.com.
2. **Chingu** 1466 W. 7th Ave. 687-6424.
3. **Cafe Seoul** 1930 Franklin Blvd. 687-2122.

Traditional Korean cuisine emphasizes harmony, a principle readily apparent at Noodle Bowl. Sweet and spicy, meat and vegetables, traditional and modern, all come together in a unique blend at this downtown restaurant. Owner Sue Lee and her son Jae Lee work together to serve these delicious and harmonious Korean meals. "I have really strong pride in traditional Korean cuisine," Jae Lee says. That pride is evident in the house-made kimchi, mild in flavor with a slightly spicy kick, or the bulgogi, served while the marinated beef is still sizzling. Bibimbap is their most popular dish, and each side dish has a unique but complementary taste. "People here really like the food," Jae Lee says. "When I see that, it really makes me happy."

BEST PIZZA

1. **Mezza Luna** 933 Pearl St. 684-8900; 2776 Shadow View Dr., 743-2999. mezzalunapizzeria.com.
2. **Sizzle Pie** 910 Willamette St. 683-7437. sizzlepie.com.
3. **Pegasus** 2864 Willamette St., 344-9931; 790 E. 14th Ave., 344-4471; 4 Oakway Center, 344-0844. pegasuspizza.net.



THE CREW AT MAME
PHOTO BY TODD COOPER



STAFF PICKS

BEST FREE ART EXPERIENCE

The Eugene-Springfield area is one of the best hubs in the PNW to see public art, specifically **murals**. We're no Berlin or NYC, but look around! The per capita density for art is high — chances are you're within a block or two of a great mural as you read this. Who hasn't gotten lost in thought staring at Jim Evangelista's black-and-white solitary street scene at 12th and High? Or catalogued activist artist Kari Johnson's numerous bright narrative tableaus around town? Or stared into Buster Keaton's eyes at Cottage Grove's mural of *The General*? If we weren't already, the unveiling of *The Simpsons* mural in Springfield officially put us on the map as a destination for street art. Kudos to **Lane Arts Council** for taking note and hosting mural bike tours in 2013, 2014 and, hopefully, 2015. If our walls could talk, they'd say "More art, please!"

BEST REHABBED RAPTOR WONDERLAND

eraptors.org

With golden eyes and stunning white feathers, Archimedes the snowy owl is something of a celebrity at the **Cascades Raptor Center**, where injured birds get TLC and another shot at the skies. Tucked away in South Eugene right off Fox Hollow Road, the raptor center operates with a host of volunteers, a few staff members and executive director Louise Shimmel. These hard-working bird lovers give visitors a chance to see stunning birds of prey, all rehabilitated raptors that cannot be released into the wild due to injury or over-familiarization with humans. The raptor center also rehabilitates and releases all birds that are ready to take to the wild. It's amazing to have a resource like this here in Eugene, one that both helps birds survive and helps people understand just how important and beautiful these raptors are.

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