

BEST MEXICAN FOOD

La Cabaña de Raya

ASTORIA

By KATHERINE LACAZE

Runner-up: El Catrin Mexican Restaurant, Warrenton

Honorable mention: The Stand, Seaside

The only thing that rivals the fresh, authentic Mexican food at La Cabaña de Raya, situated on U.S. Highway 101 Business, is the restaurant's breathtaking view of Youngs Bay.

The restaurant, established in 2011, has been awarded Best Mexican Restaurant the past two years and Best Latin Food in 2015.

Alex Raya, the son of owners Miguel and Leticia Raya, said the continued recognition and support from the community is rewarding for the family-owned restaurant.

"It makes the hard work of being here every day worth it," he added.

He and his wife, Trina Edwin, manage day-to-day operations at the restau-



Lynette Rae McAdams

Handmade empanadas and a burrito mojado with fresh enchilada sauce from La Cabaña de Raya in Astoria.

rant, where all the dishes are made to order and feature fresh ingredients, including homemade corn tortillas. With a limited menu, the staff can focus on quality over quantity, to ensure they are serving the most authentic, delicious cuisine on a daily basis, Raya said. **CW**

BEST BREAKFAST SPOT

Arnie's Cafe

WARRENTON

By EDWARD STRATTON

Runner-up: Street 14 Cafe, Astoria

Honorable mention: Columbian Cafe, Astoria

Arne's Cafe on Main Avenue has been a Warrenton breakfast standby since before it was Arnie's. The restaurant was constructed in the 1950s, added to and has gone through several iterations, including Carol's and the Donut Hole.

For the past 20 years, it has been Arnie's.

Owner Crystal Green took over in 2015. She had worked there in the 2000s for former owner Mary Garrett, jokingly telling her she should reach out if interested in selling.

"I'm very grateful, but it has nothing to do with me," Green said of



Edward Stratton

Crystal Green has owned Arnie's Cafe since 2015.

the award. "It has everything to do with my staff. Honestly, it's their award. It's fantastic. Their hard work is coming through, and they should be really proud of themselves."

Green remodeled the inside after taking over. She and her staff have also pared down the diner's menu to the most popular items people order.

brought in fresher ingredients, made things homemade versus boxed or bought that way. I think hopefully that made a difference."

Green recently announced the restaurant would be moving into the former Warrenton Auto Parts, a shuttered Napa Auto Parts franchise on Main Avenue a block from City Hall, in June.

"It will certainly be old-style cafe," she said in a November interview with The Daily Astorian. "I think that's part of the charm that people appreciate, being able to come back and sit in a place that maybe you think your grandparents sat, or (where) your parents came as kids. The history of this place — even though we're not in the same location, I still want to bring that feel." **CW**

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