

# NAPLES® ILLUSTRATED

## Dining Awards

BY CHELLE KOSTER WALTON  
READERS' CHOICE!

A HANDFUL OF THE TOP AWARD WINNERS REPRESENTING NAPLES' CULINARY SCENE.  
LEFT TO RIGHT: DAVID LANI, 7TH AVENUE SOCIAL; LYSIELLE CARIOT, BLEU PROVENCE; ANDREW WICKLANDER, THE CONTINENTAL; VINCENZO BETULIA, OSTERIA TULIA; JEFF MITCHELL, THE LOCAL.

IN NAPLES' EVER-EXPANDING DINING SCENE, DINERS DO NOT SETTLE FOR ORDINARY. HERE ARE THE RESULTS OF OUR SECOND ANNUAL READERS' SURVEY, FEATURING RESTAURANT CHAMPIONS IN 35 CATEGORIES.

WALTON DOUGLASS



### Best French BLEU PROVENCE

This restaurant evokes the sense of dining in a French provincial home with an extremely elegant cook. Jacques and Lysielle Cariot's Bleu Provence occupies a cottage trimmed in blue with seating indoors and out. Lunch and dinner menus reflect the owners' French heritage, but with stylish fine-tuning. It wins awards for both its food—a blend of rustic and sophisticated—and its stellar wine list. (239-261-8239, [bleu-provencenaples.com](http://bleu-provencenaples.com))

### Honorable mention: La Bazenne on Fifth

A café, restaurant, and social club all in one sidewalk spot, La Bazenne feels like Paris and tastes like a contemporary twist on traditional French cuisine. (239-682-8623, [labazenneonfifth.blogspot.com](http://labazenneonfifth.blogspot.com))

### Best Asian CHARLIE CHIANG'S

Soothing in the Asian tradition, but modern in the Naples way, Charlie Chiang's also mixes the old and new in Pacific cuisine. It presents a healthier version of the East, offering brown rice, sushi and sashimi, gluten-free options, and vegetarian dishes along with a medley of Asian favorites from kung pao shrimp to beef Szechwan and five-spice salt and pepper chicken. (239-593-6688, [charliechiangs.com](http://charliechiangs.com))

### Honorable mention: AZN Azian Cuizine

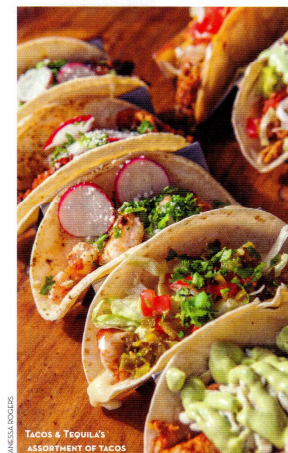
AZN brings the variety of pan-Asian dining to the table in a modern, dramatic indoor-outdoor setting. Sample Japan, Thailand, India, Vietnam, Korea, and all of China's different culinary traditions from one menu. (239-593-8818, [aznrestaurant.com](http://aznrestaurant.com))

### Best Mexican TACOS & TEQUILA CANTINA

It feels like Mexico at this casual cement-floored cantina with its doors flung open to the patio. Premium tequilas, creative margaritas, and traditional and original tacos give it its name, but it goes far beyond with *cerveza*, sangria, fajitas, enchiladas, huevos rancheros, and a full litany of American-infused south-of-the-border inventions. (239-732-8226, [tacosandtequilanaples.com](http://tacosandtequilanaples.com))

### Honorable mention: Flaco's Mexican Specialties & Steak House

A longtime fixture in North Naples, Flaco's



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## Best Wine List BLEU PROVENCE

In 2015, Bleu Provence, with its extensive list of global wines, became the seventy-fourth restaurant in the world to receive *Wine Spectator's* most prestigious Grand Award. "[The] wine list is one of the best in the world, and our inspection determined that Bleu Provence also excels in food, service, and ambience," the review said of the charming French café. (239-261-8239, [bleuprovincenaples.com](http://bleuprovincenaples.com))

### Honorable mention: The Local

The Local may only list about 20 red, white, and sparkling wines, but it is distinctive in its selection of familiar and little known vintages from California, Oregon, Chile, Slovenia, Spain, France, Germany, and Italy. (239-596-3276, [thelocalnaples.com](http://thelocalnaples.com))

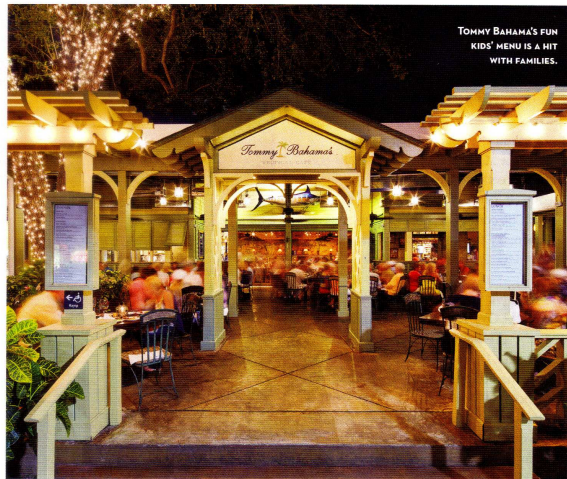
## { The Experience }

### Best Kid-Friendly Dining

**TOMMY BAHAMA RESTAURANT & BAR**  
With its open-air patio seating and engaging kids' menu, Tommy Bahama makes a hit with families. The menu lists eight entrées constructed especially for young appetites—from mac and cheese to steak medallions and grilled chicken salad, plus an ice cream sundae. Inside the special menu, kids find puzzles to unravel and sea creatures to color to keep them occupied until their meals arrive. (239-643-6889, [tommybahama.com/TBG/stores\\_restaurants/naples.jsp](http://tommybahama.com/TBG/stores_restaurants/naples.jsp))

### Honorable mention: La Bazenne on Fifth

The best part of La Bazenne's truly French kids' menu is the promise of ice cream or a



sugar crepe at the end. Its casual sidewalk seating also wins favor with families. (239-682-8623, [labazenneonfifth.blogspot.com](http://labazenneonfifth.blogspot.com))

### Best Dog-Friendly Dining RIDGWAY BAR & GRILL

Tony Ridgway has been serving fine cuisine at this location for decades. Indoors and in the Chef's Garden, a formal menu reigns, but on the front porch and Courtyard, the dining experience is more casual, including a warm welcome to pets. Designed for quick bites, drinks, and light fare, the Courtyard's menu includes flatbreads and tapas. (239-262-5500, [ridgwaybarandgrill.com](http://ridgwaybarandgrill.com))

### Honorable mention: M Waterfront Grille

On M Waterfront Grille's veranda, guests can enjoy the companionship of their pets along with salty breezes and, on select nights, live music. (239-263-4421, [mwaterfrontgrille.com](http://mwaterfrontgrille.com))

### Best Sports Bar BOKAMPERS SPORTS BAR & GRILL

Sports televisions surround the bar, making sure all guests catch their favorite team in action while sipping on any of 20 beers on tap or bottled craft beers from Florida and beyond. The official sports bar for the Miami Dolphins, Bokampers serves a full, family-friendly menu of favorite bar snacks, wings, burgers, and ribs. (239-431-7611, [bokampers.com](http://bokampers.com))

### Best Place to See and Be Seen 7TH AVENUE SOCIAL

It is stunningly clear, from all the awards that 7th Avenue Social garnered in this year's poll, that it is the place to make the scene in Naples—whether you are looking for well-crafted food and drinks or hoping to meet people you know or will soon. Its live entertainment and late-night hours bring added glamour and allure to its bar, dining room, and courtyard seating. (239-231-4553, [7thavenuesocial.com](http://7thavenuesocial.com))

### Honorable mention: Campiello Ristorante & Bar

Lunch or dinner in the courtyard ensures that you are mingling with Naples' most discriminating and vivacious crowd—and that you are dining on top-notch Italian cuisine. (239-435-1166, [campiello.damico.com](http://campiello.damico.com))

### Best Late-Night Dining 7TH AVENUE SOCIAL

Making a welcome splash on the Naples dining landscape, 7th Avenue Social gives night owls a place to land for after-hours drinking, dining, dancing, and—as the name suggests—socializing. Its comfy indoor space, with its mishmash of furnishings, and its outdoor patio stay open until 2 a.m. nightly with a late-night menu of snacks and small plates. (239-231-4553, [7thavenuesocial.com](http://7thavenuesocial.com))

### Honorable mention: Bar Tulia

Naples' first Italian gastropub opened in 2015 to the joy of late-nighters, who can order its brand of small plates *cucina rustica* style until past midnight Monday through Saturday. (239-228-7606, [tulianaples.com/bar\\_tulia](http://tulianaples.com/bar_tulia))

### Best for Romance BLEU PROVENCE

It feels like you have been whisked away to some charming corner of provincial France when you dine at Bleu Provence. The owners greet you with French accents; the fine wine flows; and the food tastes like a meal at the finest French *maison*. It doesn't get much more romantic than spending a blissful evening in the embrace of all things intimate and *francais*. (239-261-8239, [bleuprovincenaples.com](http://bleuprovincenaples.com))

### Honorable mention: Baleen Restaurant

Torch-lit alfresco dining ignites passion on the beach at Baleen. After dinner, enjoy cocktails around the fire pit to further fan the flame. (239-598-5707, [laplayaresort.com/naples-baleen-restaurant.aspx](http://laplayaresort.com/naples-baleen-restaurant.aspx))



7TH AVENUE SOCIAL OFFERS LIVE MUSIC THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY NIGHTS