KINGS INN/WAFFLE SPOT/AMIGO SPOT

THE NEUMAN TEAM

PATHVIEW WEALTH ADVISORS

JAX CUTS

San Diego Uptown News // SAN DIEGO DOWNTOWN NEWS

BEST OF 2024 UPTOWN & DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO

LAZY ACRES

KINGS INN/THE WAFFLE SPOT

LITTLE ITALY MERCATO

WELCOME THIS YEAR'S WINNERS!

San Diego's urban core in the Downtown and Uptown communities is full of vibrant neighborhoods, historic districts and an ever-evolving landscape. From residents to houses, our neighborhoods comprise a balanced mix of young and old, established and new. Why would the dining and entertainment establishments we frequent be any different?

Each year, we ask readers to weigh in on what businesses add to the fabric of these communities in the annual Best of Downtown and Best of Uptown awards. Amid rising printing costs, these awards have been combined into one special edition highlighting businesses in central San Diego.

Readers of Downtown and Uptown News voted for dozens of local establishments in dining categories like best happy hour, Irish pub, burrito, pizza and donut shop as well as retail categories like antique store and spa.

San Diego Uptown News covers nearly a dozen neighborhoods, including Mission Hills, Bankers Hill, Hillcrest, University Heights, Normal Heights, North Park, South Park, Golden Hill, Kensington and Talmadge, as well as nearby regions of City Heights, Old Town and more. Downtown News covers another set of unique neighborhoods from the reaches of the ever-expanding East Village, to the historicGaslamp Quarter, through the twinkling lights of the Core/Columbia and Financial districts, to the shores of the Marina District and the Embarcadero, and the piazzas of Little Italy.

Our readers have spoken about their favorite establishments in each of these neighborhoods. The range of winners reflects our diverse city, offering a glimpse of what it's like to live in central San Diego. As you look through these pages, we hope you find familiar names along with new faces. Swing by these spots for a taste of life and to support local businesses and service providers.

To each of our 2024 Best of Downtown and Uptown winners, we extend our hearty congratulations on your recognition. We hope our loyal readers — and your loyal customers, both new and old — continue to show you patronage for years to come.

—The staff at San Diego Community News Group (sdnews.com)

ROYAL INDIA

LOUISIANA PURCHASE

DAVE'S FLOWER BOX

URBAN OPTIKS

AIDS HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

Best Dining

Best Ahi Poke

Blue Poke

Blue Poke has quickly become a standout destination for ahi poke enthusiasts, earning a reputation for quality, exceptional service, and a welcoming ambiance. Their unwavering commitment to responsibly sourced, high-quality ingredients sets them apart. Partnering with farmers, fishermen, and suppliers who share their dedication to sustainability, Blue Poke ensures every dish is as fresh and flavorful as it is ethical.

2707 Boston Ave, San Diego
bluepoke.com | (619) 434-4673

Best American

Hob Nob Hill

For more than 75 years, Hob Nob Hill has been doing things their way. The bakery starts early every daily. The cooks cure the corned beef. Dressings, sauces, and squeezed orange juice are made fresh daily. Just about everything is done on the premises. They serve breakfast all day with lunch and dinner service. Hob Nob Hill is beloved by the community, the region and has received national attention on Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives.

2271 1st Ave, San Diego
hobnobhill.com | (619) 239-8176

Best Bakery

Blackmarket Bakery

A trendy bakery serving mouthwatering baked goods, fresh sandwiches, coffee drinks and more goodies in a casual, roomy digs located along 30th.

4686 30th St, San Diego |
(619) 641-0081
blackmarketbakery.com

Best Bar

Barley and Sword Brewing Company

A diverse selection of core styles will always be available on tap. Barley and Sword Brewing Company is all about providing something that everyone will enjoy. Their beers are designed with tradition in mind, honoring the style and the history of each brew. Why not make beer that is enjoyable to drink while sharing the experience with friends?

3052 El Cajon Blvd Ste 102, San Diego
(619) 817-8257
barleyandsword.com

Best Barbecue

Grand Ole BBQ y Asado

Enjoy authentic, smoked-to-perfection BBQ in a casual, welcoming setting. Known for its tender brisket, juicy ribs, and savory sausage, this spot offers flavors straight from Texas with an Argentine twist. Ideal for BBQ lovers, their menu features traditional sides like mac & cheese and coleslaw, perfectly complementing the smokey goodness. Bring a big appetite!

3302 32nd St, San Diego
(619) 213-3765
grandolebbq.com

Best Beer Selection

Belching Beaver North Park

The Belching Beaver delivers a variety of styles from their Vista and Oceanside production facilities to North Park weekly straight from the fermentation tanks. They use hard-to-find hops and bagged grain from all over the world to ensure quality and freshness. There are about 300 places in San Diego that carry their beer on draft and in the package.

4223 30th St, San Diego
(619) 282-1062
belchingbeaver.com

Best Brewery

Barley and Sword Brewing Company

(See listing under Best Bar)

Best Breakfast (tie)

The Waffle Spot at Kings Inn

The Waffle Spot serves breakfast, brunch, and lunch and has been a San Diego favorite in Mission Valley for over 25 years. This family-friendly restaurant is great for kids features fresh waffles 7-days a week, along with classic breakfast and lunch menu items. Free Parking and Free Wi-Fi are available for all patrons. Groups are welcome, plus catering and take-out services available.

1333 Hotel Cir S, San Diego
kingsinnsandiego.com
(619) 297-2231

Richard Walker's Pancake House

Since 1948, the Walker family name has become synonymous with quality family dining. The family has since perfected its reputation for gourmet pancakes and breakfasts. Richard Sr. relocated to San Diego and opened a location in downtown San Diego. In 2014, Richard Walker Jr. joined the family business and opened the Richard Walker's Pancake House in La Jolla. In 2019-20, Richard Jr. opened two more Richard Walker's Pancake House in Carlsbad and Del Mar. RWPH has been, and always will be a 100% family owned, family funded, and family operated.

520 Front St, San Diego
richardwalkers.com
(323) 726-2253

Best Brunch (tie)

Werewolf American Pub

Welcome to Werewolf, the beast of Downtown! They offer the highest rated, most fun brunch in San Diego open until 3 p.m. daily. Then, switch gears and dig in to a night of elevated pub food and howling to the hits with Art Ruiz, San Diego's best Karaoke host. Whether you're brunching like a civilized human, or raging like an animal, their goal is to make sure you leave happy. Visit the highest rated pub in the Gaslamp!

627 Fourth Ave, San Diego
619-234-0094
banzai.revelup.com

Farmer's Bottega

Farmer's Bottega is a befarm-to-table breakfast spot in San Diego, offering a menu filled with fresh, locally sourced ingredients. Known for its rustic charm and creative dishes like avocado toast, veggie scrambles, and hearty omelets, Farmer's Bottega brings a delicious, wholesome start to the day. With options for every taste, it's a favorite for breakfast lovers.

860 W Washington St,
San Diego
(619) 458-9929 |
farmersbottega.com

Dining Category

Ahi Poke
American
Bakery
Bar
BBQ
Beer Selection
Breakfast
Brewery
Brunch
Burrito
Café
Casino
Cocktail
Coffee Shop
Chinese
Deli
Desserts
Dinner
Donuts
Farmer's Market
Fine Dining
Greek
Indian
Irish Pub
Italian
Juice Bar
Live Music
Lunch
Mexican
New restaurant
Outdoor Dining
Pet Friendly Restaurant
Pizza
Seafood
Sports Bar
Sushi
Thai
Vegetarian /Vegan
Wings
Wine Selection

Gold Winners

Blue Poke
Hob Nob Hill
Black Market Bakery
Barley and Sword Brewing Company
Grand Ole BBQ y Asado
Belching Beaver North Park
The Waffle Spot / Richard Walkers's
Barley and Sword Brewing Company
Werewolf American Pub / Farmer's Bottega
Blind Burrow
Divo Diva Café
Sycuan Casino Resort / Jamul Casino
Louisiana Purchase/Young Blood
Kona Coffee
New Maxim's Palace
The Deli Llama/The Wise Ox
Parfait Paris
Werewolf American Pub
Donut Bar
Hillcrest Farmers Market
Fisher's San Diego
Nick The Greek
Royal India
The Field Irish Pub
Parma Cucina Italiana
Vitality Tap
San Diego Symphony
Hob Nob Hill
The Amigo Spot
El Sueno
The Prado
Farmer's Bottega/Harley Grey Kitchen
Filippi's Pizza Grotto
Lousiiana Purchase
Redwing Bar & Grill
Sushi Deli 1 and Kimme Omakase
Taste of Thai
Jyoti-Bihanga Vegetarian Restaurant
The Smoking Gun
Vin De Syrah

Silver Winners

Hi Poke East Village
Urban Mo's
Babycakes
The Smoking Gun/ Swan Bar
Kansas City BBQ
Barley and Sword Brewing Company
Hob Nob Hill
Mission Brewery/Pure Project NP
Madi
El Puerto Seafood by the Park
Antique Row Café
Barona Resort and Casino
The Whiskey House
Spill the Beans Coffee and Bagels
Fortunate Son
Grapes & Hops Deli
Extraordinary Desserts
Blind Burro
Devil's Dozen Donut Shop
Little Italy Mercato
Mr. A's
Olympic Café
Brojan Ghira
The Ould Sod
Barbusa
Senor Mangos
Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay
El Puerto Seafood by the Park
Puesto
The Melt
Parkhouse Eatery
Encantro North Park
Fiori"s Pizza.
Fisher's San Diego
Urban Mo's
Cloak and Petal
Thai Joint
Kindred Vegetarian Restaurant
Taste & Thirst
Wet Stone Wine Bar

Retail Category

Accountant
Antiques
Attorney
Auto Repair Shop
Bank
Bike Shop
Car Wash
Chiropractor
Cosmetic Services
Credit Union
Day Spa
Dentist
Dispensary
Financial Planner
Florist
Garden Supply
Gym
Hair Salon
Health Food Store
Hospital
Hotel
Law Firm
Massage
Optometrist
Pet Boarding / Day Care
Pet Groomer
Pet Sitter
Pharmacy
Pilates
Real Estate Agent
Real Estate Office
Retirement Living
Tattoo/Piercing Studio
Veterinarian
Waxing /Threading Salon
Yoga Studio

Retail Gold Winners

Pathview Wealth Advisors
Consignment Classics
Law Offices of Susan L.. Hartman
Mission Hills Automotive
U. S. Bank
Mission Hills Bike Shop
Uptown Car Wash
Inner Balance Institute
Ageless & Beautiful Medical Spa
San Diego County Credit Union
The Knot Stop
SD Downtown Modern Dentistry
Cannabis 21+
Stockton Financial
Dave's Flower Box
Mission Hills Nursery
Barry's San Diego
Jax Cuts
Lazy Acres/SD Discount Nutrition
Scripps Mercy Hospital - UCSD
Kings Inn
Law Brothers
The Knot Stop
Urban Optiks Optometry
Camp Run-a-Mutt
South Bark Dog Wash
Maid For Your Pet
AHF Pharmacy
Club Pilates North Park
Gregg Neuman
The Neuman Team
St. Paul's Senior Services
Broken Heart Tattoo
Amici Pet Hospital/Bodhi Animal Hospital
Was Haus and Skin
Pilgrimage of the Heart

Retail Silver Winners

Abbas, Dutson & Cundari CPA's
Zac's Attic
Law Office of Rachel Young
Smitty's Servoce
Chase Bank
San Diego Bike Shop
North Park Car Wash
Upgrade Body Conditioning
Evolve Aesthetic Surgery
Mission Federal Credit Union
Bodhi Massage & Wellness Center
Paul Martin DDS
March and Ash
Pathview Wealth Advisors
Rainbow Flowers
Walter Anderson Nursery
CrossFit Hillcrest
Hairspray
Whole Foods Market

Lafayette Hotal
R.J.S. Law
Bodhi Massage & Wellness Center
The UnOptical
Furry Friends Dog and Cat Groo
Paw Commons Pet Resort
Bruce's Home Pet Care
Allen Pharmacy
Beyond Pilates Studios
Richard Woods
Woods Real Estate Services
Merrill Gardens at Bankers Hill
BUJU Tattoo
Kensington Veterinary Hospital
Beauty by Dolly
Yoga Box