

2017

Best
of
MISSISSIPPI

**EXPLORE OUR
READERS' PICKS FOR
THE BEST IN THE
MAGNOLIA STATE.**

DINING OUT

BEST SANDWICH

United Deli & Grocery,
John's Special
Columbus
662.328.5105

Owner John Musa, or "Mr. John" as the locals call him, is always a friendly face at United Deli & Grocery, and his passion for his restaurant carries over into his special sandwich. Mr. John packs this sandwich full of roast beef, ham, and turkey between a French roll before smothering with cheddar and Swiss cheese and topping with mayonnaise, mustard, lettuce, tomato, onions, and pickles. Try John's Special and come back again for good conversation and an even better sandwich.



Barrelhouse, Cuban—Jackson
Georgia Blue, Praline Bacon and Fried Green
Tomato BLT—Multiple Locations
Oby's, Shrimp Po'Boy—Starkville and Oxford
Proffitt's Porch, The Cam—Columbus

BEST FRIED CHICKEN

Two Sister's Kitchen
Jackson
601.353.1180

The one thing most people think of when they hear "Two Sister's Kitchen" is fried chicken. Unlike other lunch buffets, Two Sister's keeps the fried chicken on the menu Sunday through Friday, providing ample opportunities to taste the award-winning dish. Couple the chicken with delicious homestyle sides such as cabbage, fried okra, or mac and cheese for a winning meal.



Café on Main, Columbus
Connie's Fried Chicken, Tupelo
Mama Hamil's, Madison
Restaurant Tyler, Starkville

BEST APPETIZER

Harvey's, Broccoli Bites
Tupelo, Starkville, and Columbus
eatwithharveys.com

Looking for a delicious start to a meal? Don't miss Harvey's Broccoli Bites. Harvey's chefs surround this superfood with bacon, cheese, onions, and jalapeños before frying them until they are golden brown. Make the Broccoli Bites experience even better by dipping them in complimentary honey mustard. Taste of Harvey's Broccoli Bites sets the standard for the main course.



Amerigo, Cheese Fritters—Ridgeland and
Flowood
Babalú, Guacamole—Jackson
Barrelhouse, Tuna Poke Nachos—Jackson
Central Station Grill, Cheese Sticks—Starkville

BEST DESSERT

Crave, Skillet Cookie
Tupelo
662.260.5024 | cravetupelo.com

What could be better than a warm chocolate chip cookie served in a piping hot skillet? The answer: one served with two scoops of delicious vanilla ice cream with chocolate fudge on top. Crave's skillet cookie is a must-have amongst a menu of fantastic desserts and coffee. Just like the city of Tupelo, Crave's skillet cookie warms the soul.



Amerigo, Tiramisu—Ridgeland and Flowood
Blue Canoe, Donut Bread Pudding—Tupelo
Café on Main, Caramel Cake—Columbus
Stromboli's, Cookie Dough Bites—Starkville

BEST NEW RESTAURANT

Barrelhouse
Jackson

769.216.3167 | barrelhousems.com

Opening this past February, this Southern gastropub has already become a staple in Jackson's Fondren District. Barrelhouse has everything from drinks to dinner. Start a meal off right with Tuna Poke Nachos or a State Street Sausage Plate, and follow up with the Country Cuban sandwich or the Barrelhouse Burger. For a great pub atmosphere in the heart of Jackson, the new Barrelhouse restaurant is a must-visit.



Biscuit's Steakhouse, Ripley
Forklift, Tupelo
No Way Jose, Starkville
Saint Leo, Oxford

BEST SWEET TEA

Broma's Deli
Brookhaven and McComb
bromasdeli.com

Ask any Brookhaven local where to find the best sweet tea, and Broma's Deli will be at the top of the list. Pair the sweet tea with any number of Broma's famous wraps and sandwiches, including the Ole Brook Chicken Sandwich or the Santa Fe Wrap. Don't forget to ask for some Broma's Chips on the side. The food at Broma's Deli is superb, and the menu complements the sweet tea.



Café on Main, Columbus
The Little Dooney, Starkville
Newk's Eatery, Multiple Locations
Oby's, Starkville and Oxford

BEST FINE DINING

Walker's Drive-In
Jackson, MS
601.982.2633 | walkersdrivein.com

For visitors to the Jackson area, Walker's Drive-In may sound like a casual drive-through; Walker's is anything but. Chef Derek Emerson has transformed Walker's Drive-In into the epitome of a fine-dining experience. Located in the heart of Jackson's Fondren District, guests enjoy upscale dishes such as Wood Grilled Wagyu Hanger Steak and Pan Seared American Red Snapper while relaxing in a welcoming, warm environment. Chef Derek sources only the best foods from the region, and this appreciation for the South comes through in every bite. For the best fine dining experience in the state, go to the restaurant with the most casual name: Walker's Drive-In.



Char, Jackson
Harvey's, Starkville and Columbus

Shapley's Restaurant, Ridgeland
Table 100, Flowood

BEST TAMALES

Doe's Eat Place

Greenville, Biloxi, and Ridgeland
doseatplace.com

The hot tamales at Doe's Eat Place are as rich in history as they are in flavor. Opened in 1941 by Dominick "Doe" and Mamie Signa, Doe's Eat Place began selling tamales using a partial recipe that was given to Mamie. The recipe that Mamie improved is the same recipe Doe's Eat Place uses today, and it still does not disappoint. These all-beef tamales are a staple of the Mississippi Delta, and the simplicity of a 76-year-old recipe is perfected by a flavor that keeps customers coming back for more.



Babalu, Jackson
Fat Mama's Tamales, Natchez
Mi Toro, Columbus, Fulton, and Booneville
Tony's Tamales, Ridgeland

BEST PIZZA

Lost Pizza

Multiple Locations
lostpizza.com

Lost Pizza invites guests in with its cool, rock music-inspired atmosphere, but it keeps them coming back with the pizza. Meat-lovers will definitely want to try The Kujo and The Otis to satisfy their cravings. For plant-loving patrons, The Happy Hippie helps them become one with nature. And for those who want something between all-meat and all-natural, Lost Pizza has a pizza for them too. Stop by this family-friendly restaurant and see what makes Lost Pizza the pizza king of Mississippi.



Pizza Shack, Jackson, Byram, and Madison
Sal & Mookie's, Jackson and Biloxi
Soulshine Pizza Factory, Ridgeland, Flowood, and Oxford
Stromboli's, Starkville

BEST HAMBURGER

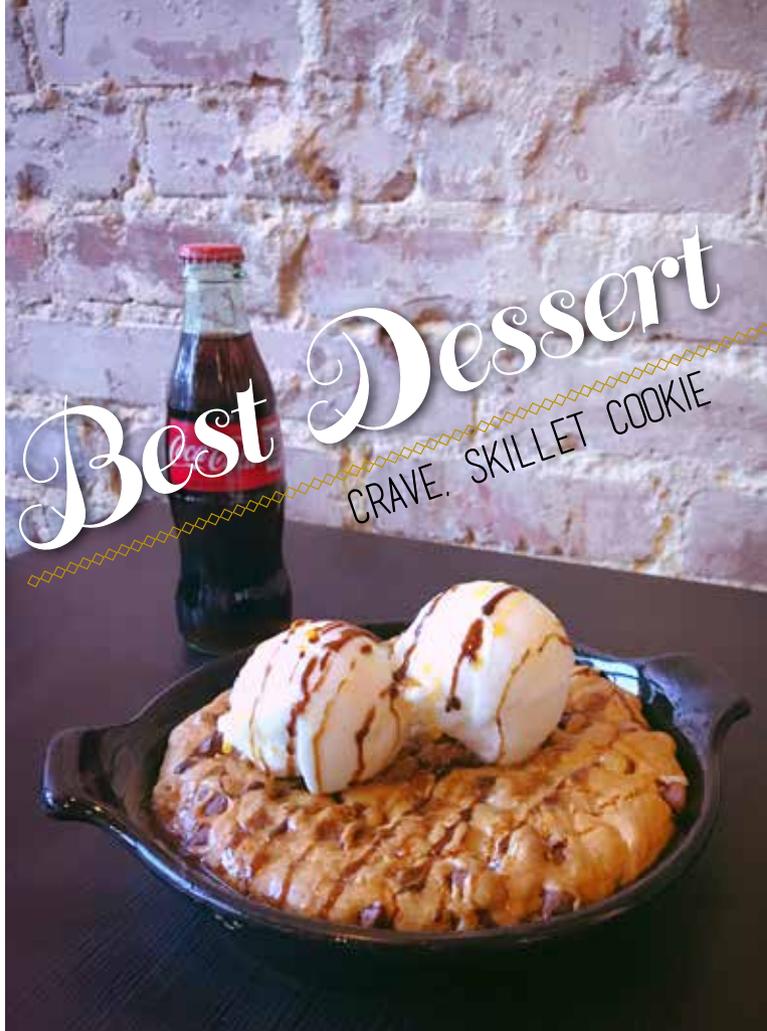
Mugshots Grill & Bar

Multiple Locations
mugshotsgrillandbar.com

Mugshots Grill & Bar markets itself as having "the sweetest buns in the South," and it is certainly true. Visit any of its 11 locations, and try the always-popular McDonald burger—a ½-pound burger topped with bacon, cheddar, ranch, barbecue sauce, lettuce, tomato, and onion. For something a little more classic, try the Patty Melt, another ½-pound burger served between Texas toast, covered with American and pepper jack cheese, and topped with sautéed onions and Mugshots' famous comeback sauce. Come to Mugshots for the burgers, but definitely stay for its relaxed atmosphere.



Babalu, Jackson
Bulldog Burger Company, Starkville
Harvey's, Tupelo, Starkville, and Columbus
Neon Pig Café, Tupelo



Best Dessert
CRAVE. SKILLET COOKIE



Best Pizza
LOST PIZZA



BEST CORNBREAD

Ajax Diner

Oxford

662.232.8880 | ajaxdiner.net

This is not the first time Ajax Diner has been given the title of "Best Cornbread" and for good reason. The plate lunches are fantastic alone with choices such as Grilled BBQ Pork Chops and Country Fried Steak, but the complimentary jalapeño cornbread makes the meal twice as delicious. This restaurant is full of soul from the old-school rock décor to the Southern food inspired by all parts of the Deep South. Ajax Diner brings out guests' Deep South roots with delicious plate lunches, up-scale Southern dinners, and, most importantly, delicious cornbread!



Café on Main, Columbus
Cock of the Walk, Ridgeland and Pochontas
Restaurant Tyler, Starkville
The Veranda, Starkville

BEST BREAKFAST

Starkville Café

Starkville

662.323.1665

From the fourth-generation Mississippian to the one with newly planted roots, Starkville Café invites everyone with its diner-inspired atmosphere and its delicious breakfasts. Located in the heart of Starkville's historic Main Street, Starkville Café has been a staple in northeast Mississippi for decades. Its specialties such as the Western Omelet and Hungry Man Breakfast bring diners to its doors every morning. Don't forget to request the special duck butter to try on any one of the delicious breakfast plates.



Big Bad Breakfast, Oxford
Broad Street Café, Jackson
Coffee House On 5th, Columbus
Primos Café, Ridgeland and Flowood

BEST BARBECUE

The Little Dooley

Starkville

662.323.6094 | littledooley.com

The Little Dooley is located on Fellowship Street, and fellowship is exactly the type of atmosphere owners Barry and Margaret Ann Wood create. The food has kept Starkville locals and barbecue-loving visitors, including country music stars Garth Brooks and Vince Gill, coming since 1985. Enjoy a pulled pork or pulled chicken plate with a side of baked beans, or try a beef brisket sandwich with fried green tomatoes. Want to take every drop of The Little Dooley's sauce home? The famous barbecue sauces are for sale at the restaurant and online.



Bishop's BBQ Grill, Multiple Locations
Hank's #1 BBQ, Columbus
Hickory Pit, Jackson
Pig and Pint, Jackson



DINING OUT

BEST ITALIAN

Amerigo

Jackson and Flowood
amerigo.net

Amerigo's Italian recipes transport any diner to the canals of Venice, the hills of Tuscany, and the waters of the Amalfi Coast. Stop by for lunch to enjoy one of the daily specials such as Thursday's Chicken Florentine or Friday's Pasta Bolognese. For dinner, enjoy an upscale atmosphere and dishes like Shrimp Primavera or a Tuscan Rib-eye. Want to enjoy a nice dinner while the kids are in tow? Amerigo has a special menu just for them.



BRAVO!, Jackson
Cerami's, Flowood
Fratesi's, Ridgeland
Stromboli's, Starkville

BEST OTHER ETHNIC FOOD

Thai Siam

Starkville
662.320.7117

From its casual Asian-dining atmosphere to its amazing sushi and Thai recipes, Thai Siam is a staple of Mississippi Asian cuisine. The always-friendly wait staff will recommend any number of delicious sushi rolls and Thai dishes. Whether it is a unique sushi dish like the popular Spider Roll, Thai shrimp fried rice, or more traditional Thai meals like Pad Thai and Red Curry, Thai Siam has everything needed to enjoy Asian-inspired food.



Aladdin Mediterranean Grill, Jackson
Jutamas Thai Restaurant, Hattiesburg
Keifer's, Jackson
Krilakis, Ridgeland

BEST CHINESE FOOD

Peking

Columbus
662.328.9956

Peking, a casual Asian restaurant minutes away from downtown Columbus, provides great Chinese food at affordable prices. Dine in or take out any number of Peking's delicious meals such as the Chicken Lo Mein, Sweet and Sour Pork, or Eight Happiness Shrimp. Don't forget to order a side of egg drop soup or fresh egg rolls to serve as the perfect partner to the main dish. Peking has everything to enjoy delicious Chinese food.



Ding How Asian Bistro, Ridgeland
Ichiban, Flowood and Pearl
Mai Little China, Greenwood
Mr. Chen's, Jackson

BEST MEXICAN

Mi Toro

Columbus, Fulton, and Booneville
mitororestaurant.com

For authentic Mexican cuisine, and a lot of it, Mi Toro is the restaurant patrons rave about. The name means "My Bull," and the intense flavors are certain to take diners on a wild ride. Enjoy a taco salad or one of Mi Toro's five specials that will cater to anyone who loves food from south of the border. For dinner, order any combination of shrimp, beef, or chicken fajitas.



Cazadores, Ridgeland
La Terraza, Starkville
The Mexican Kitchen, Hattiesburg
Sombra Mexican Kitchen, Ridgeland and
Flowood

BEST SEAFOOD

Half Shell Oyster House

Multiple Locations
halfshelloysterhouse.com

Want to escape to New Orleans for the evening without ever stepping foot in the French Quarter? Look no further than one of Half Shell Oyster House's multiple locations across Mississippi. Each restaurant boasts New Orleans flair while serving a vast seafood selection that comes directly from the Gulf Coast. Taste the best oysters, shrimp, and seafood pasta before capping off the experience with Cinnamon Roll Bread Pudding.



Jackson Square Grill, Columbus
Sal and Phil's, Ridgeland
Saltine, Jackson
Seafood R'evolution, Ridgeland

BEST CATFISH

Cock of the Walk

Ridgeland and Pochahontas
cockofthewalkrestaurant.com

The owners of Cock of the Walk boast that the name means they are the "Best of the Best," and there is no doubt when it comes to the fried catfish. The costumed staff and rustic décor transport diners back to Natchez and the Mississippi riverboats all while they enjoy the famed catfish. The Ridgeland location is next to the Ross Barnett Reservoir, so guests get a view of the water while sipping sweet tea from a tin cup and enjoying the best fried catfish around on a tin plate.



Café on Main, Columbus
Jerry's, Florence
Penn's, Multiple Locations
Taylor Grocery, Taylor

BEST SUSHI

Umi

Starkville and Columbus
weareumi.com

Umi in Starkville and Columbus presents a nice, upscale dining experience and sushi at an affordable price. Umi offers many traditional sushi rolls and sashimi that the locals crave such as the California roll, the Spicy Salmon roll, and the Maguro sashimi. Additionally, Umi boasts some unique sushi creations that pay homage to the state such as the Mississippi Roll and the Golden Triangle Roll. Whether it's traditional sushi or something different, Umi is the sushi restaurant that has it all.



Edo Japanese Restaurant, Jackson
Ichiban, Flowood and Pearl
Little Tokyo & Sakura Bana, Ridgeland
Nagoya, Madison and Jackson

BEST BLUE PLATE

The Veranda

Starkville
662.323.1231 | verandastarkville.com

Upscale dining and ingredients meet Mississippi hospitality at The Veranda in Starkville. For a low price, order one of The Veranda's delicious meat choices, such as the chicken and sausage gumbo or the Friday-favorite fried catfish and hushpuppies, and three tasty vegetable sides. Finish the meal with Chef Jay Yates' famous peach or blackberry cobbler, and top it with ice cream for an extra treat. The Veranda's blue plate specials always invite diners back for more.



Ajax Diner, Oxford
Georgia Blue, Multiple Locations
Primos Café, Ridgeland and Flowood
Restaurant Tyler, Starkville

BEST SOUTHERN BUFFET

Mama Hamil's

Madison
601.856.4407 | hamils.com

If Mama Hamil's cannot draw in guests with the big red tractor proudly positioned in front of the restaurant, then they will surely be brought in by the smell of homestyle Southern dishes from the expansive buffet. From fried chicken and meatloaf to barbecue beans and yeast rolls, Mama Hamil's buffet has customers refilling their plates. Smother the already-delicious ribs with BBQ Bob's Original Sauce for an extra kick. No matter the combination of food, Mama Hamil's is sure to satisfy.



Berry's Seafood, Florence and Magee
Movie Star Restaurant, Hattiesburg
Pap's Place, Ackerman
Two Sister's Kitchen, Jackson

BEST DELI

Newk's Eatery

Multiple Locations
newks.com

The open-kitchen concept at Newk's invites guests to a unique dining experience with menu items that are packed with flavor. Newk's sandwiches such as the Newk's Q and The Royal have made Newk's a local deli favorite for the past 13 years. Newk's is more than just a sandwich shop; try the delicious deli meats and seafood in numerous pizzas and salads.



Broad Street Café, Jackson
Cater's Market, Meridian
Frisco Deli, Pearl
United Deli, Columbus

BEST OUTDOOR DINING

Proffitt's Porch

Columbus
662.327.4485

Enjoy classic New Orleans and Southern cuisine along with a beautiful view of Officers Lake in Columbus. Feast on popular sandwiches such as The Cam and the Seafood on French, or try the seafood gumbo that is bursting with whitefish, shrimp, and crabmeat. To escape the bustle of normal life, take a trip to Proffitt's Porch on the back roads of Columbus where the view of the lake and beautiful sunsets are well worth the winding drive.



Babalu, Jackson
Bin 612, Starkville
Keifer's, Jackson
Walker's Drive-In, Jackson

BEST SWEET SHOP/BAKERY

Campbell's Bakery

Jackson and Madison
campbellsbakery.ms

Delicious made-from-scratch cakes, pies, brownies, and cookies using heirloom family recipes—what more could a bakery offer? Order Campbell's famous iced teacakes, cupcakes, and petit fours by singles or by the dozen, and be guaranteed sweet-tooth satisfaction. Campbell's Bakery's staff will even create custom cakes.



The Biscuit Shop, Starkville
Café on Main, Columbus
La Brioche, Jackson
Sweet Somethings, Laurel

BEST STEAK

Shapley's Restaurant

Ridgeland
601.957.3753 | shapleysrestaurant.com

Shapley's Restaurant has made a name for itself as a steak staple in the Jackson metro area and throughout the entire state. Shapley's is the perfect combination of a steakhouse and a fine-dining restaurant. From the filet mignon to the rib-eye to the New York strip, Shapley's steak is consistently ranked as one of the best in Mississippi.



Anthony's Good Food Market, West Point
Huck's Place, Columbus
Old Hickory Steak House, Columbus
Tico's Steak House, Ridgeland

BEST COFFEE SHOP

Strange Brew Coffeehouse

Starkville

662.765.3844 | strangebrewcoffeehouse.myshopify.com

Frank, Strange Brew's monster mascot, invites customers to this cool, enticing coffeehouse that is the perfect place to study or catch up with old friends while enjoying unique coffee creations. Whether they are served frozen, cold, or piping hot, Strange Brew's concoctions, such as the popular Albino Squirrel, provide the caffeinated kick needed to make it through the day. Enjoy the best coffee in the state, and don't be afraid of trying something a little strange.



Beans and Cream, Columbus
Crave, Tupelo
Cups, Multiple Locations
M7 Coffee House, Ridgeland

BEST KID - FRIENDLY RESTAURANT

Sal and Mookie's

Jackson and Biloxi

salandmookies.com

Pizza and ice cream are the perfect combination for a family night out that will satisfy little appetites and curiosities. Kids can watch Sal and Mookie's chefs throw pizza dough into the air as they prepare every pie. Let them eat from Mom and Dad's authentic New York-style pizza, like the Park Avenue or Freedom Tower pizzas, or order off of the kids' menu. Most importantly, kids will not want to miss the ice-cream parlor inside the restaurant where they can taste free samples and watch the server create their ice cream fantasies right before their eyes.



Café on Main, Columbus
Ed's Burger Joint, Hattiesburg
Lost Pizza, Multiple Locations
Mi Toro, Columbus, Fulton, and Booneville

BEST BRUNCH

Restaurant Tyler

Starkville

662.324.1014 | eatlocalstarkville.com/wp/restaurant-tyler

For those who want to sleep in and have waffles at noon, Restaurant Tyler's brunch menu is perfect to satisfy cravings. At Restaurant Tyler, a fine-dining experience is coupled with a casual brunch atmosphere and plenty of good food to go around. Ask for Chef Ty's famous Chicken and Waffles, the Crawditty Omelet, or one of the delicious blue plates. Chef Ty's natural ingredients enhance the complexity of his Southern flavors, and the brunch options guarantee Restaurant Tyler will be a regular Sunday stop.



Central Station Grill, Starkville
Char, Jackson
Table 100, Flowood
The Veranda, Starkville

