

A GUIDE TO THE BEST RESTAURANTS & ENTERTAINMENT

OKLAHOMA

JULY 2009

THE
BEST

**+ LUXURY
HOMES**

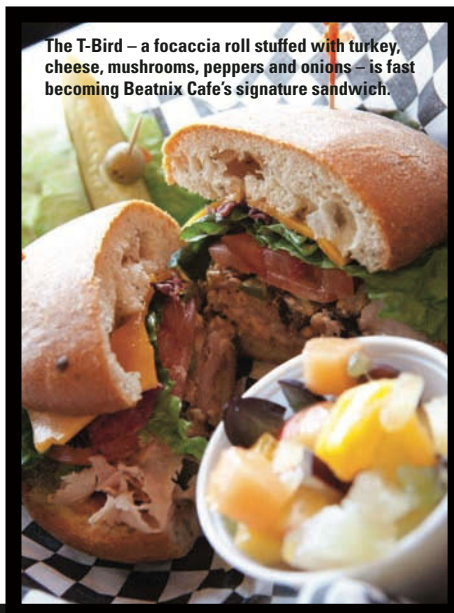
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BEST

Stop on the Radio Dial

It's great to have quality radio programming to listen to while stuck in a traffic jam or cruising through town running errands. This year our reader's chose NewsTalk 740 **KRMG** as their favorite place to stop the dial. Tulsa listeners tune in for their local radio hosts as well as popular syndicated national programs. Tulsans also love listening to *Talk of the Nation* on Tulsa's NPR affiliate **KWGS** as well as moving to the beat of popular hits played on **KHTT** 106.9 K-HITS.

KQOB 96.9 BOB was voted this year's The Best of the Best by avid OKC readers and BOB's listeners. This classic rock station is home to the popular voices of Stacy, Ron and Phil. Newsradio **KTOK** 1000, featuring the voices of Mark Shannon and Sean Hannity, and



The T-Bird – a focaccia roll stuffed with turkey, cheese, mushrooms, peppers and onions – is fast becoming Beatnix Cafe's signature sandwich.

Dining

American Style

Burgers, steaks, fantastic sides and scrumptious salads are favorite dishes served in American-style restaurants. Tied for first on this year's list are Utica Square's **Polo Grill**, offering mouthwatering lunch and dinner selections, with the California-inspired menu of **Sonoma Bistro & Wine Bar**. Other area favorites include the generous portions and menu selections of **The Cheesecake Factory**, the soup and entrée favorites of **Charleston's** and the popular mac and cheese, pizza and paninis of **White Owl** on Cherry Street.

The Metro Wine Bar & Bistro in Nichols Hills comes in first among OKC readers. The Metro has delighted diners with classic dishes featuring inventive twists and seasonal favorites for more than 20 years. Next up is a tie between **Charleston's** with a varied menu to offer

KKWD 104.9 Wild with OKC's own Bobby the Italian Stallion round up our reader's favorites.

Wedding or Party Venue

The location of your special event is just as important as the event itself. This year's pick for The Best of the Best goes to **The Mayo Hotel & Luxury Residences**, a fabulous facility suited for intimate and formal gatherings. Built in the 1920s, this historic landmark has a colorful history. **Harwelden Mansion**, an English Tudor-style home with a gorgeous background and **The Cosden Banquet Facilities**, located in the Mid-Continent Tower and offering a spectacular view of downtown Tulsa, were also chosen as our reader's faves.

OKC readers also selected the following venues as perfect backdrops for an unforgettable event. **The Skirvin Hilton**, originally built in 1911, is located in downtown OKC and is known for its elegance and innovation. **Coles Garden**, the premier floral wedding garden in the city, is famous for its beauty, and the **Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum** is perfect for indoor and outdoor events.

Weekend Getaway Destination

It's always fun to pack a bag and take a short trip out of town for a few days. **Dallas, Texas** has plenty to offer visitors, from the popular entertainment districts Deep Ellum and The West End to fabulous shopping and family fun. If in the mood for relaxation, **Eureka Springs, Ark.**, provides visitors with luxury spas and calming outdoor activities. A trip to **Branson, Mo.**, generally implies live shows and amusement parks, while **Grand Lake** is popular for outdoor and water activities.

something for everyone and **Redrock Canyon Grill**, whose menu focuses on American favorites with a Southwest kick. Our readers also enjoy the classic American fare at **Bricktown Brewery**.

Appetizers

That little plate of goodies served before the meal to whet your appetite is as enticing as it is appetizing. Our readers had a tough choice in selecting which restaurants boasted the best appetizers, but who could blame them? This year's top selection goes to **LXi**, a fabulous contemporary dining experience located at 61st and Yale. Not to be outdone, the lobster corndog may have been behind the selection of **Palace Café**, our readers' second choice. The European-inspired starter selections at **The Chalkboard** are also sure to please the sophisticated palate.

Cheever's Café takes the top spot in OKC with a tasty list of small courses featuring unusual favorites such as the roasted quail short stack and roasted chicken and pepper

jack strudel. **Rococo Restaurant and Fine Wine** comes in next with their list of more than 25 appetizers. Next is a tie between **La Baguette Bistro** and **The Mantel Wine Bar & Bistro**.

Bakery

Whether stopping in for a sweet treat or ordering a special occasion cake, the state boasts fabulous sugar shops that cater to multiple tastes. A popular Tulsa name, **Merritt's Bakery** is rising to the top in the dessert industry. With their huge selection of sweets, its no wonder so many people love to drop by one of these shops to pick out a tasty treat. Another Tulsa favorite, **Wanda's Cake Gallery** is a popular choice for brides when ordering their wedding cake. Our readers also love the selections of **Blue Moon Bakery & Cafe** and **Nibbles**.

La Baguette Bistro is the top choice for OKC readers looking for sweet treats or fresh baked breads. They bake a wide variety of cakes, tarts, cheesecakes and specialty items daily. **Ingrid's Kitchen** comes in next as a choice for choosy customers who have been enjoying their homemade treats since 1977. **Big Sky Bread Company** offers dozens of different breads plus tasty sweets.

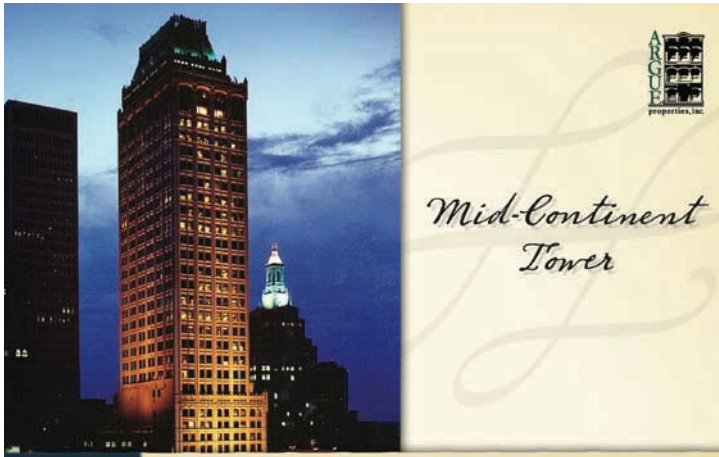
Barbecue Restaurant

Sometimes setting aside the utensils and digging in with your hands is the best way to eat. Oklahomans love their barbecue, and the following restaurants were voted this year's The Best of the Best in this category. The popular franchise of **Rib Crib** opened its doors in 1992, and Tulsans have stayed loyal ever since. Their award-winning barbecue makes mouths water and tongues wag. Our readers also love the "It be Bad" slogan of **Elmer's BBQ** and the fun, friendly atmosphere of **Albert G's Bar-B-Q**.

OKC readers prefer **Iron Starr Urban Bar-B-Q**, which serves up quality smoked meats with a fine dining sensibility, including their slow smoked St. Louis cut ribs. OKC readers also line up at **Earl's Rib Palace's** five area locations and enjoy the brisket and other smoked treats at six area **Rib Crib** locations. **Steve's Rib & Sports Grill** in Edmond gets high marks among readers looking for great barbecue.

Best Kept Secret

It's amazing how many people are not aware of the fabulous places found in this category. The quality of our readers' favorite choices is out of this world, and in the minds of many, must be experienced by all. **PJ's Sandwich Shoppe** may be a little hard to find, but our readers believe it is well worth it. Popular items at this dining locale include the chicken salad and drip beef sandwiches. The elegant atmosphere of **Dragonmoon Tea Company** is also a refreshing experience for many readers. Not to be left out, **Mary's Italian Trattoria** and **Impressions Restaurant** also received numerous votes.



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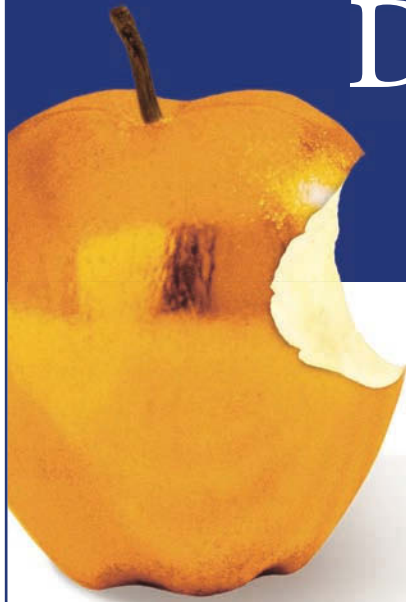


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Do you know a Champion?



Champions of Health are organizations or individuals working to improve the health of Oklahomans.

Champions of Health

Nominate your Champion at www.championsofhealth.org through August 14. Categories include Children's Health, Community Health, Corporate Health, Senior Health and the Uninsured.

Questions? Go to www.championsofhealth.org or call 1.866.876.4976.

There is no cost to participate. Winners receive a cash award to support their organization or program at the Fall 2009 awards ceremony.

The sixth annual Champions of Health awards benefit the Oklahoma Caring Foundation, Inc. and are presented by:



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