

10 YEARS

FOOD

GOLDEN SPOON AWARDS

SFGN'S FOOD CRITIC, RICK KARLIN, PRESENTS HIS ANNUAL LIST OF AWARDS

Rick Karlin

As SFGN celebrates a milestone 10th anniversary, it reminds me that the newspaper business is probably only slightly less volatile than the restaurant business. Both have numerous factors working against them, but those outstanding businesses not only manage to survive they thrive.

In preparing for our anniversary issue, I looked through my files and thought that those places offering exemplary dining experiences deserved an award. Here they are folks, my "Golden Spoon" Awards for 2019.

These awards honor only those places I wrote about in 2019; honoring wonderful dining experiences of the past year. Rather than tout any place as "Best" I prefer to use the term "Outstanding," as each of these dining experiences was memorable in its own way. After each award, I explain why they were chosen, often quoting a few sentences from my original review.

2020 Golden Spoon Awards

OUTSTANDING NEW SPOT - WILTON MANORS
Spencer's

2390 WILTON DR, WILTON MANORS
954-368-2558

As I said in my review, "After a couple of other dining establishments' failed attempts at this location, it seems that Spencer's has come up with winning combination. One component of that combination is the manager/water Chris."

Not only is Spencer's surviving, it is thriving.

OUTSTANDING NEW SPOT - POMPANO
Oceanic

250 NORTH POMPANO BEACH BLVD., POMPANO BEACH
954-366-3768
OCEANICPOMPANO.COM

"Oceanic will quite simply take your breath away. It starts the minute you walk up the grand staircase and through the large glass doors ... an expansive view of the dining room and beyond that the massive terrace and the beach and ocean... a menu that combines locally sourced ingredients with innovative recipes."

OUTSTANDING RELIABLE SPOT
J Marks.

1245 N. FEDERAL, FORT LAUDERDALE
954-390-0770

"It has long been a favorite in our community..." and there's a reason why; the food is reliably good, the service is quick and attentive, the dining environment is comfortable, and the extensive menu has something for everyone.

OUTSTANDING ASIAN
Bangkok Bistro

1527 N FEDERAL HWY, FORT LAUDERDALE
954-908-5865
BANGKOKBISTROFL.COM

I'm often asked to name my favorite restaurant in the area. This is it. After my first visit, I was so blown away that it inspired me to write a sonnet about the place.

OUTSTANDING NEW SPOT - FORT LAUDERDALE (TIE)
Bombay Darbar

1521 E. LAS OLAS, FORT LAUDERDALE
954-990-7222
BOMBAYDARBAR.COM

"I happened to stop in during the third week the place was open. Normally I give a place a few months to work out the kinks... If the folks running this place have everything this smooth after three days, I can't imagine what it will be like in a few months."

TooJay's

2980 N FEDERAL, FORT LAUDERDALE
754-755-6090
TOOJAYS.COM

"TooJay's is a Jewish deli. Not quite Kosher (you can get bacon, ham and cheese on a meat sandwich), but you can also get ethnic favorites such as matzo ball soup, pastrami, brisket and rugelach. The deli sandwiches are piled high with lean corned beef, pastrami, chicken, tuna, egg, or whitefish salad and are reasonably priced ... Each time we dined at TooJay's numerous people stopped by our table to check if we needed anything."