

THE 38TH ANNUAL GUIDE TO THE BEST OF EVERYTHING

328 WINNERS!

Boston



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GIFT STORE
Simon Pearce

HARDWARE
Charles Street
Supply Company

HOME THEATER
Goodwin's High End

INTERIOR DESIGN
Liz Caan Interiors

JEWELRY > ARTISAN
Good

JEWELRY > COSTUME
So Good

JEWELRY > DESIGNER
Lux Bond & Green

JEWELRY > FINE
Dorfman

JEWELRY > VINTAGE
Twentieth
Century Ltd.

KITCHEN APPLIANCES
Yale

KITCHEN DESIGN
Leslie-Jon A. Vickory

KITCHEN SUPPLIES
KitchenWares by
Blackstones

LINGERIE
Forty Winks

LIGHTING
Lucia Lighting
and Design

LUGGAGE
Leather World

MAKEUP COUNTER
Chanel

MAKEUP SELECTION
Sephora

MUSIC > NEW
Newbury Comics

MUSIC > USED
Looney Tunes

OPTICAL SHOP > CASUAL
See Eyewear

OPTICAL SHOP > UPSCALE
Lunette Optic

RUNNING SHOP
Marathon Sports

SEX SHOP
Good Vibrations

SHOES > MEN'S
Camper

SHOES > WOMEN'S
Barneys New York

SKATE SHOP
Orchard

**SKI AND
SNOWBOARD SHOP**
East Coast Alpine

SPORTING GOODS
City Sports

TOYS
Henry Bear's Park

WATCHES
Tourneau

SERVICE

BLOWOUT
Marisa Marino,
Stilisti

BROW SHAPING
Dana Chasen, Brad
Duncan Skin Care

CAR SERVICE
Commonwealth
Worldwide

CAR WASH
Allston Car Wash

COLORIST > BLOND
Gary Croteau,
Salon Mario Russo
at Fan Pier

COLORIST > BRUNETTE
Patrice Vinci,
Patrice Vinci Salon

DAY SPA
G2O Spa and Salon

DOG TRAINER
Cooperative Dog

FACIAL
Skoah

FLORIST
New Leaf Flores

**GROUP FITNESS
INSTRUCTOR**
George Dossas,
Equinox

HAIR SALON
Bradley & Diegel

HAIRCUT > MEN'S
Chuck Bass,
Jean Pierre Salon

HAIRCUT > WOMEN'S
Brian Rand, Trephin

HAIRSTYLING
Michael Albor,
the Loft

HEALTH CLUB
The Sports Club/LA

HOTEL > BOUTIQUE
Nine Zero

**HOTEL > GENERAL
EXCELLENCE**
Mandarin Oriental

HOUSE CLEANER
EcoClean

LASH EXTENSIONS
LuxLash

MAKEUP ARTIST
Dani Wagener

MANICURE
Bella Santé

MASSAGE
Exhale Battery
Wharf

PEDICURE
Bliss

PET GROOMING
Pawsh Dog Boutique

PET SITTING
The Pooped Pooch

SHOE REPAIR
Odessa Instant
Shoe Repair

SHOESHINE
David's Instant
Shoe Repair

SUNLESS TANNING
Perfect Tan

TAILOR
Robin Chalfin,
ToolKit

VETERINARIAN
Vetcall

WAXING
Karen Golden,
Karen Golden
Skin Care

YOGA INSTRUCTOR
David Vendetti,
South Boston Yoga

WEDDINGS

ACCESSORIES
L'élite

BRIDESMAID DRESSES
Flair

CAKES
Cakes to
Remember

CATERER
Tables of Content

COORDINATOR
Linnea Tangorra

FLORIST
Winston Flowers

GOWNS > AFFORDABLE
Vows

GOWNS > UPSCALE
Vera Wang

HAIRSTYLIST
Erik Howard,
Will Charles Salon

MAKEUP ARTIST
Tavi de la Rosa

PHOTOGRAPHER
Hitched Studios

REGISTRY
Bloomingdale's

RINGS
Long's Jewelers

STATIONERY > CLASSIC
Crane & Co.

STATIONERY > INFORMAL
Rugg Road Paper
Company

TUXEDOS
Giblees Tuxedos

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ACTOR
Johnny Lee
Davenport

ACTRESS
Anne Gottlieb

ART DEALER
Barbara Cole Lee
+ Company

ART GALLERY
Barbara Krakow
Gallery

**ART GALLERY
> PHOTOGRAPHY**
Robert Klein Gallery

AUTHOR
Andre Dubus III

BAND
Dropkick Murphys

BIKE PATH
Minuteman Bikeway

BOWLING ALLEY
Sacco's Bowl Haven

CINEMA > INDEPENDENT
Coolidge Corner
Theatre

CINEMA > NATIONAL
Regal Fenway
Stadium 13

CLUB > COMEDY
The Comedy Studio

CLUB > DANCE
Middlesex Lounge

CLUB > GAY
Boston Guerrilla
Queer Bar

CLUB > JAZZ > CASUAL
Wally's Café

CLUB > JAZZ > UPSCALE
Regattabar

CLUB > LESBIAN
Fourth Fridays
at the Milky Way

**CLUB > LIVE MUSIC
> LARGE**
Paradise Rock Club

**CLUB > LIVE MUSIC
> SMALL**
T. T. the Bear's
Place

CURATOR
Pieranna Cavalchini,
Isabella Stewart
Gardner Museum

DANCE PERFORMANCE
José Mateo Ballet
Theatre

EXHIBITION
Dale Chihuly at
the MFA

KARAOKE
Do Re Mi Karaoke

NEW MUSIC ARTIST
Lady Lamb the
Beekeeper

POOL HALL
Big City

PUBLIC GOLF COURSE
George Wright
Golf Course

READING SERIES
Harvard Book Store

RUNNING ROUTE
Arnold Arboretum

**SWIMMING POOL
> INDOORS**
Seaport Hotel

**SWIMMING POOL
> OUTDOORS**
The Colonnade

THEATER
American
Repertory Theater

THEATRICAL PRODUCTION
Petrushka at
ArtsEmerson

WEST
Antiques
Beyond Gorgeosity

BRUNCH
Scarlet Oak Tavern

CLOTHING > CHILDREN'S
Bundle of Hope

CLOTHING > MEN'S
Natale's

CLOTHING > WOMEN'S
Crossing Main

BAR
The Biltmore Bar
and Grille

BARBECUE
Blue Ribbon Bar-B-Q

BICYCLES
Belmont
Wheelworks

BOOKS
New England
Mobile Book Fair

BRUNCH
Zaftigs West

CLOTHING > CHILDREN'S
Abigail's Children's
Boutique

CLOTHING > CONSIGNMENT
The Finer Consigner

CLOTHING > MEN'S
Mr. Sid

CLOTHING > WOMEN'S
Bessie Blue

DAY SPA
La Residencia Spa

FARM STAND
Verrill Farm

FLORIST
Derby Farm Flowers
& Gardens

FURNITURE
Hudson

GROCERY STORE
A. Russo & Sons

HAIR SALON
SalonCapri

HEALTH CLUB
Bosse Sports

JEWELRY > CLASSIC
Long's Jewelers

**JEWELRY
> CONTEMPORARY**
Quadrum

MANICURE
MiniLuxe

MASSAGE
Ardan Medspa
and Salon

PUBLIC GOLF COURSE
Shining Rock
Golf Club

RESTAURANT > BISTRO
Aquitaine

**RESTAURANT >
GENERAL EXCELLENCE**
Il Casale

RESTAURANT > ROMANTIC
Lumière

RESTAURANT > SASHIMI
AKA Bistro

WINE SHOP
The Urban Grape

SOUTH
Antiques
Beyond Gorgeosity

BRUNCH
Scarlet Oak Tavern

CLOTHING > CHILDREN'S
Bundle of Hope

CLOTHING > MEN'S
Natale's

CLOTHING > WOMEN'S
Crossing Main

DAY SPA
Spascape

ENTERTAINMENT CENTER
Pinz

FARMERS' MARKET
Hingham

FLORIST
Winston Flowers

FURNITURE
Company C

HAIR SALON
Mellie Hair Design

HOME ACCESSORIES
La Petite Maison

JEWELRY
Cohasset Jewelers

MESSAGE
Oasis Day Spa

PET CARE
Land of Pawz

PUBLIC GOLF COURSE
Granite Links
Golf Club

RESTAURANT > CHINESE
Sichuan Gourmet

**RESTAURANT
> GENERAL EXCELLENCE**
Tosca

RESTAURANT > ITALIAN
Orta

RESTAURANT > NEW
Alma Nove

RESTAURANT > SEAFOOD
Oro

NORTH

ANTIQUES
Alexander
Westerhoff
Antiques

BAR
The Grog

BRUNCH
5 Corners Kitchen

CLOTHING > CHILDREN'S
Lively Kids

CLOTHING > MEN'S
Peter Mark

CLOTHING > WOMEN'S
Dresscode

DAY SPA
Pyara Spa and Salon

FARMERS' MARKET
Newburyport

FLORIST
Roses and Thistle

HAIR SALON
Spa Ni'Joli

JEWELRY
Royal Jewelers

PET CARE
Linda's Critter
Corral

**RESTAURANT
> GENERAL EXCELLENCE**
Parsons Table

RESTAURANT > NEW
The Market
Restaurant

RESTAURANT > ROMANTIC
Ceia Kitchen and Bar

RESTAURANT > SEAFOOD
Turner's Seafood

CAPE COD
BAR
The Beachcomber

BOOKS
Parnassus Book
Service

BRUNCH
Café Chew

CLAM SHACK
Captain Frosty's

DAY SPA
Chatham Bars Inn

EXCURSION
OceanQuest
Discovery Cruise

HOME ACCESSORIES
Yates and Kennedy

HOTEL > BOUTIQUE
Harbor Hotel
Provincetown

HOTEL > RESORT
Wequassett Resort
and Golf Club

RESTAURANT > BISTRO
The Brewster Fish
House

**RESTAURANT >
GENERAL EXCELLENCE**
Twenty-Eight
Atlantic

MARTHA'S VINEYARD

BAR
Offshore Ale
Company

BRUNCH
The ArtCliff Diner

CLAM SHACK
The Bite

HOTEL > BOUTIQUE
Hob Knob

HOTEL > RESORT
Harbor View Hotel
and Resort

RESTAURANT > BISTRO
Park Corner Bistro

**RESTAURANT
> GENERAL EXCELLENCE**
Défente

NANTUCKET

BAR
Corazón del Mar

BRUNCH
Boarding House

HOTEL > BOUTIQUE
Union Street Inn

HOTEL > RESORT
The Waawinet

**RESTAURANT
> GENERAL EXCELLENCE**
Straight Wharf
Restaurant

RESTAURANT > NEW
Ventuno

RESTAURANT > ROMANTIC
American Seasons

We didn't need seven sports championships in 10 years to prove that Boston is Number One. From stellar eateries to world-class art galleries and exceptional boutiques, there's just so much to celebrate around here. So in this, our 38th annual awards issue, we once again tip our caps to the best of the city: the people, restaurants, and shops that deserve their name in lights.

BEYOND

THE CITY

SUBURBS • CAPE & ISLANDS

WEST

Best Of

WEST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 105

FURNITURE

HUDSON

This charming Wellesley home store is dedicated to casual-elegant living. Vintage handpainted signs seamlessly mix with mirrored cabinets; brindle cowhides share space with woven ticking-stripe rugs. All of the goods are hand-selected by owner Jill Goldberg, who also offers interior design services.

► 81A CENTRAL ST., WELLESLEY, 781-239-0025, HUDSON-BOSTON.COM

GROCERY STORE

A. RUSSO & SONS

We adore the cases brimming with imported and locally made cheeses (like *fiore di latte* from Everett's Mozzarella House), the boxes teeming with exotic Asian vegetables, and a deli counter loaded with top-notch finds. But the best part about a trip to Russo's is that we get whole foods *without* dropping an entire paycheck.

► 560 PLEASANT ST., WATERTOWN, 617-923-1500, RUSSOS.COM

HAIR SALON

SALONCAPRI

A session in these salon chairs is like a friendly, relaxing chat...that just so happens to leave you perfectly snipped and highlighted. Owner Nicholas Penna Jr., in particular, transforms even disastrous 'dos into compliment-earning manes, all while greeting every client like a friend.

► 31 LINCOLN ST., NEWTON HIGHLANDS, 617-969-1970, SALONCAPRI.COM

HEALTH CLUB

BOSSE SPORTS

Founded by South African tennis pro D.J. Bosse, this club dominates the local high-end fitness circuit. The 160,000-square-foot complex offers all the usual equipment, plus classes, tennis courts, a golf range, a pool, and a rock wall. Add in a spa, a café, and services from auto detailing to personal chefs, and the competition is toast.

► 141 BOSTON POST RD., SUDBURY, 978-443-4613, BOSSESPORTS.COM

JEWELRY • CLASSIC

LONG'S JEWELERS

Diamonds are forever, and the same can be said of this family-owned store. (It opened back when Boston's baseball team was called the Red Caps.) Long's especially shines when it comes to service; Tag Heuer watches, luminous Mikimoto pearls, and diamond rings are all covered by a lifetime trade-in policy.

► 223 SPEEN ST., NATICK, 508-650-2900, LONGSJEWELERS.COM

JEWELRY • CONTEMPORARY

QUADRUM

"Funky elegance" may seem like an oxymoron, but the keen-eyed buyers at Quadrum nail it. Witness the brilliant pairings: hammered-metal cuffs scattered with diamonds next to Darcy Miro bangles that look like some beautiful thing that crawled straight out of the sea.

► THE MALL AT CHESTNUT HILL, 617-965-5555, QUADRUMGALLERY.COM

MANICURE

MINILUXE

Germaphobes, this is your safe haven. From the single-use buffers and nail files to the individually packed, disinfected trimming tools, MiniLuxe feels cleaner than most hospital rooms. But just because the place is practically sterile doesn't mean it lacks artistry: The nail techs scrub and polish till your ragged fingertips gleam like jewels.

► 792 BEACON ST., NEWTON CENTRE, 617-332-9200; 1710 MASSACHUSETTS AVE., LEXINGTON, 339-970-2322; MINILUXE.COM

MASSAGE

ARDAN MEDSPA AND SALON

Bustling Ardan may not scream "relaxation." But downstairs, as you lie on a heated massage table in a candlelit room, the commotion melts away. Massage therapist/medical aesthetician Sarah Rattet incorporates aromatherapy into even a basic massage, leaving your head clear and your muscles tingling.

► 72 CENTRAL ST., WELLESLEY, 781-235-7788, ARDANSIPA.COM

PUBLIC GOLF COURSE

SHINING ROCK GOLF CLUB

Opened only recently, Shining Rock looks like it's been around for years. And actually, it has: The course was built in 2005, but never opened until ownership changed. With multitiered

greens and views of the Blackstone Valley Corridor, your toughest challenge will be staying focused on the game.

► 91 CLUBHOUSE LN., NORTHBRIDGE, 508-234-0400, SHININGROCK.COM

RESTAURANT • BISTRO

AQUITAINE

Though the restaurant is in a strip mall, its interior is all dark wood, banquettes, and candlelit conversation—the Left Bank, via Route 9. After enjoying dishes like *filet au poivre*, blissfully heavy on the cognac crème, it's easy to forget where you are...until you spill out the door and into a parking lot. Our advice? Postpone the inevitable, and stick around for a *digestif*.

► 11 BOYLSTON ST., CHESTNUT HILL, 617-734-8400, AQUITAINEBIS.COM

RESTAURANT • GENERAL EXCELLENCE

IL CASALE

The rustic ambiance of chef Dante de Magistris's ode to homestyle Italian cooking belies the refined dining experience here. Service is warm and knowledgeable—and the food ethereal, from the tangy tomato bread pudding to the gnocchi with a basil-pistachio pesto that's as fresh as spring.

► 50 LEONARD ST., BELMONT, 617-209-4942, ILCASALEBELMONT.COM

RESTAURANT • ROMANTIC

LUMIÈRE

Pike traffic is a proven romance killer. Which is why it's a good thing Newton has its own spot to sip, sup, and swoon. The dining room's billowy fabric sets the tone for a special evening, while the dishes from chef Michael Leviton—juicy Crystal Valley chicken; delicate Rhode Island striped bass with preserved lemon and mint—romance your palate.

► 1293 WASHINGTON ST., NEWTON, 617-244-9199, LUMIERERESTAURANT.COM

RESTAURANT • SASHIMI

AKA BISTRO

It is, oddly, a twofor: half French bistro, half sashimi bar. But *excusez-nous* for skipping the *ratatouille* and heading right for the raw fish. Chef and co-owner Chris Chung, who's responsible for the Japanese dishes, composes some of the prettiest plates around. Case in point: a lightly sweet hamachi sashimi dressed with ginger vinaigrette, yuzu pineapple, and sea grape.

► 145 LINCOLN RD., LINCOLN, 781-259-9920, AKABISTROLINCOLN.COM