

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE P. 66 A COUPLE WHO ESCAPED RUSSIA'S LGBTQ CRACKDOWN P. 44
READERS' FAVORITE RESTAURANTS P. 100

WASHINGTONIAN

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ways to meditate, and more





Winner Time

The votes are in for our 46th annual restaurant survey: Here's where you most loved to eat in 2023.



El Presidente's theatrical dining room

PHOTOGRAPH OF EL PRESIDENTE BY REY LOPEZ; PETITE CERISE BY SCOTT SUCHMAN; ELLIE BIRD BY ALBERT TING

Best New Restaurant

1. El Presidente, Union Market

Stephen Starr's dramatically decorated Mexican restaurant has a high-energy scene and top-notch fish tacos.

2. Petite Cerise, Shaw

Cheffy all-day cafes were big this year, and Dabney chef/owner Jeremiah Langhorne's elegant French spot is one of the best.

3. Ellie Bird, Falls Church

Sit in a giant birdcage and dig into Vietnamese-accented dishes such as French onion soup with pho broth.



Pretty pastries at Petite Cerise



Brunch at Ellie Bird



Guacamole at dLeña

Latin American

1. Taqueria Habanero, Columbia Heights, Edgewood, and College Park
The taqueria's latest location—in North-east DC's Bryant Street Market food hall—also features a cocktail spot, Bar Alegria.

2. Oyamel, Penn Quarter
José Andrés's 16-year-old gem is a favorite for queso and margs or a more elaborate feast of tacos, ceviches, and mod-Mex small plates.

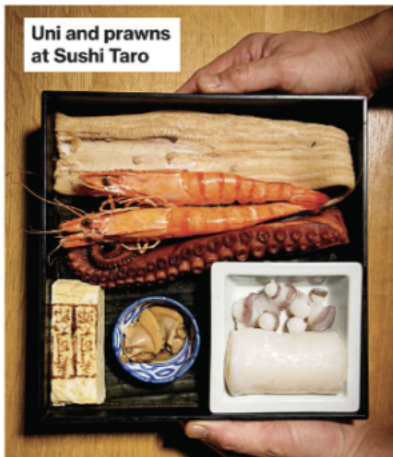
← **3. dLeña, Mount Vernon Triangle**
The wood-fired grill turns out a toma-hawk steak flambéed with mezcal as well as charred avocado with chimichurri.

Japanese

1. Sushi Taro, Dupont Circle →
In the special-occasion-worthy omakase room, you'll have a sushi chef all to yourself.

2. Raku and Rakuya, Dupont Circle, Cathedral Heights, and Bethesda
It's hard to beat the happy hours—and the lunchtime bento deals—at these fusion favorites.

3. Perry's, Adams Morgan
The revamp-of-the-year award goes to this 39-year-old restaurant and drag-brunch destination, made relevant again by chef Masako Morishita.



Uni and prawns at Sushi Taro

Chinese

1. Chang Chang, Dupont Circle
Lauded chef Peter Chang's first District restaurant offers a delicious dim sum brunch.

← **2. Tiger Fork, Shaw**
The chic Blagden Alley place is known for Chinese-medicine-inspired cocktails and a tasty char siu barbecue plate.

3. Han Palace, Woodley Park, Capitol Hill, and Tysons
Dim sum is served all day at these Cantonese dining rooms, and the Baricks Row location has an all-you-can-eat option.



Shrimp with snow peas at Tiger Fork

PHOTOGRAPH OF DLEÑA BY EIVY IMAGES, OTHERS BY SCOTT SUCHMAN

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