

BEST OF THE EC READER'S POLL: THE RESULTS ARE IN!

EMERALD COAST

FOURTH ESTATE

Dogged, fearless newspaper man takes on moneyed interests in novel by Pensacola's Rick Outzen

TREADING LIGHTLY

Businesses and consumers are making choices that minimize their impact on the planet

SHELL GAME

Winsome whelks, delicate corals, intricate murexes, regal king's crowns. Mother Nature provides inventory to seashell sellers on the Gulf shore.

SIREN SONG

FOR PHOTOGRAPHER TRACE INGHAM,
THE NATURAL WORLD IS A POWERFUL TEMPTRESS,
BELOW AND ABOVE THE SURFACE

Best

of the

Emerald Coast



As diverse as the winners in our 2020 Best of the Emerald Coast reader's poll are, they have important qualities in common.

Each has conducted itself in ways that have earned the respect and admiration of its customers, and we intend that a Best of the EC award serve them as validation for those efforts. All may properly regard themselves as businesses that are reliable, highly professional and integral elements in the economy of the Emerald Coast.

Too, our winners are uniformly small businesses, which collectively are often referred to as the "backbone of the nation's economy." Indeed, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration, small businesses account for 44 percent of economic activity in the country and fully three quarters of the new jobs being created.

The COVID-19 pandemic, the resulting economic downturn and changes in consumer habits have tested the resolve, resilience and creativity of businesses including our winners. We encourage you, our readers, to patronize, encourage and congratulate them.

Thank you to all of our sponsors!

BENEFITTING



In lieu of purchasing a Best of the Emerald Coast ticket, we encourage all of our winners and would-be attendees to donate to the Child Clothing Project by the Junior League of the Emerald Coast. This project allows the Junior League to help over 400 children in our local community to get a new wardrobe, school supplies and more. Please visit 850tix.com/organizations/1127/donate to learn more and donate or text **BOECGIVES** to **76278**. Stay tuned for an interactive way to experience this year's winning businesses.



BEST MARGARITA CANTINA LAREDO

Freshly squeezed lime completes a citrusy blend of Agave Blanco tequila and Cointreau Orange Liqueur.

Miramar Beach,
(850) 654-5649
CantinaLaredo.com

Food & Beverage

COMPILED BY
HANNAH BURKE

APPETIZER BONEFISH GRILL

Freshness is their signature. Begin your dining experience with the guest favorite, Bang Bang Shrimp; it's a must.

Deer, (850) 650-3161
BonefishGrill.com

ASIAN FUSION BASMATI'S ASIAN CUISINE

A casual, yet sophisticated dining experience; indulge in exotic Asian flavors fused with fresh, local ingredients.

Santa Rosa Beach
(850) 267-3028
BasmatisThirtyA.com

ATMOSPHERE THE GULF FORT WALTON BEACH

A dreamy seaside haven created with trademark design elements including salvaged and repurposed building materials set against a backdrop of surf and sand.

Fort Walton Beach
(850) 387-1300, TheGulf.com

BAKERY BLACK BEAR BREAD CO.

Scrumptious sourdoughs, buttery baguettes, and melt-in-your-mouth bear claws.

Grayton Beach, (850) 211-4528
BlackBearBreadCo.com



BBQ 98 BAR-B-QUE

Bodacious barbecue seasoned with attention to detail; family friendly and dedicated to diners.

Santa Rosa Beach
(850) 622-0679, 98bbq.com

BLOODY MARY THE RED BAR

A cocktail dubbed the "the house salad," gives its array of delectable garnishes, spices and flavor.

Grayton Beach, (850) 231-1008
TheRedBar.com

BREAKFAST DONUT HOLE BAKERY CAFE

A diner and bakery rolled into one with hearty omelets, eggs benedict and heavenly donuts.

Destin, Inlet Beach,
Santa Rosa Beach
(850) 837-8824

BREWERY GRAYTON BEER COMPANY

Fine ingredients blended with the character of the Gulf Coast "from grain to glass."

Santa Rosa Beach,
(850) 231-4786, GraytonBeer.com

BEST BAR/ TAVERN and BEER SELECTION/ CRAFT BEER THE CRAFT BAR

Belly up to a bar crafted from 100-year-old cypress to enjoy rare brews and artisanal pub fare.

Destin, Fort Walton Beach, Miramar Beach, Panama City Beach
(850) 460-7907
*Destin Location
TheCraftBarFL.com