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2000-2009's best restaurants

Story Discussion

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By JEFF KORBELIK / Lincoln Journal Star | Posted: Friday, December 18, 2009 12:30 am | [\(3\) Comments](#)



Golden cups, an appetizer at the Blue Orchid Thai restaurant in the Federal Building, hold corn, peas and carrots sweetened with brown sugar. (William Lauer / Lincoln Journal Star)

Top dining choices

Our picks for the best Lincoln restaurants that opened in the 2000s:

- 1. Blue Orchid (2006)**: This Thai restaurant has the look, feel and taste of a big-city eatery.
- 2. Bread & Cup (2007)**: The owners locally source ingredients for their delicious menu.
- 3. The Lodge at Wilderness Ridge (2003)**: The menu changes with the seasons, and the wine list is superb.
- 4. Dish (2002)**: This choice came into its own later in the decade under owner/chef Travis Green.
- 5. The Parthenon (2002)**: The Kazas family combines Greek food with festive atmosphere. Opa!
- 6. Venue (2004)**: The diverse menu ranges from steak and seafood to some of the best pizza in town.
- 7. jtk (2007)**: Intimacy of it makes it a great destination for couples.
- 8. Marz Bar (2002)**: Some of the best steak can be had here.
- 9. 9 South Char Grill (2007)**: The neighborhood eatery has a menu as good as any found downtown.
- 10. Maggie's (2000)**: Boasts the best veggie and vegan fare in city.

15 others of note

(in chronological order)

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Readers Poll: Lincoln's Best New Restaurants of the '00s

From votes at [JournalStar.com](#)

Votes: 2,649

1. Fireworks



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2. Misty's (downtown)

3. Venue

4. Blue Orchid

5. The Lodge at Wilderness Ridge

6. Write-in votes (combined)

7. Bread & Cup

8. The Parthenon

9. 9 South Char Grill

10. Skeeter Barnes

Beacon Hills (2001)

Sinbad's (2001)

Sher-E-Punjab (2002)

Paul's BBQ (2003)

Fireworks (2003)

Skeeter Barnes (2003)

D'Leon's (2003)

Misty's (downtown, 2003)

El Rancho (2005)

the Cup (2007)

Francesca's (2007)

The Oven (east, 2007)

Carmela's Bistro & Wine (2008)

Pepe's Veggie Mix Bistro (2008)

Two Twins Cafe (2009)

Two we miss

Baciami (2004)

Krem le Bistro (2005)

Posted in Dining, Entertainment on Friday, December 18, 2009 12:30 am Updated: 10:34 am.

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BerenandLuthien said on: December 18, 2009, 10:59 am

The "Readers Poll" shows how horrible Lincoln's tastebuds are. Fireworks and Misty's?! Please. Im suprised Val's wasn't #1. If you ever wonder why there are no more boutique restaurants in Lincoln you now know why. Because they have zero tastebuds. People would rather eat at Fireworks and get a regurgitated Lazlo's than eat at an actual good restaurant. I think Jeff did a decent job with his list though.

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Outside The Box said on: December 18, 2009, 8:38 am

If the downtown Misty's (or Oven East) can make the list, why weren't Las Margaritas (Mazatlan/El Toro/La Mexicana south), Brewsky's (Haymarket), or McDonald's (south Wal-Mart) included?

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Goat said on: December 18, 2009, 8:05 am

GEEZ! I've only HEARD of THREE on this list (Misty's, Skeeter Barnes, and DeLeon's)!

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Don't threaten to hurt or kill anyone.
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Be nice. No racism, sexism or any other sort of -ism that degrades another person. PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CAPS LOCK, and forgive people their spelling errors.

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