

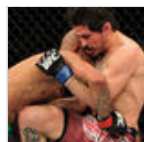


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**H&M's South Beach Pop-Up Shop**



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# Best of Miami 2012: 25th Anniversary

By **New Times staff and contributors** Thursday, Jun 14 2012 Comments (3) **A A A**

Back in 1987, Ronald Reagan challenged Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to tear down the Berlin Wall. Michael Jackson released *Bad*. And a couple of hard-drinkin', troublemakin' Citizen Kane wannabes headed East from Phoenix to buy a year-old newspaper in Miami Beach called *The Wave*. They changed the name to *Miami New Times*, and the writers met in a tiny office on South Beach. Mike Lacey, king of the word, and Jim Larkin, maestro of the almighty dollar, immediately began thinking big, attacking city leaders, and diving into the arts like no other paper before. A quarter-century later, we're still here, telling the story of the most interesting American city. In this extra-special Best of Miami® issue, we not only list 361 of the finest restaurants, bars, people, and places, but also review some of our biggest stories. There was an investigation that disclosed the United States was illegally siphoning arms to Saddam Hussein during the Iran-Iraq War, a chronicling of Hurricane Andrew's massive 1992 attack on our shores, a story that showed the 9/11 attackers' ringleader had entered the country illegally, a graphic description of arrests at the 2003 Free Trade Area of the Americas protests, and the tale of dozens of sex offenders being forced to live in a colony under a bridge.

History not your thing? You'll learn that the greatest go-karting is in Opa-locka, the best hidden gem of a restaurant is a tiny Asian eatery downtown, the number one happy hour is in the Grove, and the top public art is — where else? — Wynwood. Of course, you'll also find our choices for best athlete, politician, and artist. So read on.



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We aren't the only ones celebrating this year. Readers cast far more votes in our Readers' Poll than ever before, almost 12,000 of them. This being Miami, of course, we had to throw out thousands of ballots. See, some voters cheated. But, hey, that's why it's called the Magic City.

**Click the links below to view Best of Miami 2012:**

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Kira Shaimanova

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### READERS' POLL WINNERS

#### Arts & Entertainment

Best Art Gallery: **Dorsch Gallery**

Best Art-House Cinema: **O Cinema**

Best Bar, Central: **Ricochet Bar & Lounge**

Best Bar, Miami Beach: **Chalk**

Best Bar, South: **Bougainvillea's**

Best Bar, West: **Blue Martini**

Best Blog: **Antisteez.com**

Best Band: **PALO!**

Best Dance Club: **LIV**

Best DJ: Pinchadiscos **305**

Best Gav Bar: **Twist South Beach**

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Best Festival: **Ultra**

Best Movie Theater: **Regal Cinemas South Beach**

Best Museum: **Miami Art Museum**

Best Radio Station: **Power 96 (96.5 FM)**

Best Theater for Drama: **GableStage at the Biltmore**

Best TV News Anchor: **Belkys Nerey**

Best Twitter Feed: **Pepe Billete (@PepeBillete)**

**Food & Drink**

Best Brunch: **Fontana, Biltmore Hotel**

Best Burger: **Beer & Burger Joint**

Best Chef: **Massimo Giannattasio**

Best Coffeehouse: **Panther Coffee**

Best Food Truck: **Ms. Cheezious**

Best Inexpensive Restaurant: **Giardino Gourmet Salads**

Best Late-Night Dining: **Gigi**

Best Mojito: **Nikki Beach**

Best Outdoor Dining: **Scotty's Landing**

Best Restaurant, Coconut Grove: **GreenStreet Cafe**

Best Restaurant, Coral Gables: **Cibo Wine Bar**

Best Restaurant, Design District/Midtown: **Michael's Genuine Food & Drink**

Best Restaurant, Downtown: **CVI.CHE 105**

Best Restaurant, South Beach: **Yardbird Southern Table & Bar**



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Best Sports Bar: **Sports Grill**

Best Sushi: **Matsuri**

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### ***Sports & Recreation***

Best Coach: **Erik Spoelstra**

Best Dolphins Player: **Matt Moore**

Best Heat Player: **Dwyane Wade**

Best Hurricanes Player: **Lamar Miller**

Best Marlins Player: **Giancarlo Stanton**

Best Park: **Kennedy Park**

Best People-Watching Spot: **Lincoln Road**

Best Place to Take Out-of-Towners: **Lincoln Road**

Best Sportscaster: **Dan Le Batard**

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### ***Shopping & Services***

Best Auto Dealership: **The Collection**

Best Bike Shop: **Mack Cycle & Fitness**

Best Bookstore: **Books & Books**

Best Clothing Boutique: **Emporium**

Best Gym: **LA Fitness**

Best Hair Salon: **Control Salon**

Best Hotel: **Surfcomber**

Best Liquor Store: **Total Wine & More**

Best Mall: **Aventura Mall**

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**Neil's Ghost** 2 hours ago

Best news person is Schbilkies Nerey?

I am still the best radio talent in Miami, and I have been dead for over a year.

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**Ellenbethmacarthur** 2 hours ago

This is a comprehensive list of the great things Miami has to offer <3 Kennedy Park, Panther Coffee, Ms Cheezious, Total Wine & CVI.CHE105 - all my favs. Shame Flanigans didn't make the list, best Ribs in town.

1 person liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)**Debord** 15 hours ago

Ten or 15 years ago I might've cared, but now the whole "best of ..." concept seems just another tired, artificial manifestation of a neurotic categorization fetish and a cheap form of public relations that discourages open-minded exploration of the city. I'll pass this time and figure it out for myself...

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## Reactions

**officialblopez** 3 hours ago[From Twitter](#)

RT @Giardino\_Salads: Here's the link to the Miami NewTimes Best of Miami's Readers Poll! Again, thank you so much to all who took the... <http://t.co/SE6NhtmX>

**Giardino\_Salads** 3 hours ago[From Twitter](#)

Here's the link to the Miami NewTimes Best of Miami's Readers Poll! Again, thank you so much to all who took the... <http://t.co/SE6NhtmX>

**AbanaAutoParts** 4 hours ago[From Twitter](#)

RT @megterilli TY to everyone that voted for @AbanaAutoParts in the @MiamiNewTimes #BestofMiami 2 years in a row! <http://t.co/4cyu65lw>

**MagicCulinary** 12 hours ago[From Twitter](#)

RT @MsCheezious: Just found out we won Best Truck on Reader's Poll! Thank you!!! Best of Miami 2012: 25th Anniversary -Miami New Times <http://t.co/dkiV886W>





**antisteez** 15 hours ago

From [Twitter](#)

2 more retweets from [adrianC31](#) [msgoobs](#)

RT @PepeBillete: Shout out to @antisteez @msgoobs and @el\_LOU with their readers choice best blog win win! 2nd year in a row! <http://t.co/aEnQg3a5>



**CoconutGroveBID** 17 hours ago

From [Twitter](#)

RT @GreenStreetCafe: Nice to be reminded that you love us as much as we love you; thanks for voting for GreenStreet as the best restaurant!! <http://t.co/0ShoL9vP>



**GreenStreetCafe** 17 hours ago

From [Twitter](#)

@MiamiandBeaches We won best restaurant in Coconut Grove!! <http://t.co/0ShoL9vP>



**GreenStreetCafe** 17 hours ago

From [Twitter](#)

Nice to be reminded that you love us as much as we love you; thanks for voting for GreenStreet as the best restaurant!! <http://t.co/0ShoL9vP>



**STACISMAIL** 17 hours ago

From [Twitter](#)

RT @gopal: Thanks! RT @matancer067: Congrats @gopalo for the best band Best of Miami 2012: 25th Anniversary - Miami New Times <http://t.co/d8T4TWTb>

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