

"BEST OF DINING" by Wire Staff

Wire's "Best Of" Listing is prepared by members of the Wire staff, opinions by strangers/lovers/doormen may have been considered. Readers of Wire were not consulted. The editor was not consulted. This "Best Of" Listing does not reflect the opinion of Wire, only the opinion of the writers, who frequent restaurants more than they dine. This listing is for your enjoyment and dining pleasure. A complete restaurant listing is available in this issue giving the reader an opportunity to eat, drink, and make their own "best of" listing.

CUBBY'S "Best Of"

Restaurant with the Best Selection of Magazines (more important than food in my book)-**News Cafe**

Best Asian restaurant with Drag Queens instead of waitresses (so you get a show and service)-**Lucky Cheng's**

Best Time to Go to A Restaurant-At the Opening Party
Everything is Free and no one will notice that you're not eating anything anyway.

Best Restaurant Named After A Movie Studio-**Paramount Cafe** (Good thing since a new movie multi-plex will be built only steps from the cafe).

Best Gay Restaurant with a View of the Beach-**The Palace**

Best Restaurant With "On the Beach" in the name, but really is located on Lincoln Road-**Norma's On the Beach**

Best Restaurant for a Romantic Dinner (Or to impress a friend, make sure you have them pick up the check)-**Jeffrey's**

Best Restaurant With A View-**The Forge** (From your table you can see everyone enter)

Best Reason For Dining Out-No food at home.

Best Reason For Not Dining At A Restaurant-When Home Cooking is their specialty.

Best Dessert-Sorbet

Best Main Course-Sorbet

Best Appetizer-Sorbet

From Melanie's Backyard to Yours

(Told by a true Aussie sheila-Melanie Morningstar)

Most Americans think of an Australian's backyard

as a place where yobbos like Paul Hogan stand around with a Fosters in one hand, prodding the snags in another and tossing shrimps (we call them prawns, actually) onto the barbie. However, when an Australian thinks of their backyard, what immediately comes to mind is South East Asia.

Unlike the Argentines who feel they were switched at birth in the hospital and found themselves in South America rather than Europe, Australians KNOW why they're in South East Asia, and are happy about it. But I digress.

There isn't a one-'roo-town in the whole country that wouldn't have a Chinese restaurant (no matter the quality, there is one is the smallest of 'em). I come from Sydney, where Vietnamese is as common as Thai is on South Beach, and the most popular Asian food is Malaysian (see map for a vague understanding and reference). This is why I'm eminently qualified to choose the best restaurant in the Asian category for this piece, and I eat a lot, too.

The truth is that all the Asian restaurants on South Beach are good but only one stands out: **NIRVANA**, on 6th Street. That's because its the ONLY INDIAN restaurant on South Beach (and the food is fabulous, too). It's ironic that on 6th Street in New York one can find nothing but.

So enjoy, take your pick, Thai, Thai, Thai, Thai, Japanese, Japanese, Japanese, Chinese, Chinese, Chinese or Indian.

Melanie Morningstar loves to eat out, and occasionally writes things other than film reviews for Wire.

Gillian's Picks

Best Strawberry Dessert: The Living Room at the Strand.

Best After Hours Happy Hour: Big Pinki's 2-4-1.

Best Daily Specials: 11th Street Diner.

Best Lunch: Stella Blue.

Judy's Pick's

Gourmet dining on Miami Beach can be very costly.

However, if you know where to go, you can enjoy the best of foot hearty portions -- in various environments and different kinds of ethnic foods. Here are some recommendations:

Tutti's Cafe (Italian)

Located at 635 Collins Avenue, this well-appointed comfortable restaurant offers delicious Italian food at unbelievably inexpensive prices. For instance, for \$4.95, you can take your choice: an 11" pizza, any pasta served with a choice of succulent sauces (Marinara, Pink, Alfredo, Fra Diablo, Pesto or Toasted Garlic and Olive Oil). For the same price, you can feast on hot sandwiches such as Grilled Italian Sausage. If you're looking for the best in cold sandwiches, for the same price you'll be delighted with Honey Apple White Chicken Salad, Tutti's Tuna Salad, Fresh Mozzarella Tomato and Basil...and so much more.

PUERTO SAGUA (Cuban)

Located at 700 Collins, this Cuban Miami Beach tradition offers diners the best food and gigantic portions again, at very affordable prices. You'll never leave Puerto Sagua hungry. Some specialties include \$5.95 Ground Beef, Rice and Beans and Fried Plantains, also Roast Chicken, Rice & Beans and Fried Plantains. If you want to be a sport, for \$7.50 dig into Chicken Steak, Rice & Beans. If you have room for dessert, for an average price of \$2.95 what your pallet with sweets such as Caramel Custard, Rice Pudding or Tres Leches.

DAB HAUS (Austrian & German) On Alton Rd. What can we say about this restaurant? It's a real find.

Phenomenal Austrian & German cuisine, the finest selection of beers in Miami and courteous, quick service. Everything is inexpensive and exquisite. Appetizers are so large you'll think they're your main courses. But be sure to save your appetite because every entree is superb, from Weiner Schnitzels to beef to a variety of chicken specialties. If you love garlic, this is also the place to be. It's fresh, and just heavy enough to leave you lusting for more.

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