

BEST *of* BAMA

AWARDS 2025

Your votes have been tallied and we've got the winners!

In the following pages, we reveal readers' choices for the best of the best of Alabama's entertainment, restaurants, people and places from our northern border to our shores of the Gulf.

Who do you think should take the title of Best of Bama in 2026? Tell us! Visit alabama-magazine.com to cast your vote!



Advertising Agency

24 Communications
Montgomery
24c.co

24 Communications is an award-winning, full-service marketing and advertising agency. Specializing in brand identity, strategic marketing and advertising, website design and public relations, 24 has enabled a broad range of clients to effectively leverage the latest technology, open-source platforms, social media and traditional marketing strategies to achieve their unique sales, marketing and advertising goals.

Architect

Walcott Adams Verneuille
Fairhope, Gulf Shores, Mobile
wavarchitects.com

With more than 30 years of experience, six principals lead WAV, supported by a team of talented architects and interior designers. As longtime residents and advocates of the community, they take pride in designing buildings that not only meet their client's needs but will endure for generations.

Bank

Bryant Bank
Statewide
bryantbank.com

Founded in 2005, Bryant Bank operates 18 branches located in five of the six largest metropolitan markets in the state of Alabama. They offer personal, business and mortgage banking services as well as treasury management services, correspondent banking and capital markets.

Charity Event

Heart Ball
Birmingham

americanheartbirmingham.ejoinme.org

For more than 100 years, the American Heart Association has made bold moves to save lives and pioneer scientific discoveries. This annual event raises funds through ticket sales, silent and live auctions and charitable donations.

Hospital

Grandview Medical Center
Birmingham
grandviewhealth.com

This 434-bed tertiary care hospital offers diverse specialties from heart care to labor and delivery and robotic-assisted surgery. Specialty units include a Level III trauma center, certified chest pain center, recognized stroke center, cardiac cath lab and neonatal, surgical and medical intensive care.

Plastic Surgeon / Medical Spa

Bitty Beauty
Birmingham
bittybeauty.co

A cozy and luxurious beauty salon offering a wide array of services such as medical and cosmetic tattooing; lip blush, powder brows, areola, stretch mark, scar camouflage, eyelash extensions, brow lamination, hybrid tint and custom brow shaping.



Real Estate Agency

Realty South
Statewide
realtysouth.com

RealtySouth is Alabama's largest full-service independent real estate company. Reaching statewide with 21 branch offices supporting an ever-growing agent population of over 800 licensed experts, their licensed REALTORS® work closely with clients through the entire process, utilizing mortgage services, title and insurance, closing services and warranties.

School / University

University of North Alabama
Florence
una.edu

Home to the UNA Lions, this accredited university offers a diverse range of undergraduate and graduate majors, minors and concentrations, with on-campus, online and hybrid options available. Created in 1830, UNA is the oldest four-year public university in our state.



Amphitheater

The Orion Huntsville

theorionhuntsville.com

This 8,000-capacity destination venue marks a bold chapter in the Southeast's unparalleled musical history. Since opening in the spring of 2022, The Orion has received widespread accolades as well as this third win as the Best of Bama.

Art Festival

Orange Beach Festival of Art Orange Beach

orangebeachal.gov

For more than 50 years, this celebration of visual, literary, performing, musical and culinary arts has welcomed visitors from far and wide. The show is a four-time Best of Bama winner and is currently ranked in the top 100 of national fine art and design shows. The event is free with music and entertainment featured on two stages.

Art Gallery

The Kelly Wetumpka

thekelly.org

The Kelly is an all-volunteer organization and can best be described as the hybrid of a gallery and a museum. As a gallery, it sponsors exhibits and promotes the sale of art. There are rotating exhibits and receptions, gallery tours, art competitions, The Kelly Artist Market, online exhibits, monthly art walk opportunities and various art workshops.

Art Museum

Mobile Museum of Art Mobile

mobilemuseumofart.com

Mobile Museum of Art includes a permanent collection of more than 6,400 works of fine and decorative arts from America, Asia and Europe. This collection spans periods from classical antiquity to the present day and is displayed throughout the impressive 95,000 square-foot facility.

Bed and Breakfast

The Fairhope Inn Fairhope

thefairhopeinn.com

For more than 25 years The Fairhope Inn has been a treasured dining and lodging address in one of the South's most celebrated towns. Featuring a Southern Coastal menu, four well-appointed suites and spectacular venue space all in a freshly renovated 1906 property.

Family Recreation

OWA Parks & Resort Foley

visitowa.com

Featuring year-round island vibes in the region's largest indoor water park plus outdoor wave pool and 23 theme-park attractions. Coastal Alabama's go-to spot for dining, shopping and entertainment, a hotel and luxury RV park are on-site.

Garden

Bellingrath Gardens and Home Theodore

bellingrath.org

From camellias in the winter, azaleas in the spring, roses in the summer and cascading chrysanthemums in the fall, all seasons are simply beautiful at this 65-acre historic garden estate. This is their sixth win by the readers of *Alabama Magazine*.

Golf Course

Farm Links Sylacauga

pursellfarms.com

Gently sculpted out of scenic farmland that has been in the Pursell family for three generations, the golf course features a mix of dramatic elevation changes, pristine fairways and immaculate greens. Explore stay-and-play packages that include golf, spa, lodging and dining.



Heritage Tour

Wilcox Historical Tour of Homes Wilcox County

wilcoxhistoricalsociety.org

The Wilcox Historical Society has been preserving the history of Wilcox County with an annual tour of homes and other historic structures. A multi-day event, special guests are invited to participate such as Earl Luke and Countess Julie Montagu who attended the 2024 event.

Historic Landmark

Noccalula Falls Park Gadsden

noccalulafallspark.com

Noccalula Falls cascades more than 90 feet into the Black Creek ravine. Paved walking trails wind through the property and enjoy the petting zoo and learn about life in the past at the Pioneer Village. Other offerings include a mini golf course, picnic pavilions, souvenir shop and a playground.

Hotel / Resort

The Laurel Hotel & Spa Auburn

laurelhotelandspa.com

Alabama's first and only AAA Five Diamond Hotel, choose from an elevated selection of contemporary accommodations with all the amenities and comforts you seek. A selection of culinary offerings, luxurious spa, a rooftop pool with premium cabanas and more than 4,000 square feet of edible gardens accent this one-of-a-kind resort hotel.



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Music Festival

Opelika Songwriters Festival Opelika

opelikasongwritersfestival.com

Since 2019, this festival has attracted die-hard music lovers from all over the Southeast. More than 30 singer songwriters travel from across the country to play more than 80 shows in 7 venues throughout Historic Downtown Opelika. This is a multi-day festival featuring listening rooms created in restaurants, coffee shops, a distillery, pubs and galleries.

Performing Arts

Huntsville Ballet Company Huntsville

huntsvilleballet.org

The mission of Huntsville Ballet is to preserve and teach the classical art of ballet; to bring the artistry of classical and contemporary dance to the Huntsville community and beyond through performances, education and outreach programs.



HUNTSVILLE
BALLET COMPANY

Salon / Spa

The Soak House & Soapery Guntersville

soakhousespa.com

From therapeutic mineral soaks, professional facial treatments and a selection of massage therapies to luxurious scalp and hair treatments, sunless tanning and luxury spa products to take home, this is a place to escape the everyday to rejuvenate your mind and body.

Vacation Destination

Kiva Dunes Gulf Shores

kivadunes.com

With stay and play golf packages, multiple pools, luxury amenities and on-site restaurants, this beachfront paradise is a three-time Best of Bama winner. The Kiva Beach Club is situated on top of a 30-foot dune and is the ideal location to enjoy breathtaking views of Fort Morgan Beach.

Wedding Venue

Little Point Clear Point Clear

littlepointclear.com

Nestled along Scenic Highway 98 this is a distinctively Southern venue. Quaint and charming with indoor and outdoor event space options, it is elegantly furnished throughout with a handful of individual, well-appointed guest suites.

Zoo

Alabama Safari Park Montgomery

alabamasafaripark.com

From lemurs to llamas and bison to birds, this 350-acre drive-through adventure is fun for the whole family. Enjoy animal feedings, a giraffe tower, wagon rides and more. Open daily, tickets may be purchased online.



EDGAR'S

Bakery

Edgar's Bakery & Cafe Statewide

edgarsbakery.com

What started as a small neighborhood bakery, founded by Terry & Dottie Smith in Birmingham has expanded throughout the Cotton State. Today there are 11 locations throughout Alabama with more to come as demand continues. Offering cakes, pastries, a variety of sweets, breads, breakfast, specialty beverages and lunch as well as seasonal items and a catering service.

Bar

Flora-Bama Orange Beach

florabama.com

One of the world's top beach bars, The Flora-Bama Lounge is located uniquely on the Orange Beach, Alabama and Perdido Key, Florida line. This honky tonk has long been a landmark in the community since 1964. It has five stages for live music and features bands of country, rock, dance and beach music.

Barbeque Joint

LawLer's North Alabama

lawlersbarbecue.com

From barbecued meats to savory sweets, LawLer's has you covered. Order online as they can ship anywhere in the United States. Four signature sauces include Hot, Sweet Red, Tangy White and Mild Vinegar.

Brewery

Black Warrior Brewing Company Tuscaloosa

blackwarriorbrewing.com

Started in 2013 and operated by four close friends, The Black Warrior Brewing Company has 16 popular craft flavors on tap ranging from IPAs to lagers and ales. Also offering house-made wines and non-alcoholic beverage options alongside tasty snack options.

Brunch

SpringHouse Alexander City

springhouseatcrossroads.com

With daily updates to menus that reflect the best of what's available, brunch offerings include a SpringHouse Eggs Benedict with hollandaise and smoked brisket, a Pan Seared Red Snapper with basmati rice pirlou and sweet peas and a gourmet SpringHouse Cheese Burger to name a few.

Burger

Callaghan's Irish Social Club Mobile

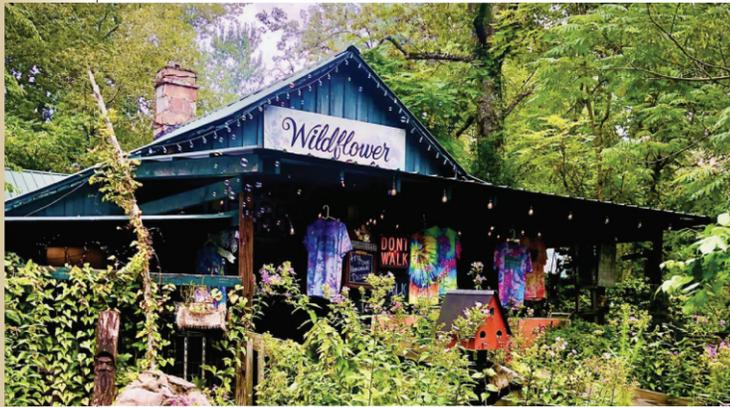
callaghansirishsocialclub.com

The burger at Callaghan's has won numerous awards including this eleventh win for Best of Bama. Served in an atmosphere with live music, this restaurant and bar has been serving winning food since 1946.



CALLAGHAN'S





Butcher Shop

The Butcher Meat Co.
Vinemont
butchermeatco.com

Locally owned and operated since 2022, The Butcher is the place to be if you are in the market for fresh cut beef, chicken, pork, fresh seafood and more. They have freshly smoked meats on site—baby back and spare ribs, chicken wings, brisket and Boston butts. Be on the lookout for their food truck called the Butcher's Chuckwagon which tours nearby areas and is available for booking.

Café

Wildflower Cafe
Mentone
mentonewildflower.com

With a hippie-chic ambiance, enjoy live music by local musicians while feasting on fresh and seasonal fare. Open for lunch and dinner, be sure to visit their Country Store for locally-crafted products.

Caterer

Jim 'N Nicks Bar-B-Que
Statewide
jimnicks.com

Offering options from full-service to just delivery and set up or pickup only, Jim 'N Nicks can cater for business or pleasure, formal weddings or low-key events. With 18 locations throughout Alabama, their slow-smoked southern goodness is easily accessible.

Chef

Frank Stitt
Birmingham
fonfonbham.com

Owner and executive chef of Highlands Bar and Grill, Bottega Restaurant, Bottega Cafe and Chez Fon Fon, he was inducted into the James Beard Foundation's Who's Who of Food and Beverage in 2011. The foundation also named him the Best Chef in the Southeast in 2001 and he was a 2008 finalist for its national Outstanding Chef award. Stitt received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Southern Foodways Alliance and this is his third win for Best of Bama.

Coffee House

Carpe Diem Coffee & Tea Co.
Mobile
carpe-coffee.com

Coffees are roasted in-house daily and fresh pastries and breakfast are served all day. Also offering lunches and gift baskets with a private meeting room available.

Fine Dining

Old Town Stock House
Guntersville
oldtownstockhouse.com

Serving dinner Tuesday through Saturday with an emphasis on Southern American Cuisine, the menu rotates seasonally and is designed to encompass local produce from multiple farms in the surrounding area. Gluten-free, vegan, and vegetarian options are offered to accommodate every guest.



MORGAN PRICE CANDY

Specialty Grocery Boutique

Morgan Price Candy
Decatur
morganpricecandy.com

For more than 25 years Morgan Price Candy has been crafting special candies from their family recipes. All are made by hand and in small batches. Some of the most popular treats include English toffee, peanut brittle, dark chocolate dipped cherries and their gift boxes can be ordered online.

Steak

Corks and Cattle
Enterprise
corksandcattle.com

This five-time Best of Bama Award winner has steak offerings that include an 8-ounce filet mignon with either a red wine shallot balsamic reduction or a portobello mushroom cap, chipotle goat cheese and caramelized onion topping, an Akaushi Wagyu Ribeye topped with truffle butter and a 14-ounce New York Strip topped with herb butter to name a few.

Sushi

Chuck's Fish
Birmingham, Madison, Mobile,
Montgomery, Tuscaloosa
chucksfish.com

Chuck's Gulf-sources seafood from their own wholesale market, Harbor Docks, allowing them to serve the freshest fish available. They incorporate traditional Japanese recipes and ingredients in their sushi and all items are made-to-order.



CHUCK'S FISH

Pizza

Valentina's
Madison
valentinaspizzeria.com

This is a two-time Best of Bama winner, 2023 Pizza Maker of the Year, 2023 International Pizza Expo Winner of Best Non-Traditional Style Pizza in the World, 2022 International Pizza Expo Winner of Best Traditional Style Pizza in the World, a seven-time World Pizza Champion, two-time Guinness World Record Holder and their employee R.J. Griggs has won Best Bartender in Bama.

Seafood

Cobalt The Restaurant
Orange Beach
cobaltrestaurant.net

Offering contemporary coastal cuisine and nestled under the Perdido Bay Bridge, patrons can enjoy a spectacular view of the bay from every table. For those who wish to approach by water, there are numerous boat slips available for small boats and medium-sized yachts. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

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Antiques

Angel's Antique and Flea Mall
Opelika
angelsmall.info

With 68,000 square feet and more than 500 vendors, Angel's is open seven days a week. One side of the building is called Antique Alley which features a large assortment of antiques, collectibles and home decor while the other side is named Tag Sale Heaven which is the flea market area with everyday vintage items.

Bridal Boutique

Bliss Bridal
Fairhope
beablissbride.com

This is an elegant southern bridal boutique that offers a full-service boutique experience with a showroom of designer gowns under \$4,000. Hosting multiple events annually, other locations include Hattiesburg, MS and New Orleans.

Children's Clothing

Mon Ami
Mountain Brook
monamibham.com

Specializing in offering a diverse range of clothing for both boys and girls in the "tween" age group, this is the fourth Best of Bama win for this boutique. Owned and operated by a mother-daughter team who inspire children and their parents to discover, embrace and celebrate creativity.

Florist

Dorothy McDaniel's Flower Market
Birmingham
dorothymcdaniel.com

Recently celebrating 40 years, this florist offers everything from simple bouquets to elaborate arrangements and deliver throughout the Greater Birmingham Area. They also design for weddings, holidays and all types of events.

Furniture & Interiors

Mantooth Interiors
Homewood
mantoothinteriors.com

Lead by a mother and son team and representing some of the most prestigious manufacturers in the furniture industry, their customers have a wide range of fabric and construction options. Explore a large selection of luxurious bed linens, upholstery fabrics, art, lighting, case goods, beds and custom window treatments.

Gift Shop

Wrapsody
Auburn, Homewood, Hoover,
Madison, Trussville
shopwrapsody.com

This locally-owned boutique has expanded to five locations since opening in 2004. Gifts, home accessories, seasonal décor, clothing, handbags, jewelry and more can be found both in store and online. A large selection of Greek products can be found both online and in the Auburn location.



Jeweler

Barton-Clay Fine Jewelers
Mountain Brook
bartonclay.com

For four decades this family-owned establishment has been creating custom jewels from an in-house designer and master jeweler. Alongside their Barton-Clay Collection, they feature brands such as Mont Blanc, S. Kashi and Elizabeth Locke.

Linens

Red Land Cotton
Moulton
redlandcotton.com

Made from cotton grown on the Yeager family farm, bed sheets, bath towels and other home linens are crafted from only the finest fibers produced from north Alabama's rich red clay. Wholly made in the USA, the cotton is rain fed, never irrigated and produced under the most up-to-date and sustainable farming techniques.

Mall

Bridge Street Town Centre
Huntsville
bridgestreethuntsville.com

This outdoor mall is a destination unto itself. Amenities include a lake and walking trail, outdoor dining, live music and electric vehicle charging stations. It is pet-friendly and offers children's activities with hotel and movie theater access.

Men's Boutique

Tom Beckbe
Mountain Brook, Tuscaloosa
tombeckbe.com

Inspired by the outdoors and the American sporting tradition, Tom Beckbe produces enduring apparel and gear for one generation to share with the next. Field & Stream magazine said this has become one of the last decade's best new American hunting apparel brands.

Specialty Boutique

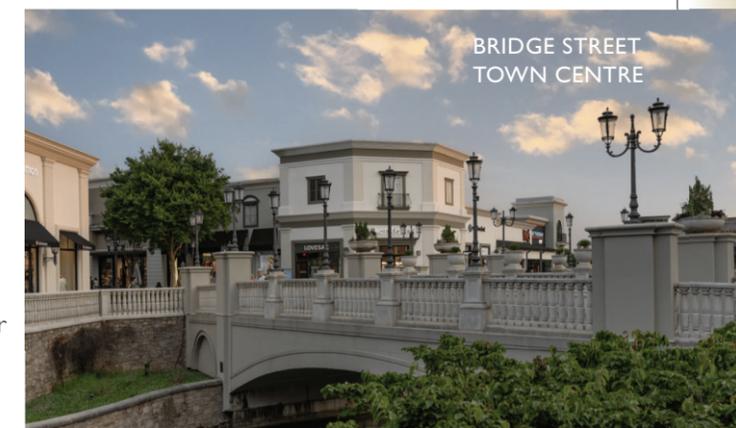
Ashley Mercantile
Cullman
ashleymercantile.com

Locally owned and operated, this boutique offers heirloom-quality, often locally-made products at fair prices that families can enjoy for generations. Gifts and goods harken the old days with items for kitchen and kids, home decor, bath, body, food and more.

Women's Boutique

Effies, Inc.
Homewood, Tuscaloosa
effiesinc.com

A ladies contemporary clothing boutique specializing in one-on-one customer service. Catering to all types, Effie's carries the latest trends for a variety of lifestyles and ages with a wide variety of women's clothing, jewelry, accessories, shoes and more.



Shopping



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