



THE ASPEN TIMES

Snowmass Sun





**VOTED #1 BEST ASPEN DISPENSARY**

# THANK YOU ASPEN!

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# Making the Best of 2020

“Best of 2020” might seem like an oxymoron at first. But we know that even during the darkest of times, the people of the Roaring Fork Valley always seek a way to find the bright spots.

So it is with this year’s edition that we tackled the paradox and asked you, our readers, to give us your best of Aspen and Snowmass and Basalt during a pandemic. In these pages you will see what makes our community happy, what makes us grateful and what brings us together, albeit physically distanced.

For this year’s Best Of contest, we brought our Basalt friends into the fray for the first time. We serve a large swath of the upper Roaring Fork Valley, so adding the places and people of the midvalley was a natural fit.

Putting together this annual campaign (not just every four years like a certain other 2020 contest) is no small feat. Our team fields thousands of nominations and tallies the votes and gets these stories into our magazine and online – the Aspen Times staff has spent months on this labor of love.



And during this unprecedented year, we also had some unrivaled responses from our readers. Many of us have spent too many hours in front of a computer in 2020, but we hope your time with Best Of was well spent: we had nearly 7,400 participants cast a record 110,000 votes across more than 125 categories.

Thanks to our voters, nominees, businesses and neighbors for taking the time to take part in this growing tradition. As you sit back and enjoy 2020’s best of the best, we hope you learn a few things, find a few new places to try and, most importantly, get a few smiles. We could all use more of those. Cheers to our winners and our mountain community.

DAVID KRAUSE, *EDITOR*  
THE ASPEN TIMES

# Contents



|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| <b>6</b>  | BY THE NUMBERS |
| <b>8</b>  | COMMUNITY      |
| <b>12</b> | MR. & MS.      |
| <b>16</b> | COVID-19       |

|           |                      |
|-----------|----------------------|
| <b>20</b> | SHOPPING             |
| <b>24</b> | SERVICES             |
| <b>28</b> | OUTDOORS             |
| <b>32</b> | FOOD & DRINK, BASALT |

|           |                        |
|-----------|------------------------|
| <b>37</b> | FOOD & DRINK, SNOWMASS |
| <b>42</b> | FOOD & DRINK, ASPEN    |
| <b>46</b> | STAFF PICKS            |

## ON THE COVER



ILLUSTRATION BY  
JORDAN LUGIBIHL





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# this year's best of

## largest number of votes:

ALPINE BANK – 571 votes  
BELLY UP ASPEN – 527 votes  
THE GREEN JOINT – 509 votes

## ALL TIED UP

**BEST ASPEN HAPPY HOUR, CLARK'S OYSTER BAR & LIMELIGHT HOTEL**  
188

**BEST BASALT BAR, FREE RANGE KITCHEN & THE TIPSY TROUT**  
130

## Most Popular Categories (BY VOTES)

**BEST ARCHITECTURE FIRM – 1,993**  
**MR. ASPEN – 1,817**  
**MS. ASPEN – 1,580**  
**BEST NONPROFIT – 1,568**

## THIS YEAR:

**7,387**  
PARTICIPANTS

**110,261**  
INDIVIDUAL VOTES



60% • FEMALE  
40% • MALE  
54% • LOCAL  
32% • VISITOR  
14% • PART-TIME RESIDENT



### DOWN TO 1 VOTE

*Best Financial Services*  
**REESE HENRY AND CO & ASPEN BUSINESS SERVICES**

*Mr. Aspen*  
**WES GRAHAM & LARRY WEIDEL**



### DOWN TO 2 VOTES

*Best Snowmass Bar*  
**THE EDGE RESTAURANT & VENGA VENGA**



### DOWN TO 3 VOTES

*Mr. Basalt*  
**JAY SLATER & PAUL DANKERS**

## most nominated business

**ZANE'S TAVERN**  
18 NOMINATIONS (for three locations)  
**ASPEN PUBLIC HOUSE**  
16 NOMINATIONS  
**HOME TEAM BBQ**  
15 NOMINATIONS  
**FREE RANGE KITCHEN & WINE BAR**  
14 NOMINATIONS

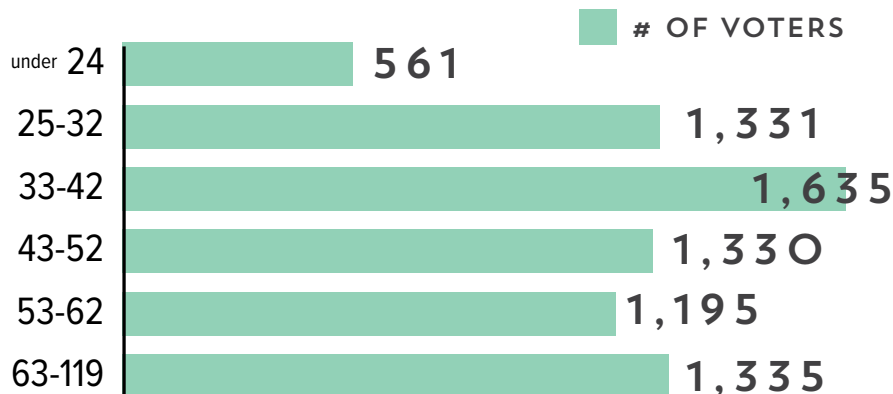
FROM 2019  
TO 2020

## BEST OF COMPETITION

**NOMINATIONS: UP 46%**  
**VOTES: UP 21%**  
**PARTICIPANTS: UP 16%**

*\*Our vote total topped 100,000 for the first time in 2020!*

## AGE RANGE







# ANDREW TURCHIN, DMD

Creating & Keeping Beautiful Smiles



## THANK YOU!

*we wanted to take a little time to give  
a huge, heartfelt thank you for voting for  
ANDREW TURCHIN, DMD AS  
the best dentist in town  
FOR THE 2ND YEAR IN A ROW!*

*this wouldn't be possible without the hard work  
from our and professional team, or without you,  
our incredible patients.*





# Community

*More than ever in 2020, we were reminded that Aspen, Snowmass, Basalt and the Roaring Fork Valley are an intimate and tight-knit community. We may have traveled less, we may have spent less time physically together and without the mass gatherings that define the local life here. But we carried one another through a challenging year, and managed to have some fun while we were at it. That's the locals' way. Here we celebrate the people and places that made the best of it.*

## LIVE MUSIC? IN 2020?

"The only 'event' I've attended was passing the roundabout and turning left on Owl Creek Road to make my way over to The New Belgium Ranger Station on the Snowmass Mall, which had live music all summer," says Aspen Times reporter Carolyn Sackariason. "It was great to feel normal again, sitting outside drinking beer and listening to real, live music!"



## BEST BARTENDER:

**Dan Kiely**

You know him as the Hooch Craft Cocktail Bar bartender with the ready smile, quick wit and mixology master's touch, and this year he kept the socially distanced park parties lubricated with to-go batches of his specialty cocktails.

## WINNER QUICK LIST

### BEST BARTENDER

- 1<sup>st</sup> Dan Kiely
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Scottie Gibson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Quinn Gallagher

### BEST COLUMNIST

- 1<sup>st</sup> Glenn Beaton
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tony Vagneur
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Lorenzo Semple

### BEST LOCAL DJ/ MUSICIAN/BAND

- 1<sup>st</sup> Naka G
- 2<sup>nd</sup> DJ Dylan
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Kevin Joyal

### BEST FIREFIGHTER

- 1<sup>st</sup> Craig Melville
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sandy Schiff
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Daniel Palmer

### BEST MUSIC VENUE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Belly Up Aspen
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jazz Aspen Snowmass
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Benedict Music Tent & Harris Concert Hall

### BEST NONPROFIT

- 1<sup>st</sup> Aspen Center for Environmental Studies
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The Buddy Program
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Challenge Aspen

### BEST OFFICER

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sheriff Joe DiSalvo
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Rob Fabrocini
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Zach Wilcher

### BEST PLACE TO WORK

- 1<sup>st</sup> Forum Phi Architecture
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Meat & Cheese Restaurant and Farm Shop
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Poss Architecture

### BEST SOCIALITE

- 1<sup>st</sup> May Selby
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Nancy Mayer
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Rosalyn Pergande

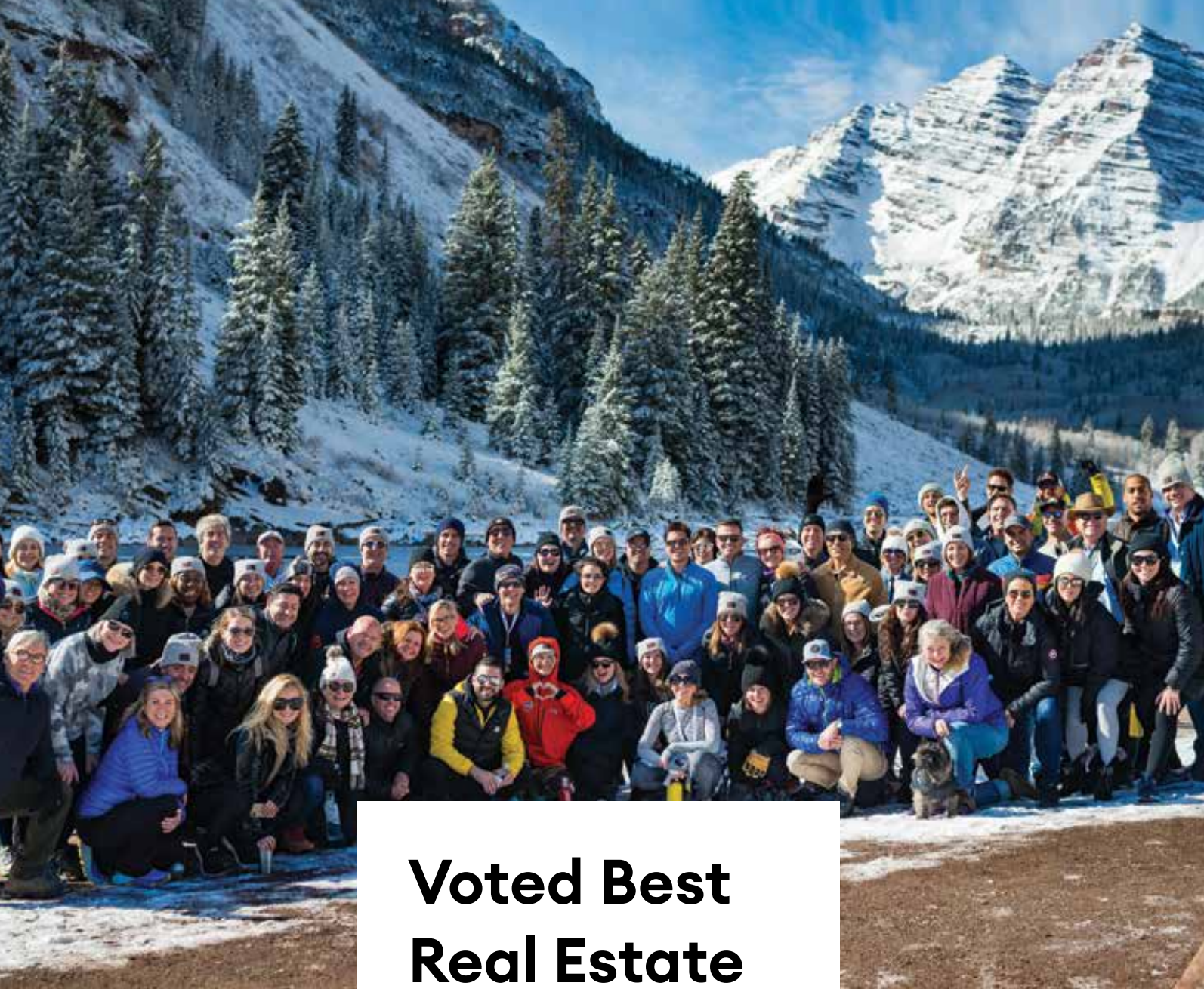
### BEST TEACHER

- 1<sup>st</sup> Suzanne Lewis
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jill Pisani
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Brent Hayes

### BEST VOLUNTEER

- 1<sup>st</sup> Alyssa Shenk
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Hana Maclean
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jayne Poss





# Voted Best Real Estate Firm in Aspen

We proudly congratulate our stellar agents who helped us achieve this great honor. Thank you to the Aspen community for voting us the top real estate firm in the area.\*



[elliman.com](https://www.elliman.com)





**BEST DJ:**  
**DJ Naka G**

He's spun at X Games for years and at winter and summer Olympics, but since the springtime he's worked the booth at Aspen's club quarantine, playing popular virtual concerts on social media for local fans and online eyes around the world. Thanks, Naka!

**MR. ASPEN**

1<sup>st</sup> Wes Graham  
2<sup>nd</sup> Larry Weidel  
3<sup>rd</sup> Bill Poss

**MS. ASPEN**

1<sup>st</sup> Jayne Poss  
2<sup>nd</sup> May Selby  
3<sup>rd</sup> Nancy Mayer

**MR. BASALT**

1<sup>st</sup> Jay Slater  
2<sup>nd</sup> Paul Dankers  
3<sup>rd</sup> Kevin Morley

**MR. SNOWMASS**

1<sup>st</sup> Chris Klug  
2<sup>nd</sup> Robert de Wetter  
3<sup>rd</sup> Gus Gustafson

**MS. BASALT**

1<sup>st</sup> Stacy Kiely  
2<sup>nd</sup> Suzanne Lewis  
3<sup>rd</sup> Lindsay Lofaro

**MS. SNOWMASS**

1<sup>st</sup> Leah Moriarty  
2<sup>nd</sup> Britta Gustafson  
3<sup>rd</sup> Rhonda Coxon

# THANKS ASPEN



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Voted Best  
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**BEST VOLUNTEER:** Alyssa Shenk

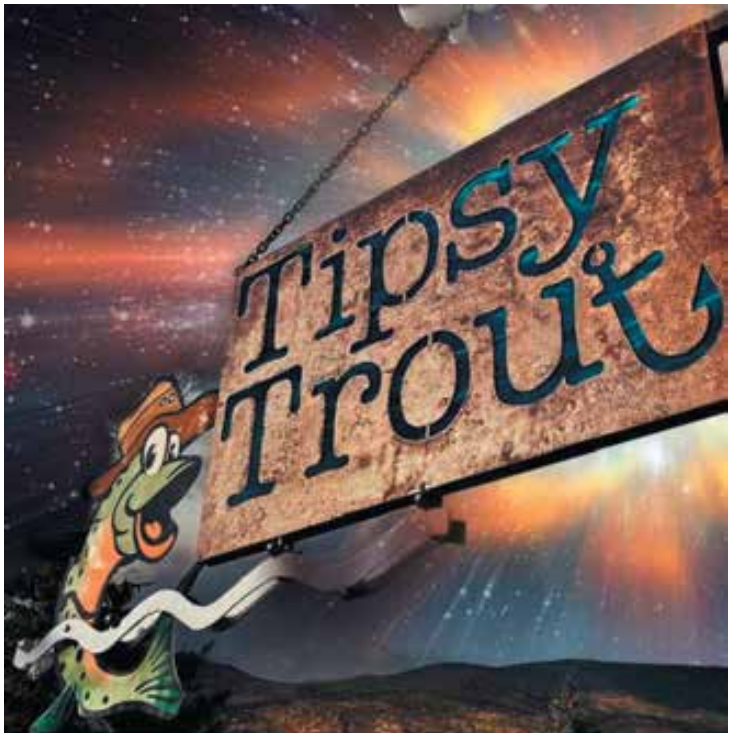
A repeat winner in this category, the Snowmass Town councilmember was a stalwart on the pandemic frontlines at Aspen Family Connections food distribution service.



**BEST  
NONPROFIT:**

**Aspen Center for  
Environmental Studies**

For 51 years and counting, ACES is a local favorite. Along with providing naturalists for tours at the Maroon Bells and on the ski hills, the group’s Picnic Mondays, Beaver Walks, Wild Yoga and Know Your Trees programs were beloved staples for socially distanced activities in summer 2020.



**Our Customers Are The Best!  
Thank You For Your Votes**

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181 Basalt Center Circle



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**ASPENRECREATION.COM**



# Mr. & Ms. Aspen, Snowmass and Basalt

*A new category for the Best Of survey this year, we left the criteria for “Mr.” and “Ms.” up to the voters. Think of it as our homecoming king and queen, maybe, or as community leaders, or as a little bit of both.*

## MR. ASPEN Wes Graham



*Wes is the deputy city clerk for the city of Aspen and a lifelong local.*

*When Best Of asked what he thought the best of Aspen is, he said “our strong community bond and community pride that we all share.”*

### **What does being voted Mr. Aspen mean to you?**

I feel the title means that the individual holds the character of Aspen and is a steward of the community — past, present and future.

### **What have you done to cope with the challenges of 2020?**

Keeping in touch with close friends and family and making sure we all have an outlet and support when needed. Also, I tried to get outside for a long masked walk, fresh air and sun.

## MS. ASPEN Jayne Poss

*Jayne is director of the GlenX Career Expo and an avid skier, golfer, pickleball player and surfer. But her favorite pastime these days may be hanging out with her 13-year-old grandson.*

*In 2020 she publicly advocated for mask-wearing during the pandemic and worked with local youth through the Aspen Community Foundation, “learning how junior and senior high school students are feeling about their future, how COVID is affecting them in their school and home environment and how community can support them.”*

*It’s given this longtime local a sense of purpose.*

*“Whatever I can do to support the youth of our valley makes for a good day,” she said.*



### **What does being voted Ms. Aspen mean to you?**

Well, I was really surprised. Even though I have lived in Aspen for 38 years, I didn’t know that many people knew me! So, I began thinking about people that may have known me when I managed the

Hotel Lenado and The Sardy House, or perhaps it was when I was involved with the World Cup ski races, or when I started the nonprofit Raising A Reader. Or maybe it was people that know by husband, Bill. He is much more popular than me, or so I thought! Whoever the voters are, I’m not sure I will have a chance to meet you all, but I sincerely thank you.

### **In your opinion, what are the best things about Aspen?**

Aspen still has its magic! Its breathtaking natural beauty with Aspen Mountain commanding center stage and the Roaring Fork River and the surrounding evergreen forests as the perfect backdrops. Four seasons that offers change, unrivaled outside activities and cultural events and historical landmarks. But most of all is the vibrancy, individualism and caring of the people that live here...their sense, appreciation and support of community.



## MR. SNOWMASS: Chris Klug

*Chris is a partner and broker with Aspen Snowmass Sotheby's International Realty as well as chairman and founder of Chris Klug Foundation, which advocates for organ and tissue donation. The recipient of a liver transplant in 2000, he went on to win a bronze medal in the 2002 Winter Olympics.*

*While he's retired from professional snowboarding, he's still an avid rider, uphiller and ski-mo competitor and Snowmass-based family man.*

*Looking back on the ups and downs of 2020, Chris said, "I'm proud of the resiliency, resourcefulness and creativity of our community navigating this new paradigm together. The sickness and suffering the pandemic has caused and the divisiveness in our country today really saddens me. As a family, we have experienced some real silver linings this year, including some incredible camping and backpacking adventures together, more time outdoors, and more backyard bonfires, except during those red-flag warning days this summer."*

### **What does being voted Mr. Snowmass mean to you?**

It's really pretty funny, but I'm stoked. I love it here and I am very grateful to get to live here and raise my family here and be a part of this community. I think it's one of the coolest places on Earth. I love the sense of community and the vibe in Snowmass Village.

### **What are your favorite things about Snowmass?**

It's a little more chill; I feel like I'm on vacation when I drive home over Owl Creek. I love the new energy with so many young families moving to Snowmass Village. The biking, boarding and ski-moing are as good as it gets and it's rarely crowded. The connection to the outdoors and nature is so special. I often see moose, bear, deer and elk strolling through our yard or hiking or biking. I love the events too, like Ballon Fest, JAS, and my favorite: Thursday nights on Fanny Hill. Thursdays in the summer embody what this community is all about: family and friends sharing a love for music and good food in this beautiful alpine environment.



## MS. SNOWMASS: Leah Moriarty

*"Raising kids here where everyone knows their names has been a dream come true," Leah says of Snowmass Village. "I often refer to this place as 'Mayberry!'"*

*A Snowmass-based real estate veteran of more than 30 years, she isn't defined by her work.*

*"It's just what I do, it's not who I am!"*

### **What do you do for play in Snowmass?**

Fellowship with family and friends from all different generations at our home brings me the most joy. We love sitting around the big screen and watching sports, being outside around the fire pit and laughing until we cry. The best version of this is our traditional Fourth of July party where I get to celebrate with friends who have been coming to our home for 20-plus years. Other than that, you may find me enjoying Labrador Lane with our pups on the golf course all winter, skiing. One of my greatest joys for so many years has been photographing our local kids in all their athletic games — being on the field watching our kids play full out, through my lens, has been a coveted honor and gift!

### **What does the title "Ms. Snowmass" mean to you?**

I arrived in Snowmass Village when I was 19 years old and it has been home ever since. It has been one of the greatest blessings and privileges to work, live and raise my family in this amazing community. For some funny reason, being named Ms. Snowmass means the world. The honor confirms that my friends and neighbors do get that I love this place and they know I'm not going anywhere. And most critically, they can count on me to help when needed with whatever is going on.



## MS. BASALT

### Stacy Kiely

*Stacy is an interior design assistant at Studio B Architecture + Interiors and an avid outdoorswoman on skis, bike, paddleboard and raft.*

*Looking back on 2020, she said she and her husband prized time spent on rivers including raft trips to Gates of Lodore, the Main Salmon and multiple runs through Ruby Horsethief.*

*"It was great to completely unplug and be surrounded in nature while sharing the experience with great friends and family," she said. "I am lucky to have a great husband, our adorable pups Grappa and Raison, and amazing friends that have become family to keep me positive and looking forward to new things to come. Mental health is so important, and this valley has incredible resources available, and I encourage those who are struggling right now to reach out. I am also always looking for*



*badass sisters to rip the mountain and whitewater with me!"*

#### **What does being voted Ms. Basalt mean to you?**

I am honored to receive this award and owe thanks to my amazing husband who nominated me and to my parents who voted for me everyday. I am proud to represent the people of Basalt who I believe deserve the highest accolades for

their compassion, kindness and respect for this incredible Valley. Mr. Basalt and I organized a very friendly campaign without negativity and slander, and proved that being nice can get you far in life. I'm eagerly awaiting my Swarovski Crystal Crown and hope to be on your 2024 Ballot as Princess Stacy Lynn Kiely.

#### **What are some of your favorite things about Basalt?**

I love the sense of community in Basalt and in my neighborhood of Willits. My husband and I both work in Aspen, and in the winters we'll spend our weekends at Aspen-Snowmass. In the summers we spend our weekends playing on the Roaring Fork and Colorado Rivers. It is a great location to be less than 30 minutes away from everything great this valley has to offer. Basalt and Willits continue to grow and have some of the best restaurants and shopping available. I am also a huge fan of Mother Nature and as one of her biggest supporters, I love that we have the capacity to compost 80% of our household waste.



## MR. BASALT

### Jay Slater

*Jay is the program and operations coordinator for the Aspen Youth Center, where he leads the next generation of local youngsters.*

*"To cope with the challenges of 2020 I have worked hard to make sure my friends, family and the youth I serve at the Aspen Youth Center know I am here for them," he said. "Even when we haven't been able to connect in person, it has been so important to stay close by any means necessary. Basalt and the mid-valley at large is such a supportive and close community. We've simply had to adapt to the times and keep our connections close."*

#### **What does being voted Mr. Basalt mean to you?**

It is something truly special to live in a community where people take care of each other and look out for one another. There is something to be said to live in a place where people really understand and celebrate the communal spirit and shared values of our town. This means a lot to me.

#### **What is the "best of" Basalt?**

We look out for each other and will take the shirt off our back for our neighbors. Living here has made me a better person.



# YOU ARE THE BEST OF 2020!

THE ASPEN CHAMBER RESORT ASSOCIATION THANKS THE INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES AND OFFICIALS WHO WORKED TOGETHER IN BUSINESS RECOVERY EFFORTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

HERE'S TO THE  
TASK FORCES, PARTICIPANTS,  
& ACRA BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS  
FOR YOUR  
LEADERSHIP  
& TIRELESS  
COMMITMENT  
TO RE-OPENING  
- **YOU DEFY ORDINARY!**



## TOURISM RECOVERY TASK FORCE

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Nancy Lesley  
Virginia McNellis  
Maureen Poschman  
Connie Power  
Laura Smith  
Tracy Trulove  
Katie Viola  
Melissa Wisenbaker

## LODGING RECOVERY TASK FORCE

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Donnie Lee - *ACRA Board Member*  
Jeff Bay - *ACRA Board Member*  
Maria Morrow - *ACRA Board Member*  
Alinio Azevedo - *ACRA Board Member*  
Allison Campbell - *Chair ALA*  
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Jonathan Fillman  
Chuck Frias  
Mary Harris  
John Sarpa  
Travis Christ  
Tim Clark  
John Corcoran  
Doug Crawford  
Ben Dodge  
Molly Faath  
Jason Fishburn  
Jud Hawk  
Tricia McIntyre  
Joe Raczak  
Henning Rahm  
Ken Ryan  
Tracy Sutton  
Dana Thompson

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Jimmy Yeager  
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Jill Carnevale  
Craig Cordts-Pearce  
Samantha Cordts-Pearce  
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Jodi Larner  
Gretchen Leary  
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Kris Matterna  
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Shawna Rahm  
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Christine Sills

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Jed Bernstein  
Eliza Burlingame  
Cailin Doran  
Erin Heintz  
Jim Horowitz  
Nina Gabianelli  
Nicole Levesque  
Jean Phillippe Malaty  
Jessica Moore  
Katherine Roberts  
Sarah Roy  
Laura Smith  
Dani Taylor  
Peter Waanders  
Susan Wrubel

## OUTFITTER RECOVERY TASK FORCE

|                  |                |                   |                   |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Evan Cree        | Tony Derosier  | Chris Lemons      | Corey Vander Veen |
| Vince Nichols    | Gabor Ferenczi | Alex Palmaz       | Brian Welder      |
| Steve Szoradi    | James Foerster | Jim Kravitz       | Amos Whiting      |
| Jarrod Hollinger | Amy Groom      | Peter Santini     | Bruce Wood        |
| Ella Bennet      | Danny Hundert  | Charlie MacArthur | Pam Wood          |
| Todd Brewer      | Jim Ingram     |                   |                   |

## CONSTRUCTION RECOVERY TASK FORCE

Sam Barney - *ACRA Board Member*  
Maria Morrow - *ACRA Board Member*  
Chris Bendon  
Sarah Broughton  
Patrick Rawley

# THANK YOU!

(\*Apologies to anyone who may not have been named.)



# COVID-19

*The rhythms of daily life around the world were redefined by the novel coronavirus pandemic. In Aspen, Snowmass and Basalt we count ourselves lucky that we had space outdoors to enjoy and that we had some creative neighbors who made this challenging time a little easier.*

## BEST COMMUNITY OUTREACH OR INITIATIVE: Aspen Skiing Co. Food Drive

When the tourism industry shut down in spring 2020 and the unemployment crisis hit, Skico stepped up to help keep local families fed. First Skico gave away its own food from shuttered restaurants, then it used its hospitality expertise to organize Food Bank of the Rockies events to feed the hungry.



Other top vote-getters included the Aspen Hope Center and Pitkin County's Health and Human Services department, who continue to support locals in need.



## BEST LOCAL/ VIRTUAL EVENT Audi Drive-in Theatre at Buttermilk

We welcomed the return of the drive-in during summer 2020 and the Buttermilk parking lot was the hub of the local scene, hosting classic movies as well as some new ski and outdoor fare on the big screen.

## WINNER QUICK LIST

### BEST COMMUNITY OUTREACH OR INITIATIVE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Skico Food Drive
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Aspen Hope Center
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Pitkin County Services

### BEST LOCAL ONLINE VIDEO OR WEB SERIES

- 1<sup>st</sup> Aspen Ideas Festival
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Skippy's Instagram Updates
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jazz Aspen At Home

### BEST LOCAL/ VIRTUAL EVENT

- 1<sup>st</sup> Audi Drive-In Theatre at Buttermilk
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Aspen Ideas Festival
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ooh la la, the Bash Online! (Buddy Program)

### BEST TAKEOUT COCKTAILS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jimmy's
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Meat & Cheese Restaurant and Farm Shop
- 3<sup>rd</sup> El Korita

### BEST TAKEOUT FOOD

- 1<sup>st</sup> Meat & Cheese
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Big Wrap
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Home Team BBQ



**BEST ONLINE  
VIDEO/  
WEB SERIES:**

**Aspen Ideas Festival**

Its in-person event canceled, Aspen Ideas went virtual June 28-July 2 with inspiring and edifying – and free! – daily programs with the likes of Anthony Fauci, Anna Deveare Smith and Michael Eric Dyson. Worth noting here, the second-most votes went to Aspen City Councilman Skippy Mesirow's Instagram updates, a subject of much ridicule, occasional controversy and always-welcome distraction in 2020.



**The people have spoken!  
Congratulations, Sally Shiekman!  
Voted the #3 Female Real Estate Broker  
by The Aspen Times Best of Aspen**

A photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a dark cap and sunglasses, smiling. She is in the foreground, and behind her is a vast, rugged mountain range covered in snow under a clear blue sky. The image serves as the background for the lower section of the page.

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A circular seal with a mountain range illustration. The text "ASPEN • SNOWMASS • BASALT" is at the top, "BEST OF 2020" is in the center, and "THE ASPEN TIMES" is at the bottom.



## BEST TAKEOUT FOOD: Meat & Cheese

When the tourism industry shut down in spring 2020 and the unemployment crisis hit, Skico stepped up to help keep local families fed. First, Skico gave away its own food from shuttered restaurants, then it used its hospitality expertise to organize Food Bank of the Rockies events to feed the hungry.



## BEST TAKEOUT COCKTAILS: Jimmy's

The most popular accessory at distanced gatherings in the park this summer was a Jimmy's bottled margarita, often delivered by the bar's costumed cocktail delivery service and trailer.

THANK YOU ASPEN FOR THE  
WARM WELCOME!!!  
YOU HAVE MADE MY FIRST  
YEAR MEMORABLE.

Bob Dillon- New Owner  
of Aspen Total Automotive.



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# Shopping

*Shopping is a social pastime in Aspen and never more so than in 2020, when popping in to browse or buy was among a short menu of social outlets available for most of the year.*



## BEST FLORIST: Mountain Flowers of Aspen

The quaint shop just off Main Street on Monarch Street has been a “Best Of” winner for five consecutive years now. With another shop at the Obermeyer Building by Rio Grande Park, the shop is just finishing up their 24th year as the place for a “just because” bouquet to your spouse to full-on big-time Aspen weddings.



## BEST DISPENSARY: The Green Joint

Owners Dan and Cheryl Sullivan expanded upvalley in 2018 from the remodeled house in Glenwood Springs and quickly made an impression in Aspen, which has an abundance of pot shops (\$11.9M combined sales of bud products in 2019). The Green Joint in Aspen adjusted to the pandemic, and you can call ahead for curbside pick-up.

## WINNER QUICK LIST



### BEST ANNUAL SALE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sport Obermeyer
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Pitkin County Dry Goods
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Four Mountain Sports

### BEST CLOTHING STORE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Pitkin County Dry Goods
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Susie's Limited
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Midland Clothing

### BEST DISPENSARY

- 1<sup>st</sup> The Green Joint
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Best Day Ever
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Silverpeak

### BEST FLORIST

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mountain Flowers of Aspen
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sashae Floral Arts & Gift
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Aspen Branch

### BEST GALLERY

- 1<sup>st</sup> Skye Gallery
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Pergande Gallery
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Axion Gallery

### BEST GIFT SHOP

- 1<sup>st</sup> Emporium and Flying Circus
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Amen Wardy
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Hollyann

### BEST GROCERY OR CONVENIENCE STORE

- 1<sup>st</sup> City Market
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Roxy's Market
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Clark's Market – Snowmass

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## BEST GALLERY: Skye Gallery

Skye Gallery helps keep Aspen on the forefront of contemporary art, showcasing emerging talents, established masters and conversation-starting events from Strange Dirt's "Sanctuary" exhibition to Jenelle Figgins' "Al(L) Ready Ancestors" performance piece.



### BEST HARDWARE/ BUILDING SUPPLY

- 1<sup>st</sup> Miners Building  
True Value
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Alpine Ace Hardware
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Valley Lumber Co LLC

### BEST HOTEL

- 1<sup>st</sup> Hotel Jerome
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The Little Nell
- 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Regis Aspen  
Resort

### BEST JEWELRY STORE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Meridian
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Emporium and  
Flying Circus
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Pitkin County Dry  
Goods

### BEST LIQUOR STORE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Aspen Grog Shop
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Four Dogs Fine  
Wines & Spirits
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Of Grape & Grain

### BEST RETAIL WINDOW DISPLAY

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ralph Lauren
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Emporium and  
Flying Circus
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Aspen Thrift Shop



### BEST SECOND HAND STORE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Aspen Thrift Shop
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Susie's Limited
- 3<sup>rd</sup> The Little Bird

### BEST SHOE STORE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Midland Shoe
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ute Mountaineer
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Bloomingbird's

## BEST GIFT SHOP: Emporium and Flying Circus

If you can't find a gift for someone here, well ... you're just not in the game. The Emporium stands out on Main Street for its unique exterior and stands out inside because of all the options from candy and jars of honey to artwork and jewelry of all price points, it's a fun stroll through this circus for all of its quirky and eccentric selections.



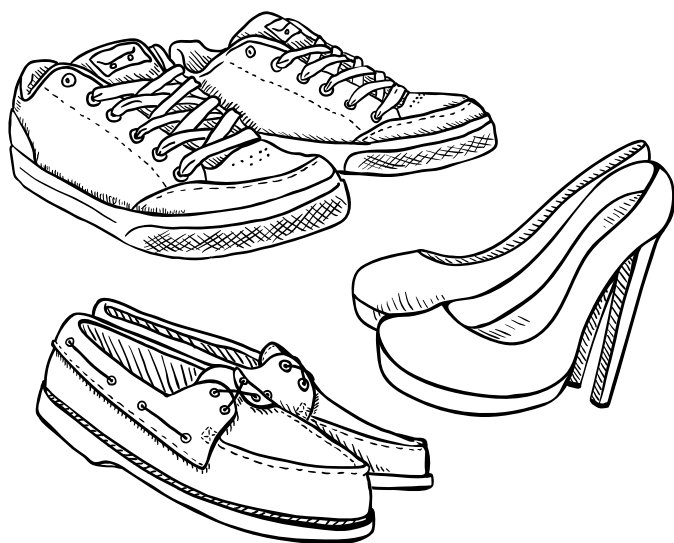


## BEST **HOTEL**: Hotel Jerome

The downtown staple has been on the corner of Main and Mill streets since 1889. The J-Bar is the place of legends, and the lobby and back bar have their own feel. Add on the outdoor patio (next to our old Aspen Times building) and there's something for everyone, even if you don't spend the night.

## BEST **SHOE STORE**: Midland Shoes in Basalt

Owner Tracy Bennett has run the downtown Basalt store for nearly 40 years, and she does live up to being "the sole of the valley." She's always willing to chat and give her advice and tips when looking through her collection of shoes, socks, hats and vegan handbags.



So grateful to be part  
of this community!

# THANK YOU ASPEN!

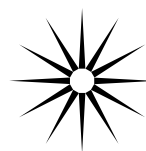


Kenny & Robin Smith and the Meridian Team:  
Janice, Linda, Lorena, Lori, Stacey & Stephan

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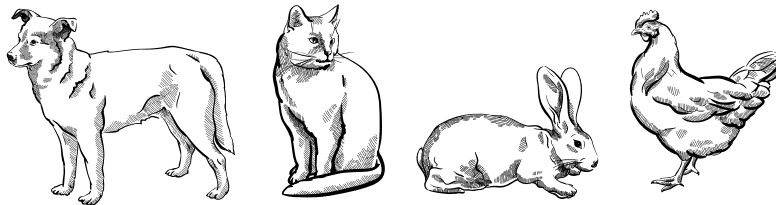
# Services

*The fabric of a community is woven by and of its people. In Aspen, Snowmass and Basalt, our people are here to help with your muffler, your savings, your house and your dog. And they literally have your back, in the case of our best chiropractor winners.*

## BEST VETERINARIAN:

### John Kuck, Willits Vet

Dr. John Kuck and his wife, Kristen, founded the family business more than eight years ago, and it has grown into a practice with a team of veterinarians and a complete nursing staff of Certified Veterinary Technicians. The Kuck's keep it local and recruited from the Veterinary Technician program at Colorado Mountain College. We like that.



## BEST BANK: Alpine Bank

The folks who make up employee-owned Alpine Bank are quality, from the tellers to the loan officers and managers. The bank, which started in Carbondale in 1973, has more than 40 branches, including one in downtown Aspen and two in Snowmass. In 2018, the group handed out more than \$4 million to Colorado-based charitable organizations, according to a Denver Business Journal report.

## WINNER QUICK LIST

### BEST ARCHITECTURE FIRM

- 1<sup>st</sup> Forum Phi
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Bryan May Architecture
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Rowland + Broughton

### BEST AUTO SERVICE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Aspen Total Automotive
- 2<sup>nd</sup> High Tone Auto Body
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Basalt Oil & Lube

### BEST BANK

- 1<sup>st</sup> Alpine Bank
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Bank of Colorado
- 3<sup>rd</sup> FirstBank

### BEST CHIROPRACTOR

- 1<sup>st</sup> Dr. Fred Wilson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dr. Peter Scher
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dr. Jason Slaver

### BEST DENTIST

- 1<sup>st</sup> Dr. Andrew Turchin
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dr. Karina Redko
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dr. Ward Johnson

### BEST DOCTOR

- 1<sup>st</sup> Dr. Gail King
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dr. Ann Mass
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dr. Melinda Nagle

### BEST ELECTRICIAN

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ajax Electric
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Littell Electric
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Fat City Electric & Rick Bennett (tie)

### BEST FINANCIAL SERVICES

- 1<sup>st</sup> Reese Henry and Co
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Aspen Business Services
- 3<sup>rd</sup> John Tangen, CPA

### BEST GRAPHIC DESIGN STUDIO

- 1<sup>st</sup> The MyersRoberts Collective
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Forte Aspen
- 3<sup>rd</sup> ZGMAD (ZG Marketing & Design)

## BEST DOCTOR:

### Dr. Gail King

When the pandemic first swept across Pitkin County, Dr. King was one of the first to get antibody tests and she administered them behind her Aspen Center for Women's Health Practice. She co-founded and is managing partner of Regen Aspen, an advanced medical center encompassing anti-aging and regenerative medicine.



#### *FUN FACT!*

Dr. King is the author of the 2015 book "Legs Up! The Ultimate Troubleshooting Guide for Your Vagina." As the title suggests, it's not a dry textbook or medical tome. It's a frank, funny run down of issues she frequently treats in her patients in Aspen, with a particular eye on taboo and embarrassing topics.

"Every woman has a vagina, most men like vaginas, and everyone came out of one," King told The Aspen Times. "So there's something in it for everyone, and it's applicable to at least half the population."



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## BEST AUTO SERVICE: Aspen Total Automotive

Tucked in the back of the Aspen Business Center, the crew at ATA is well versed in everything from oil changes to off-road packages and performance. Longtime owner John Guenther retired in December 2019, and new owner Bob Dillon has kept going with the quality customer service.

## BEST REALTOR: Melissa Temple

As the real estate market hit unprecedented numbers in the summer, Melissa Temple with Engel & Volkers was right in the thick of it. A global real estate adviser and partner, her clients say she is driven, resourceful, hardworking and, more importantly, say she makes buying a home fun and exciting.



## BEST REALTOR: Hank Carter

What's not to love about Hank? A relative newcomer to the real estate scene, Hank has quickly made a name for himself in the Aspen market with Sotheby's by his willingness to listen, upbeat attitude and desire to help people — all traits we saw of him when he worked with us at the Times (and for the record, we did not stuff the ballot box).



### **BEST HAIR SALON OR BARBERSHOP**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Salon Tullio
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lather Salon
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jul Beauty

### **BEST INSURANCE AGENT**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Tim Morgan
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mark Devlin
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Fordy Sinkinson

### **BEST INTERIOR DESIGN FIRM**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Forum Phi
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Rowland + Broughton
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Poss Architecture

### **BEST MASSAGE THERAPIST**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Travis Andrews
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Alan Roberts
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dani Grace, LMT

### **BEST PHYSICAL THERAPY**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Aspen Sports Medicine
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Roaring Fork Physical Therapy
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Aspen Valley Hospital

### **BEST PLUMBER**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bishop Plumbing Heating & AC
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Aussie Plumbing and Heating
- 3<sup>rd</sup> AOK Plumbing & Heating

### **BEST REAL ESTATE FIRM**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Douglas Elliman Real Estate
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Setterfield & Bright
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Aspen Snowmass Sotheby's International Realty



## BIG DEALS OF 2020

The local real estate market was a welcome bright spot for 2020, when buyers fled more crowded metropolitan areas during the pandemic for healthy, high mountain living in Aspen. The trend led to record-breaking home sales. These are a few examples, highlighted in our weekly "What's the Big Deal?" real estate column.

41 Popcorn Lane, east of Aspen  
Sold for \$32 million on Sept. 9

720 Willoughby Way, Red Mountain  
Bought by media mogul Byron Allen for \$27 million on July 9.

1051 & 1055 Stage Road, riverfront in Aspen  
Sold for \$21.5 million on June 12



### BEST REALTOR (FEMALE)

1<sup>st</sup> Melissa Temple  
2<sup>nd</sup> BJ Adam  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sally Shiekman

### BEST REALTOR (MALE)

1<sup>st</sup> Hank Carter  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jordan Nemirow  
3<sup>rd</sup> Chris Klug

### BEST SPA

1<sup>st</sup> Remède Spa  
2<sup>nd</sup> Aspen Vida Medi Spa  
3<sup>rd</sup> NeuroSpa

### BEST VETERINARIAN

1<sup>st</sup> John Kuck - Willits  
Veterinary Hospital  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bisque Jackson  
- Aspen Veterinary  
Services  
3<sup>rd</sup> Anne Cooley - Aspen  
Animal Hospital



The people have spoken!  
**Congratulations, Hank Carter!**  
Voted the #1 Male Real Estate Broker  
by The Aspen Times Best of Aspen



970.400.7805 | [hank.carter@sir.com](mailto:hank.carter@sir.com) | [AspenSnowmassSIR.com](http://AspenSnowmassSIR.com)





# Outdoors

*Few opinions are more debated by locals and few loyalties as fierce as those about where you ski, bike and hike. These heated contests awarded iconic experiences like biking to the Maroon Bells, skiing Highland Bowl and hiking Cathedral Lake.*



## BEST FLY FISHING OUTFITTER:

### Aspen Outfitting Co.

Aspen Outfitting Co. and guide Flinn Pomeroy must have all the honey holes on lock considering this is the third year in a row the duo has taken the top spot for Best Fly-Fishing Outfitter and Best Fly-Fishing Guide. Truly one of the best sports to practice social distancing in, Aspen Outfitting Co. is offering most of their trips out of their Woody Creek location, but they still have their St. Regis location for the more bougie fishermen and women of the bunch.



## BEST GUIDE: Flinn Pomeroy

## WINNER QUICK LIST

### BEST BIKE RIDE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Maroon Bells
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Aspen to Woody Creek Tavern
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sky Mountain Park

### BEST BIKE SHOP

- 1<sup>st</sup> Hub of Aspen
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ute City Cycles
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Basalt Bike & Ski

### BEST CHAIRLIFT

- 1<sup>st</sup> Silver Queen Gondola
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lift 1A
- 3<sup>rd</sup> High Alpine

### BEST FISHING GUIDE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Flinn Pomeroy
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jordan Duchein
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Willy Klein

### BEST FLY-FISHING OUTFITTER

- 1<sup>st</sup> Aspen Outfitting Company
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Taylor Creek Fly Shop
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Frying Pan Anglers

### BEST GYM

- 1<sup>st</sup> Snowmass Club
- 2<sup>nd</sup> TAC Fitness and Wellness Center
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Aspen Recreation Center

### BEST HIKE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Cathedral Lake
- 2<sup>nd</sup> American Lake
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Lost Man

### BEST NORDIC TRAIL

- 1<sup>st</sup> Aspen Golf Course
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Owl Creek Trail
- 3<sup>rd</sup> River Run Trail @ Ashcroft

### BEST RAFTING COMPANY

- 1<sup>st</sup> Blazing Adventures Aspen
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kiwi Adventures
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Elk Mountain Expeditions

### BEST RAFTING GUIDE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Scotty Gibsone
- 2<sup>nd</sup> RJ Peshek
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Kate Marzoni



## BEST **SKI SHOP**: Hamilton Sports

Sorry snowboarders, you'll have to go drag your knuckles in some other shop, because Hamilton Sports is a ski-only type of place. This year's best ski shop winner is located just steps away from the Silver Queen Gondola, which Best Of voters have once again deemed the crown jewel of Aspen-Snowmass chairlifts, has a friendly, locals vibe and will sell, rent or tune whatever you need, as long as it's ski related.



## BEST **CHAIRLIFT**: Silver Queen Gondola

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## BEST BIKE SHOP:

### Hub of Aspen

Nationwide bike sales and bike repairs have soared during the coronavirus pandemic as people look for more ways to get outside and stay moving even if it's just around their own neighborhood. In fact, in order to keep up with the pandemic demand, The Hub of Aspen expanded to the empty space beside their shop.



## BEST GUIDE: Scotty Gibsone



## BEST RAFTING COMPANY: Blazing Adventures Aspen

New to the Best Of list this year, is Best Rafting Company and Best Raft Guide. Congratulations to Blazing Adventures Aspen and Scotty Gibsone, from Kiwi Adventure Co., for floating away with first place in this inaugural year!

### **BEST SHRINE**

- 1<sup>st</sup> John Denver Sanctuary
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sam Coffey
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jerry Garcia

### **BEST SKI RUN**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Highland Bowl, Highlands
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Naked Lady, Snowmass
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Face of Bell, Aspen

### **BEST SKI SHOP**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Hamilton Sports
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Four Mountain Sports
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Snowmass Sports

### **BEST WORKOUT CLASS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Pure Barre
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lace Up Boxing Club
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Thug Yoga - Courtney Smith

### **BEST YOGA OR PILATES STUDIO**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Aspen Shakti
- 2<sup>nd</sup> O2 Life
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Snowmass Club

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ON BEING VOTED BEST FLY FISHING GUIDE.

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# Basalt Food & Drink

*We split the dining and drinking categories geographically this year, with contests and campaigns in Aspen, Snowmass and Basalt. It's a diverse and mouthwatering lot, from Basalt's chosen best burger at Sure Thing to Aspen's fine dining at Cache Cache and the Snowmass favorite margarita at Venga Venga.*



## BEST BEER SELECTION: Capitol Creek Brewery

They have two of the best IPAs in the valley in the Green Drake, which is a solid old school type, and the RFG (which stands for "Really F-in' Good") is one of the best hazy IPAs around. They rotate their taps, but if you get a chance and it's in season, don't pass up on at least trying the "Not Your Mama's Cherry Pie" ale, which comes in at a bold 7%.

### "WHAT'S IN YOUR CAPITOL CREEK BEER?"



WATER



HOPS



WHEAT



YEAST



SPICES

## WINNER QUICK LIST

### BEST AFFORDABLE EATS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sure Thing Burger
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mod's Thai House
- 3<sup>rd</sup> BLT Taqueria

### BEST BAR

- 1<sup>st</sup> Free Range Kitchen & Wine Bar
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The Topsy Trout
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Capitol Creek Brewery

### BEST BEER SELECTION

- 1<sup>st</sup> Capitol Creek Brewery
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Zane's Tavern Willits
- 3<sup>rd</sup> The Topsy Trout

### BEST BREAKFAST

- 1<sup>st</sup> Breakfast in America
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Two Rivers Cafe
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Cafe Bernard

### BEST BURGER

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sure Thing Burger
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Free Range Kitchen & Wine Bar
- 3<sup>rd</sup> The Brick Pony Pub

### BEST CHICKEN WINGS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Zane's Tavern Willits
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The Topsy Trout
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Capitol Creek Brewery

### BEST COCKTAIL MENU

- 1<sup>st</sup> Woody Creek Distillers
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Free Range Kitchen & Wine Bar
- 3<sup>rd</sup> El Korita

### BEST COFFEE SHOP

- 1<sup>st</sup> CC Café
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Craft Coffee House
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Starbucks

### BEST FAMILY RESTAURANT

- 1<sup>st</sup> El Korita
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Heather's Savory Pies and Tapas Bar
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sure Thing Burger

# THANK YOU!

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## BEST BREAKFAST: Breakfast in America

If you're on the hunt for avocado toast, then please direct your breakfast dollars elsewhere, but if you're in the mood for a killer classic combo platter, some migas or a "good old pancake," then Breakfast in America is your spot. Complete with an open kitchen surrounded by bar seats, this relaxed, diner-style joint with actually affordable prices fills a breakfast-shaped void in the Upper Roaring Fork Valley.



# Thank You, Customers!

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## BEST COCKTAIL MENU:

### Woody Creek Distillers

They've got your whiskey drink, they've got your vodka drink ... they don't have any lager or cider drinks, but they do have gin drinks! (A Chumbawamba reference, for all you readers born after 2000.) Woody Creek Distillers has a stellar cocktail menu with a selection of classic cocktails, seasonal drinks and of course a tasting menu of all their alcohols that are distilled on site.



### WOODY CREEK DISTILLERS' MOSCOW MULE RECIPE

#### INGREDIENTS

Fresh lime juice  
2 ounces Woody Creek Distillers Signature Potato Vodka  
3 dashes bitters  
1 bottle ginger beer  
1 lime wedge

#### DIRECTIONS

Combine the vodka, bitters, and lime juice in a copper mug  
Top off with 3 to 4 ounces ginger beer  
Stir, garnish with a lime wedge  
Serve and enjoy

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We'd like to thank everyone that voted for us in the Best of Basalt 2020 Competition! Our hearts are full of gratitude from being recognized for our delicious food.

### Award Winning Excellence

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## BEST FINE DINING: Tempranillo

For over 10 years, Tempranillo has been dishing out their signature fare that combines an old-world Spanish style with new-world flair. Chef Javier Gonzalez-Bringas is a staple in the Wines of Spain tent at the Food & Wine Classic in Aspen, when not in the kitchen at Tempranillo or sourcing ingredients for his restaurant from the Missouri Heights ranch he runs with wife and restaurant co-owner Laura Maine, of course.



## BEST PATIO: Topsy Trout

There is some stiff competition for Best Patio in Basalt, with most restaurants offering ample space for dining al fresco, but we can see why the Topsy Trout came out on top. Their back patio is expansive and located right on the gold medal status Fryingpan River, a perfect place for you to go after a long day on the river to trade stories with other patrons about that giant fish you hooked ... we won't tell if you remember it being bigger than it actually was.



### BEST FRENCH FRIES

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sure Thing Burger
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Zane's Tavern Willits
- 3<sup>rd</sup> The Topsy Trout

### BEST HAPPY HOUR

- 1<sup>st</sup> El Korita
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Capitol Creek Brewery
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mezzaluna Willits

### BEST MARGARITA

- 1<sup>st</sup> El Korita
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jalisco Grill
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Free Range Kitchen & Wine Bar

### BEST PATIO

- 1<sup>st</sup> The Topsy Trout
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tempranillo
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Heather's Savory Pies and Tapas Bar

### BEST PLACE TO CATCH A GAME

- 1<sup>st</sup> Zane's Tavern Willits
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The Topsy Trout
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Capitol Creek Brewery

### BEST SANDWICH SHOP

- 1<sup>st</sup> BLT Taqueria
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Scottie's
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Timbo's Pizza

### BEST WINE LIST

- 1<sup>st</sup> Free Range Kitchen & Wine Bar
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tempranillo
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mezzaluna Willits







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# Snowmass Food & Drink

## BEST APRÉS-SKI: Venga Venga

You know that place that when you walk by and think, “Man, I gotta be a part of that”? Yeah, that’s the patio scene post-skiing at Venga. Situated at the end of the Snowmass Mall and in the middle of Fanny Hill, the deck has views that go on for miles. And the margarita menu alone is worth the stop, and their specialty cocktails have the Mexican flair.



### VENGA VENGA'S SPICY ORANGE MARGARITA

Sitting on the Venga Venga patio overlooking the Skittles chairlift, you realize the rainbow of colors on the Snowmass Ski Area people-mover resembles those of the establishment’s margarita choices. The Mexican restaurant with incredible views, thanks to its location at the end of the Snowmass Mall, has a five-marg menu ranging from the light-green standard house option to a prickly pear-blueberry concoction. We’ve taken a liking to the spicy orange – serrano pepper, blanco tequila, fresh orange juice and a splash of sweet-and-sour mix with an orange wedge – a kick to start your hangout on the deck.



## WINNER QUICK LIST

### BEST AFFORDABLE EATS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Taster's Pizza
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Fuel Cafe
- 3<sup>rd</sup> The Edge Restaurant and Bar

### BEST BAR

- 1<sup>st</sup> The Edge Restaurant and Bar
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Venga Venga Cantina & Tequila Bar
- 3<sup>rd</sup> New Belgium Ranger Station

### BEST BREAKFAST OR COFFEE SHOP

- 1<sup>st</sup> Fuel Cafe
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The Crepe Shack
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Big Hoss Grill Third Place

### BEST BURGER

- 1<sup>st</sup> Black Saddle Bar & Grille
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The Edge Restaurant and Bar
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Slow Groovin BBQ

### BEST COCKTAIL MENU

- 1<sup>st</sup> Venga Venga Cantina & Tequila Bar
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The Edge Restaurant and Bar
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Il Poggio

### BEST FAMILY RESTAURANT

- 1<sup>st</sup> Gwyn's
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The Edge Restaurant and Bar
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Taster's Pizza

### BEST FINE DINING

- 1<sup>st</sup> Il Poggio
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Gwyn's High Alpine
- 3<sup>rd</sup> The Edge Restaurant and Bar

### BEST HAPPY HOUR

- 1<sup>st</sup> The Edge Restaurant and Bar
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Venga Venga Cantina & Tequila Bar
- 3<sup>rd</sup> New Belgium Ranger Station



## BEST BURGER: Black Saddle

When you start with a half-pound of black angus beef,, chances are everything else after that is just icing on top of the burger. The Black Saddle burger can be as basic as the beef with a unique aioli and caramelized onions, or can get dressed up in a variety of options including five cheeses to choose from as well as fried egg, mushrooms, bacon and/ or avocado. And the views from the patio at the Snowmass Club golf course make each bite a little better.



### BEST ON-MOUNTAIN RESTAURANT

- 1<sup>st</sup> Gwyn's High Alpine
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sam's
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Elk Camp

### BEST PATIO

- 1<sup>st</sup> Venga Venga Cantina & Tequila Bar
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The Edge Restaurant and Bar
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Black Saddle Bar & Grille

### BEST PLACE TO APRÈS-SKI

- 1<sup>st</sup> Venga Venga Cantina & Tequila Bar
- 2<sup>nd</sup> The Edge Restaurant and Bar
- 3<sup>rd</sup> New Belgium Ranger Station

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**BEST  
AFFORDABLE  
EATS:  
Taster's**

You're not a locals' favorite and a staple since 2001 without an affordable menu. Owners Stacy Forster and Heather Huber kept the doors open in some fashion during the onset of the pandemic, and for a while they were one of the only places in the Village to treat yourself to takeout. With the pending remodel of the Town Center, in August 2020, they opened the Daly Diner right next for breakfast and lunch.





The people have spoken!  
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## BEST **HAPPY HOUR:**

### The Edge

Known for their authentic Alpine cuisine, the Edge's 4-6 p.m. happy hour usually includes their specialty, the schnitzel sandwich with a beer and Bulleit for \$20 (and if you're more a burger person, they do that too). Just thinking beer? They have a \$10 stein that you can nurse with some apps (try the cabbage roll), and they also put a rotating specialty cocktail on the happy hour.



### OUR GO-TO DISHES AT THE EDGE

After a long day shredding the slopes or mountain biking the 'Mass, our minds turn to happy hour and apres-ski with a stein of draft beer and homemade pretzels, to bubbling fondue with a snifter of schnapps or handcrafted hot toddy, a three-course dinner comprising Gulaschuppe (rich goulash with beef,

potatoes, onions and paprika), a hearty schnitzel and strudel. But perhaps most of all that fondue: served as a bubbling pot of Emmentaler and Gruyère cheeses with a side of crisp apples, crunchy bread and fresh sausage for dipping. Melted with a hint of the German fruit brandy kirschwasser, it's one-of-a kind.



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# Aspen Food & Drink



## BEST BAKERY:

### Louis Swiss

A bakery that serves up apple fritters, empanadas, deep-dish pizza and whole roasted chickens? Sign us up. But be warned, much like Chick-fil-A, Louis Swiss is closed on Sundays, so maybe buy an extra pastry or two on Saturday for when that inevitable craving hits on a Sunday.



## WINNER QUICK LIST

### BEST AFFORDABLE EATS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Big Wrap
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Bamboo Bear
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Home Team BBQ

### BEST BAKED GOOD OR BAKERY

- 1<sup>st</sup> Louis Swiss Pastry Inc
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Paradise Bakery & Cafe
- 3<sup>rd</sup> French Pastry Cafe & More

### BEST BAR

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jimmy's
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Hooch Craft Cocktail Bar
- 3<sup>rd</sup> J-Bar

### BEST BEER SELECTION

- 1<sup>st</sup> Hops Culture
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Aspen Tap / Aspen Brewing Co
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Meat & Cheese Restaurant and Farm Shop

### BEST BREAKFAST

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jour De Fête
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Poppycock's
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Aspen Hickory House

### BEST BURGER

- 1<sup>st</sup> J-Bar
- 2<sup>nd</sup> White House Tavern
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ajax Tavern

### BEST CHICKEN WINGS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Home Team BBQ
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Zane's Tavern
- 3<sup>rd</sup> The Red Onion

### BEST COCKTAIL MENU

- 1<sup>st</sup> Hooch Craft Cocktail Bar
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jimmy's
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Meat & Cheese Restaurant and Farm Shop

### BEST COFFEE SHOP

- 1<sup>st</sup> Local Coffee House
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Paradise Bakery
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jour De Fête





## BEST BAR: Jimmy's

When the bars shut down during coronavirus lockdowns this spring, the creative and fun-loving folks at Jimmy's took the bar to the people stuck at home. They offered a cocktail delivery service with pre-batched cocktails delivered by a bike and trailer system powered by their bartenders (who were often dressed in costumes). Think of it like a leveled-up, adult version of an ice cream truck. Cheers to that!

### **BEST FAMILY RESTAURANT**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Home Team BBQ
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Meat & Cheese Restaurant and Farm Shop
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Brunelleschi's

### **BEST FINE DINING**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Cache Cache
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Matsuhisa
- 3<sup>rd</sup> L'Hostaria Ristorante

### **BEST FRENCH FRIES**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ajax Tavern
- 2<sup>nd</sup> White House Tavern
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Clark's Oyster Bar

### **BEST HAPPY HOUR**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Clark's Oyster Bar
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Limelight Hotel – Aspen
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mi Chola

### **BEST MARGARITA**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Woody Creek Tavern
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jimmy's
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mi Chola



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## BEST FINE DINING & WINE LIST: Cache Cache

So nice they named it twice. Cache Cache scored top honors in two categories this year, Best Fine Dining (for the second year in a row), and Best Wine List (it spans over 100 pages, but don't stress, Sommelier Alexandre Harvier is on hand to help guide you through).



### WHERE WINE GOES NATURAL

"Like black-diamond ski runs, Aspen is filthy with great wine lists – many honored internationally," says Aspen Times Weekly WineLink columnist Kelly J. Hayes. "So it is easy to find a great bottle of wine in almost any eating establishment in town. But I have to give a tip of the hat to **Wendy Mitchell** at **Meat and Cheese** who has been supporting small, natural wine producers by carrying and promoting close to 50 bottles of natural wines on a power packed but relatively diminutive list. Stop in and go natural. It'll be fun."

### BEST OFFSEASON DEAL

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jing Aspen
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Cache Cache  
Bar Menu
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 50% off wines  
at Kenichi

### BEST ON-MOUNTAIN RESTAURANT

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bonnie's Restaurant
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Home Team BBQ
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Cloud Nine  
Alpine Bistro  
Aspen Highlands

### BEST PATIO

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ajax Tavern
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Home Team BBQ
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Hotel Jerome

### BEST PLACE TO APRÉS-SKI

- 1<sup>st</sup> Highlands Alehouse
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ajax Tavern
- 3<sup>rd</sup> W Hotel

### BEST PLACE TO CATCH A GAME

- 1<sup>st</sup> Home Team BBQ
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Zane's Tavern
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mi Chola

### BEST SANDWICH SHOP

- 1<sup>st</sup> Big Wrap
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grateful Deli
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Butcher's Block

### BEST WINE LIST

- 1<sup>st</sup> Cache Cache
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jimmy's
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Element 47

**Home Team operating partner and executive chef Taylor Garrigan created a weekly IGTV series of "Smokin' Hot Cooking Tips." posting cooking tips videos on Home Team favorites — follow along on @hometeambbq.**





## BEST APRÉS-SKI: Highlands Ale House

Imagine, you just crushed a sick line down Highland Bowl (voted Best Ski Run of 2020) on a bluebird powder day and now your cheering with your friends, devouring a fresh slice of pepperoni pizza while the music bumps you're favorite ski day tune on the patio at the base of Aspen Highlands. Awesome, now go live that moment in real life at Highlands Ale House.



*Jimmy's*  
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**BEST BAR**

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# staffpicks

*Direct democracy's cool, but have you ever asked for local tips from Aspen Times writers with hundreds of collective years of experience in town? We surveyed our team for some input on the 2020 Best Of categories.*

## THE JOY OF TAKEOUT

"Jimmy's was my first pandemic takeout experience," recalls Aspen Times marketing and magazine manager Amy Laha. "After being locked down for three weeks, I emerged from my apartment craving anything that didn't come from my fridge. Along with great food, I ordered two Naked & Famous cocktails not knowing they were 4 servings each, a most excellent surprise. Homemade hand sanitizer from Woody Creek Distillers added in my to-go bag was a classy touch."

## OUR FAVORITE MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDES

Scott Condon, environmental reporter and resident mountain biking expert, offers his favorites:

**IN ASPEN:** Smuggler, Behind-the-Signs, Tootsie Roll, Lollipop, Iowa Shaft, Hummingbird and extension, Hunter Creek Overlook and then one of several options to loop back to Aspen.

**IN SNOWMASS:** Cozy Line, Sky Line, Deadline, Rim Trail North to Seven Star.

**ON BASALT:** Buckhorn, Buckhorn Traverse, Vasten, Buckhorn Traverse second time, Glassier.



## IS THERE A "BEST" GALLERY?

"A gallery can win my loyalty with one good exhibition" says Aspen Times arts editor Andrew Travers. "Give me one transcendent experience and I'll keep coming back for years in the hopes of

another. Some of my most memorable experiences in 2020 were the pre-COVID and too-brief Yayoi Kusama mirror room installation at Aspen Art Museum, Jasmine Little's show at Boesky West, Michael Cleverly's at the Gonzo Gallery and Anderson Ranch's 'Sculpturally Distanced.'"

## MAY SELBY'S FAVORITE SOCIALLY DISTANCED OR VIRTUAL EVENTS

*The Aspen Times Weekly social columnist's best days of 2020:*

3. When the Boston Marathon was postponed from spring to fall and then went virtual, I signed up and got to choose my own course and day within the set week of Sept. 8-14. I ran on Saturday, Sept. 12 (my birthday) and went from Ashcroft to Old Snowmass. It was not a personal record time by any means, but so fun to wear the race bib all the way and join the 18,000 runners worldwide who participated and posted their results online.
2. Over dates the canceled Food & Wine Classic would have taken place, a few friends and I created our own tribute to the beloved weekend. One afternoon we had a Wines of Spain-themed tapas party in Wagner Park, with Albarino, Tempranillo and other regional wines; salsa music; Iberian ham on toast points, patatas bravas and more. Another afternoon we had a pool party with chilled rosé and plenty of pool toys, pink flamingos and lots of fun!
1. This fall, a few friends and I loaded into a Lexus Land Cruiser and headed to Buttermilk's Audi Drive-In Theatre for the final film screening of the season. We sat on the roof, on the hood and inside our car to watch "TransAmericana," highlighting Rickey Gates' run across the country in 2017. A perfect starry night and socially distanced evening.

## THESE ARE A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE HIKES

"My favorite hike this summer was a quick jaunt out to the Maroon Bells. Clichéd, I know, but I got to see two of my best friends get married!"

—Igor Laray, Aspen Times advertising account executive

"Little Cloud, starting at Koch Park, was my go-to hike this summer. Learning how to balance working from home, I needed an excuse to get outside and this 30-ish minute round-trip hike is the perfect lunchtime respite."

—Amy Laha, Aspen Times marketing & magazine manager

## AT THE DRIVE-IN

"Aspen Filmfest's drive-in screening of 'David Byrne's American Utopia' at Snowmass Town Park was epic," says Aspen Times Weekly "High Country" columnist Katie Shapiro. "Although everyone was watching separately in their cars, it was the most collective and cool event experiences of the year that gave us a much-needed feeling of connection. After each song, horns honked in unison as applause and the protest chant in 'Hell You Talmbout' has stuck with me ever since."

## WHAT MAKES A DISPENSARY "BEST," KATIE?

Aspen Times Weekly "High Country" columnist Katie Shapiro weighs in on this hotly contested category, won in 2020 by The Green Joint:

"A good dispensary has a present and welcoming staff that's also passionate about cannabis. A knowledgeable budtender makes all the difference — especially for out of town visitors new to the legal weed scene. Good flower is also a must, so like our readers this year, The Green Joint checks all the boxes for me as the 'Best.'"

It's family owned with an in-house cultivation operation in Rifle where they hand-harvest more than 20 strains focused on award-winning genetics. Plus, they have a points-based loyalty program and an online ordering option for easy, COVID-friendly pick-up."

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