

FOOD + HOME/FOOD

2018 Golden Teddy Awards — Food + Dining

This year's winners and finalists

PUBLISHED ON: JUNE 28, 2018





Food + Dining



Yum!

Every year, ParentMap readers vote on their favorite Seattle-area resources, camps, classes, shops, grub, play spots, groups and professionals in ParentMap's annual [Golden Teddy Awards](#). Read on for the winners and finalists in the Food + Dining category.

It takes more than a few crayons to make a restaurant family friendly. But finding those elusive spots with menus that everyone loves? That takes a little work. Thankfully, our readers have the inside scoop. Here are the best family dining experiences, tested and approved by you. – Gemma Alexander

Food + Dining categories include:

- Family Pizzeria
- Kid-Friendly Neighborhood Restaurant
- Sweet Treat Shop
- Cool Ice Cream Shop
- Corner Coffee Shop
- Cross-Cultural Eats
- Family-Friendly Farmer's Market



Family Pizzeria

Winner: MOD Pizza

Readers picked the pies at [MOD Pizza](#). MOD believes pizza is best straight from the oven, so its restaurants don't deliver. With MOD's various existing locations in the Seattle metro area, you won't need delivery. Families enjoy the dine-in experience at MOD because the fast service and individualized pizzas (same price, no matter how many toppings!) keep kids happy, with no time to get antsy.

Finalists

Over four decades, favorite [Pagliacci Pizza](#) has expanded from the University District to more than 20 locations throughout Seattle and the Eastside. Check out its pizza-tossing parties for a creative birthday celebration that will make a mini chef out of your kid.

Founded in Columbia City in 2004, [Tutta Bella Neapolitan Pizzeria](#) has set up shops throughout our area, giving the masses traditional Neapolitan pizza (read: wood-fired with no fancy toppings). Ask about the Associazione Verace Pizza Napoletana for a quick Italian history lesson.

Find [Zeeks Pizza](#) in Seattle, Lynnwood and Bothell (to name a few of its many locations). Founders Tom and Doug named the well-loved shop after a surfer buddy who once mused that "life is too short for crappy pizza." We couldn't agree more.

[Frēlard Pizza – Ballard Pizza Company](#) isn't only in Ballard proper. Its spot in Frēlard (that magical area between Ballard and Fremont right along Leary Way) earns points for its designated "kid pit" play space. Whether you buy your pies in Ballard, Frēlard or South Lake Union, restaurateur Ethan Stowell seeks to offer "whole pies, fat slices" with a family-friendly atmosphere to please the pickiest of eaters.



Kid-Friendly Neighborhood Restaurant

Winner: Elliott Bay Brewery & Pub

This year's winner was a finalist last year. Families enjoy all locations of [Elliott Bay Brewery & Pub](#). Wherever they partake, readers enjoy Elliott Bay's "thoughtful," traditional pub fare (fish and chips, burgers and beer), ample space and laid-back, if oft busy, setting. "Always lively [and] family-friendly," notes one happy customer.

Finalists

Go Greek at [Vios Café](#). With locations on Capitol Hill and in Ravenna, Vios offers traditional Mediterranean fare. Fans particularly crave the kebabs and galaktoboureko (creamy custard in flaky phyllo). Families rave that the play areas keep kids busy.

A 10-minute walk from Woodland Park Zoo, [Phinney Market Pub & Eatery](#) gets plenty of foot traffic from families. Look for the train table and kid-friendly eats, which include Sriracha Parmesan chicken tenders and mac and cheese.

With locations in Lynnwood and other cities around Puget Sound, [Hop Jack's](#) is billed as a place where friends and neighbors can gather to enjoy a really cold beer, unique beverages and some great food in a comfortable, fun, safe and familiar environment. Yes, please.

Lately, people have been speculating that Burien is the new Ballard. Take as evidence the [Pit Stop Taproom & Pub](#). Families voted this neighborhood hangout a favorite for its dog-friendly policy, 19 rotating taps serving primarily local beers, and award-winning veggie burgers.



Sweet Treat Shop

Winner: Bakery Nouveau

If you've ever tasted the divine creations at [Bakery Nouveau](#), you don't need anyone to tell you why it took the top spot. The bakery's Instagram-worthy pastries, breads, chocolate and sandwiches are as delicious as they are beautiful. Bakery Nouveau is worth a special trip even if you don't live near one of its locations, in West Seattle, Burien and on Capitol Hill.

Finalists

[Hello Robin](#) got its start because Molly Neitzel — of Golden Teddy winner Molly Moon's Homemade Ice Cream — encouraged baker Robin Wehl Martin to set up shop on Capitol Hill. And yes, you can get ice cream with your cookies.

Donna Lawson is the baking mom behind West Seattle's [Stuffed Cakes](#). Her goal? "Make the yummiest cake you'll ever eat." That includes stuffing the cakes with any number of delectable treats, such as preserves, pineapple curd and peanut butter cups.

They say it's better to give than to receive, but the tasty and tasteful gift boxes at [Lolli & Pops](#) mall-based candy gift shops are bound to inspire a little greediness. Go ahead, treat yourself.

Even if your kids haven't read Roald Dahl's loving descriptions of old-fashioned candy shops (see *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* or *The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me*), they couldn't help but be captivated by the timeless charm of [Sweet Mickey's](#) in Seattle.



Cool Ice Cream Shop

Winner: Molly Moon's

With tons of locations and cool seasonal flavors like Sasquatch (for the uninitiated, that's chocolate with granola and caramel) and ginger beer (plus year-round favorites like Stumptown coffee and honey lavender), it's no surprise that [Molly Moon's](#) wins our ice cream category yet again. If its fabulous flavors aren't enough of a treat, the ice creamery sources 90 percent of its ingredients from the Pacific Northwest!

Finalists

[Full Tilt Ice Cream](#) may be old school, with its pinball machines and other arcade games, but its ice cream is totally 21st century: gourmet flavors, vegan options and more.

[Frankie & Jo's](#) on Capitol Hill and in Ballard take mindful eating to a whole new level with their vegan and gluten-free plant-based ice cream. Made with cashew milk instead of dairy, Frankie & Jo's ice cream flavors are as unusual as their process. Think beet-strawberry sorbet and tahini chocolate.

There's an ice cream renaissance in the South Sound area with [Ice Cream Social](#) in Tacoma (and other south-end locations) and [Sub Zero Nitrogen Ice Cream](#) in Federal Way, both making the list of our readers' favorites. Ice Cream Social uses only natural, mostly local ingredients and no corn sweeteners. Sub Zero uses liquid nitrogen to make its unique, super-cold ice cream.



Corner Coffee Shop

Winner: Caffè Ladro

The name means “coffee thief” in Italian, because when it opened in 1994, the original Queen Anne shop intended to pinch customers from coffee giant Starbucks. Despite the recent proliferation of café-cum-play spaces, old-school Seattle-style coffee shop [Caffè Ladro](#) has stolen hearts to become ParentMap readers’ favorite corner cafe.

Finalists

[Green Bean Coffeehouse](#), in Greenwood, serves quality coffee and has tons of seating. Kids love the train table (and the shop’s proximity to Top Ten Toys). It’s also a nonprofit dedicated to community development.

[Auntie Irene](#)’s in Des Moines has no intention of becoming another Northwest coffee empire. Instead, it’s happy to serve as your second living room. Customers linger in this charming shop, which serves lunch, pastries, fair-trade coffee and ice cream. It also offers a drive-through for when you don’t have time to stop and smell the coffee.

In Seattle’s Maple Leaf neighborhood, [Cloud City Coffee](#) is all about community. Comfy couches, a lending library, newspapers, games and a kids’ play area all complement locally roasted coffee and a full menu.

Although hyperlocal Mike’s Community Cup doesn’t even have a website (it is on [Facebook](#)), it’s been serving coffee and helping out in the SeaTac community since 2008. Mike’s super-loyal customers rave about the coffee, the food and the friendly service.



Cross-Cultural Eats

Winner: Din Tai Fung

Taiwanese chain [Din Tai Fung](#) has locations around the world including several in our area. It serves Taiwanese and Chinese fare (including dim sum), but the xiao long bao (soup dumplings) are the primary draw. This place is popular, so plan for a long wait. Fortunately, its restaurants now use buzzers to call you when your table is ready, so kids can run around outside while you wait. And once you're seated, the service is as fast as the food is delicious.

Finalists

Got a hankering for Japanese food? Or maybe Italian? Mexican? Korean, Mediterranean, Indian, Thai, Vietnamese? [Crossroads Public Market International Restaurants](#) has you covered. Add in free entertainment at the Market Stage on weekends and it's a great destination for family fun.

Vegans rejoice! [Araya's Place](#) in Bellevue and Seattle has been serving vegan Thai food since 1987. No worrying about hidden fish sauce here – everything at Araya's is made to order with respect to individual allergy and dietary concerns.

As the name indicates, [Bengal Tiger Indian Restaurant](#) is rooted in the cuisine of Bangladesh and Bengal. But it offers iconic dishes from regions all across India, including vegetarian options. Regardless of origin, the food is always delicious.

Seattle has almost as many Thai restaurants as it has Starbucks, but according to readers, [Thai Siam](#) rises above the crowd. Thai Siam has been part of the Ballard/Crown Hill community since 1987, using fresh local ingredients to create its Thai flavors.



Family Friendly Farmers Market

Winner: Ballard Farmers Market

Ballard families love visiting the [Ballard Farmers Market](#), open on Sundays year-round. The market boasts a diverse group of local vendors as well as entertaining buskers on a street lined with charming boutiques. We won't tell if you indulge in hot dogs and mini doughnuts while you shop for local, organic produce and healthy prepared foods for the week ahead.

Finalists

On Saturdays from late March through mid-December, the independent [Proctor Farmers Market](#) in Tacoma supports local farmers by providing a venue for direct marketing to urban consumers. Keep an eye out for the kids' booth, which offers a different craft or activity every week.

The [Redmond Saturday Market](#) runs from May through October. The Eastside's oldest farmers market includes live bands weekly and fun events such as zucchini races, hula dancers, free crafts for kids and pet parades throughout the season.

There are seven markets in the Seattle Neighborhood Farmers Markets group, but two year-round markets stand out as reader favorites: the Saturday [University District Neighborhood Farmers Market](#) on the Ave, and the Sunday [West Seattle Neighborhood Farmers Market](#) at the Junction.