

# The Triangle's Top 25 Restaurants of the Year

BY GREG COX – newsobserver.com Correspondent

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## **Hérons**

100 Woodland Pond, in the Umstead Hotel & Spa, Cary  
447-4200

[www.héronsrestaurant.com](http://www.héronsrestaurant.com)

**Cuisine:** contemporary

Hérons' sumptuous contemporary setting lived up to management's "world class" billing the day the restaurant opened in the deluxe Umstead Hotel & Spa in January 2007. Service fell short of the mark, though, and the food could be hit or miss. Three years, three chefs and a rigorous wait staff training regimen later, Herons has finally shed its fledgling status and taken flight. The newly polished and warmly welcoming dining room staff raise the bar for service in the Triangle. And executive chef Scott Crawford, who came to Herons last year after earning national recognition at luxury resorts in Georgia and South Carolina, has quickly earned a place among North Carolina's culinary elite. Let's hope he likes his new home.

## **18 Seaboard**

18 Seaboard Ave., Raleigh  
861-4318

[www.18seaboard.com](http://www.18seaboard.com)

**Cuisine:** contemporary Southern, grill

## **Elaine's on Franklin**

454 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill  
960-2770

[www.elainesonfranklin.com](http://www.elainesonfranklin.com)

**Cuisine:** contemporary

## **Four Square**

2701 Chapel Hill Road, Durham  
401-9877

[www.foursquarerestaurant.com](http://www.foursquarerestaurant.com)

**Cuisine:** contemporary

## **Bloomsbury Bistro**

509-101 W. Whitaker Mill Road, at  
Five Points, Raleigh.  
834-9011

[www.bloomsburybistro.com](http://www.bloomsburybistro.com)

**Cuisine:** contemporary

## **Fairview**

3001 Cameron Blvd., in the  
Washington Duke Inn, Durham  
490-0999

[www.washingtondukeinn.com](http://www.washingtondukeinn.com)

**Cuisine:** contemporary

## **Frazier's**

2418 Hillsborough St., Raleigh  
828-6699

[www.fraziersbistro.com](http://www.fraziersbistro.com)

**Cuisine:** contemporary

## **Bonne Soirée**

431-10 W. Franklin St., in The  
Courtyard, Chapel Hill  
928-8388

**Cuisine:** French

## **Fearrington House**

2000 Fearrington Village Center,  
Pittsboro  
542-2121

[www.fearringtonhouse.com](http://www.fearringtonhouse.com)

**Cuisine:** contemporary

## **Il Palio**

1505 E. Franklin St., in the Siena  
Hotel, Chapel Hill  
918-2545

[www.sienahotel.com](http://www.sienahotel.com)

**Cuisine:** Italian

**J. Betski's**

10-120 W. Franklin St., Raleigh  
833-7999

[www.jbetskis.com](http://www.jbetskis.com)

**Cuisine:** German, Polish

**Lantern**

423 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill  
969-8846

[www.lanternrestaurant.com](http://www.lanternrestaurant.com)

**Cuisine:** pan-Asian

**Magnolia Grill**

1002 Ninth St., Durham  
286-3609

[www.magnoliagrill.net](http://www.magnoliagrill.net)

**Cuisine:** contemporary Southern

**Margaux's**

8111-111 Creedmoor Road, in  
Brennan Station, Raleigh  
846-9846

[www.margauxsrestaurant.com](http://www.margauxsrestaurant.com)

**Cuisine:** contemporary, seafood

**Zely & Ritz**

301 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh  
828-0018

[www.zelyandritz.com](http://www.zelyandritz.com)

**Cuisine:** tapas

**Maximillians**

8314 Chapel Hill Road, Cary  
465-2455

[www.maximilliansgrill.com](http://www.maximilliansgrill.com)

**Cuisine:** contemporary Asian,  
Mediterranean, Southwestern

**Nana's**

2514 University Drive, Durham  
493-8545

[www.nanasdurham.com](http://www.nanasdurham.com)

**Cuisine:** contemporary  
Mediterranean

**Panciuto**

110 S. Churton St., Hillsborough  
732-6261

[www.panciuto.com](http://www.panciuto.com)

**Cuisine:** Italian

**Poole's Downtown Diner**

426 S. McDowell St., Raleigh  
832-4477

[www.poolesdowntowndiner.com](http://www.poolesdowntowndiner.com)

**Cuisine:** American bistro

**Watts Grocery**

1116 Broad St., Durham  
416-5040

[www.wattsgrocery.com](http://www.wattsgrocery.com)

**Cuisine:** contemporary Southern

**Saint Jacques**

6112 Falls of Neuse Road, Raleigh  
862-2770

[www.saintjacquesfrenchcuisine.com](http://www.saintjacquesfrenchcuisine.com)

**Cuisine:** French

**Second Empire**

330 Hillsborough St., Raleigh  
829-3663

[www.second-empire.com](http://www.second-empire.com)

**Cuisine:** contemporary

**Vin Rouge**

2010 Hillsborough Road, Durham  
416-0406

[www.vinrougerestaurant.com](http://www.vinrougerestaurant.com)

**Cuisine:** French

**Vivace**

4209 Lassiter Mill Road, in The  
Alexan, Raleigh  
787-7747

[www.vivaceraleigh.com](http://www.vivaceraleigh.com)

**Cuisine:** Italian