



Best of Metromix: And the winners are

...

We asked: "Who's going to own 2012 in metro Detroit?" And you came through big time, casting more than 17,000 votes in the annual Best of Metromix Detroit -- crowning the top restaurants, bars, sushi, burgers, pizza and a whole lot more.

Some races were tight, and others were landslides. Whatever the margin of victory, these 25 winners represent some of metro Detroit's coolest offerings, destinations and traditions.

- [You also can also see the nominees and photos at Detroit Metromix.](#)

List of winners:

Best Burger

Red Coat Tavern: Who doesn't love debating about good burgers? It was a close race between Red Coat and Miller's, but voters said nirvana awaits you at the Red Coat, which also won the 2011 Best of Metromix crown. You can't lose with the Original Red Coat Special -- a memorably juicy ground beef patty with shredded iceberg lettuce, sliced tomato, onion, special sauce and maybe some sharp American cheese on a sesame bun. But there's a list of 25 options to mix things up, including Certified Piedmontese beef, six

cheeses, five sauces and four breads. 31542 Woodward, Royal Oak. 248-549-0300.

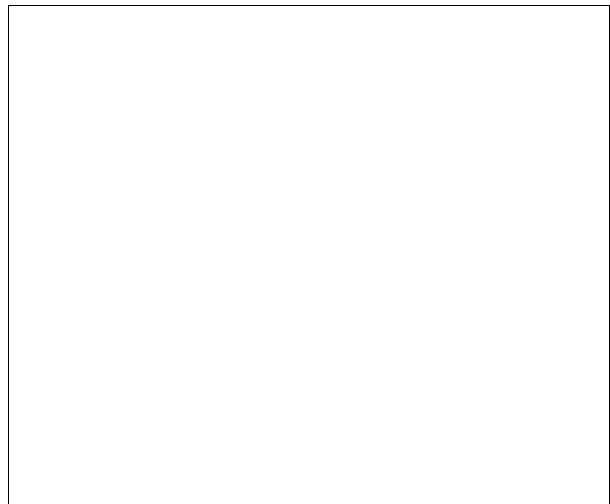
Best Brunch

The Fly Trap: Dishes like the Green Eggs and Ham, Red Flannel Hash and the Cowboy Curtis helped launch the Fly Trap to the top of the brunch heap. The cozy eatery bills itself as "The Finer Diner," and that it is. 22950 Woodward, Ferndale. 248-399-5150. www.theflytrapferndale.com

Best Brewery

Dragonmead Microbrewery: The battle for the best in-house brewed suds goes to the maker of one of the most popular brews in town: Dragonmead's Final Absolution. Opened in 1997, Dragonmead Microbrewery features a European pub-like atmosphere with board games and puzzles. Dragonmead is a place to talk and play while enjoying the 30 beers on tap or a handcrafted soda. This is a place

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for beer connoisseurs. 14600 E. Eleven Mile, Warren. 586-776-9428. www.dragonmead.com

Best Local Boutique

Noir Leather: Royal Oak's dirty little secret edged out Detroit's City Bird by just a handful of votes. Noir Leather has been feeding fetishes for the past 25 years. Consider it a one stop punk-rock shop for everything from latex to leather, corsets to thigh highs. The fun doesn't stop there; pick up hard-to-find books, magazines and DVDs or other adult novelties. 124 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 248-541-3979. www.noirleather.com

Best Restaurant

Bacco Ristorante: Readers enamored of the high-end, often imported ingredients and scratch cooking techniques put Bacco Ristorante in the top spot. The chef cooks seasonally and uses nightly specials to produce dishes like zucchini blossoms stuffed with fresh imported buffalo mozzarella and prosciutto. The regular menu is filled with dishes that have become fixtures, from hand-rolled strozzapreti pasta with Italian sausage, black truffles, tomatoes and cream to flavorful, tender Piedmontese beef filet with Gorgonzola sauce. Classic veal saltimbocca is one of the best you'll find. The all-Italian wine list boasts about 700 selections. 29410 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. 248-356-6600. www.baccoristorante.com

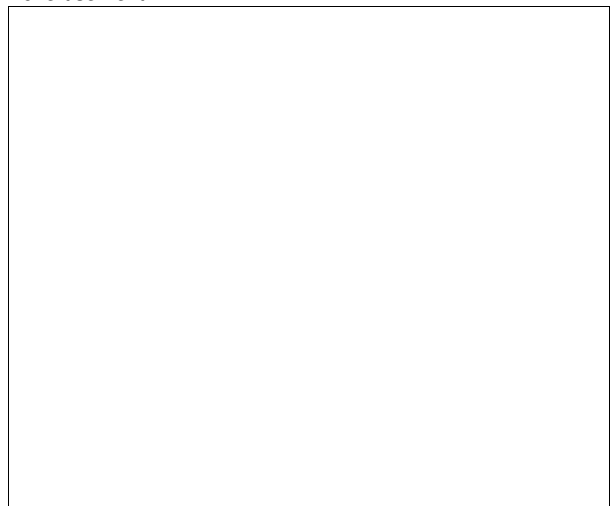
Best Outdoor hangout in the D

Campus Martius: Just a few votes separated Campus Martius and Belle Isle for the best outdoor chill space, but this central gathering place for thousands of downtown workers and residents, with green space, a fountain and a performance stage, took the prize. The 1.6-acre park features free concerts, an ice skating rink in winter, the Fountain Bistro restaurant and other attractions. Woodward between Fort and Michigan, Detroit. 313-962-0101. www.campusmartiuspark.org

Best Place to Watch the Game

Rosie O'Grady's: This was a new category in the 2012 edition of Best of Metromix, and readers sided with this hot Ferndale eatery. With stacks of TVs always tuned to the big game(s), Rosie's is a great place to grab a beer and catch your favorite sports action. Snack on delectable items from the menu like fresh white meat chicken strips, wings, nachos, pizza and Rosie's famous burgers. Pair that with fresh-cut fries or onion rings for the ultimate game day experience. 279 W. Nine Mile, Ferndale.

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248-591-9163. www.rosieogradysirishpub.com

Best Bar

Café D'Mongo's Speakeasy: It was a tight battle, with less than 10 votes separating all the nominees on a list that included Gusoline Alley, Bronx Bar, Town Pump and Northern Lights Lounge. This former jazz club on Griswold is often quiet, but on Friday and Saturday, the doors open wide to let metro Detroit's smooth cats inside to view its elegant retro motif. 1439 Griswold, Detroit. www.cafedmongos.com

Best Date Restaurant

La Dolce Vita: Romance is in the air at this Italian eatery, which kept its 2011 Best of Metromix title, narrowly edging out the Whitney for its romance factor. It also happens to be one of the most fun hidden treasures in the city. Summertime dinner outside in the garden is inspiring on many romantic levels. And if you have a Saturday-night sleepover party, the Sunday brunch is something special, too. 17546 Woodward, Detroit. 313-865-0331. www.ldvrestaurant.net

Best Sushi

Noble Fish:

Noble Fish is a small Japanese grocery store in a modest retail center. But it's the tiny store-back restaurant, Noble Fish Sushi Bar, that connected with Metromix readers. They narrowly voted it ahead of the 2011 winner, Ronin. All traditional sushi

combinations are available, as well as a few rolls unique to Noble Fish. Try the appetizer called Dynamite, a small, baked casserole of mixed seafood and vegetables. Noble Fish is widely recognized for having some of the freshest and most affordable sushi in metro Detroit. 45 E. Fourteen Mile, Clawson. 248-585-2314. www.noblefish.com

Best Festival

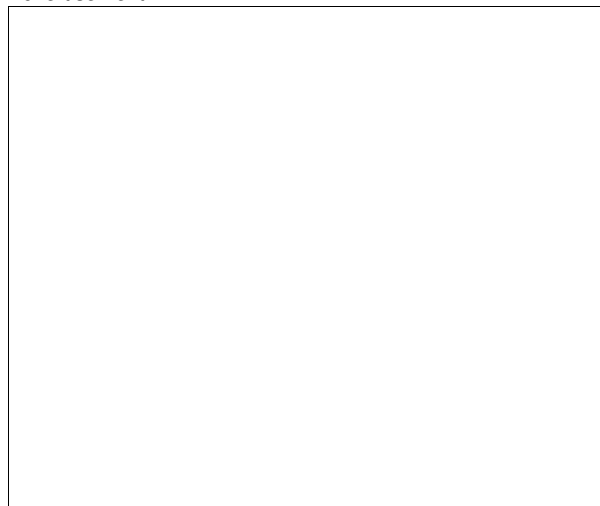
Movement:

Three straight days of electronic music at Hart Plaza, with multiple stages and dozens of musicians and DJs. That's what made Movement the ultimate stage for the city to flex its electronic music muscle -- and made it No. 1 in this formidable category. After all, Detroit is the place that founded techno music. And did we mention the afterparties? www.movement.us

Best Pizza

Buddy's Rendezvous Pizzeria: It was a

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close race, with Supino's falling just a little short of edging out this reigning champ. There's a slew of locations throughout metro Detroit, and they all rock that patented thick crust, crisp edges of melted cheese and rows of rich dark tomato sauce spooned across the top. This Detroit location is the original. 17125 Conant, Detroit. 313-892-9001. www.buddyspizza.com

Best Vegetarian Food

Om Café: Just a few sprouts separated the top two contenders in this category with Om Café taking top honors over Inn Season Café. The philosophy of Om Café incorporates the desire to prepare food that "works as vibrant medicine for the spirit." So perhaps it's no surprise that Om is a vegetarian and macrobiotic restaurant, specializing in steamed vegetables, pita pizzas and an impressive array of salads. 23136 Woodward, Ferndale. 248-548-1941. www.omcafe.com

Best Cupcake

Just Baked: Keeping its 2011 Best of Metromix title, Just Baked -- the original in Livonia and other locations in Novi, Ann Arbor and Royal Oak -- offers more than 50 flavors of gourmet and jumbo-style cupcakes, including red velvet, Fat Elvis and cinnamon doughnut. Several traditional butter-cream cupcakes are featured and made fresh daily. Oh so delicious. 33309 Seven Mile, Livonia. 734-367-0729. www.justbakedshop.com

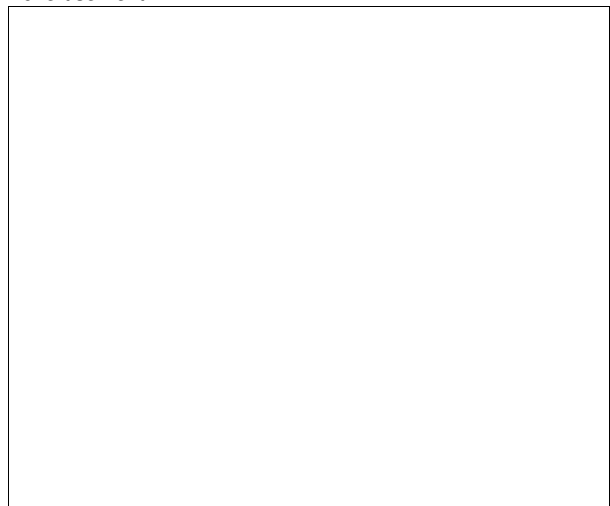
Best Coffee Shop

Torino Espresso Bar: Grabbing a half-caf, no-foam, nonfat vanilla soy latte from your corner coffee shop just got a little more stimulating thanks to three friends who teamed up to create an Italian coffeehouse in Ferndale. Torino Espresso Bar opened in July on the ground floor of the Lofts on 9 on East 9 Mile. Built from the ground up, the Italian coffeehouse serves all the brewed and iced coffees you'd expect from a decent java hut, but with the added benefit of cocktails, wines and martinis. What's not to love about that? 201 E. Nine Mile, Ferndale. 248-247-1370. www.torinoespresso.com

Best Irish Bar

Old Shillelagh: We don't have the mild, year-round temps, rolling green hills or the Rose of Tralee pageant of Europe's third-largest island, but Detroit's luck of the Irish comes by way of this Greektown staple. The pub opened in February 1975. Since then, the Old Shillelagh has remained true to its Irish roots (John Brady, one of the original owners, lived in Dublin) by offering

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Irish bands, a large Irish (and non-Irish) clientele and, of course, corned-beef sandwiches. 349 Monroe, Detroit. 313-964-0007. www.oldshillelagh.com

Best Live Music Bar

Small's Bar: Small's bar in Hamtramck -- known for its changing lineup of live rock, punk and metal bands -- just barely edged out 2011 champ the Magic Bag in this category of supreme sounds. Small's gothic touches, including stained-glass windows and chandeliers dangling from high ceilings, make this place the high church of hard rock. But the regular schedule of live music and excellent band room made it the winner. 10339 Conant, Hamtramck. 313-873-1117. www.smallsbardetroit.com

Best Gay Bar

Rainbow Room: For more than a decade the Rainbow Room has been a staple in Detroit's gay community. From raising funds for GLBT organizations to talent shows, euchre and dancing, this place does it all. 6640 E. Eight Mile, Detroit. 313-891-1020. www.clubrainbowroom.com

Best Nightclub

Luna: Narrowing down the after-dark destinations was an easy choice for readers, who overwhelmingly put Luna in the top spot. It's one of the standards for dance-floor action in Royal Oak, with hundreds of people getting down to the DJs sounds. When not stepping to the beats on the dance floor, you can kick it freestyle in

a lounge area or chill on the couch. With a music rotation that runs to '80s/'90s/obscurely hip, the dance floor is the focal point in this high-energy party den. 1815 N. Main, Royal Oak. 248-589-3344. www.lunaroyaloak.com

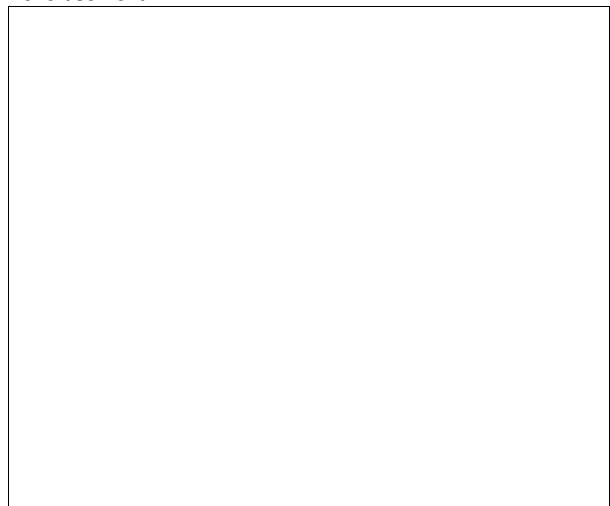
Best New Bar/Club

Sugar House: The past year saw a number of notable openings, including the Oakland and Valentine Vodka Distilling Co., both in Ferndale. But thirsty Detroiters gave top honors to the Sugar House for its classy vibe and inspired craft and classic cocktails. 2130 Michigan Ave., Detroit. 313-962-0123. www.sugarhousedetroit.com

Best New Restaurant

The Root Restaurant & Bar: Handsomely presented seasonal American cuisine -- showcasing Michigan and Midwestern ingredients such as Michigan-grown beef, pork and chicken and as much locally sourced produce as possible -- put the

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Root in the top spot with Metromix readers. Sustainable fish and seafood, cocktails handcrafted with all-natural, house-made ingredients, an all-Michigan draft beer list and a four-course tasting menu make it a fresh new dining destination. 340 Town Center Blvd., White Lake Township. 248-698-2400. www.therootrestaurant.com

Best Comedy Club

Joey's Comedy Club: Readers overwhelmingly voted Joey's Comedy Club the best place for laughs. Joey's features live stand-up comedians and some of the biggest names on the comedy circuit. Joey's is upstairs in Kicker's Total Entertainment Complex. 36071 Plymouth Road, Livonia. 734-261-5500. www.kickerscomplex.com/joey_s_comedy_club.html

Best Coney Island

Lafayette Coney Island: Picking the best coney island is serious business in Detroit. But a landslide win again put the downtown hot dog joint on the top of the pile. Readers consider Lafayette the coney king of the city. Just about anybody who is in town wants to swing by. 118 W. Lafayette, Detroit. 313-964-8198.

Best Casino

Greektown Casino: Readers overwhelmingly voted Greektown Casino the best of 2012. Greektown Casino-Hotel's Superpit features a wide range of table games -- from blackjack to poker to roulette to craps and more -- all in one high-energy location. Multiple bars and a 30-story hotel

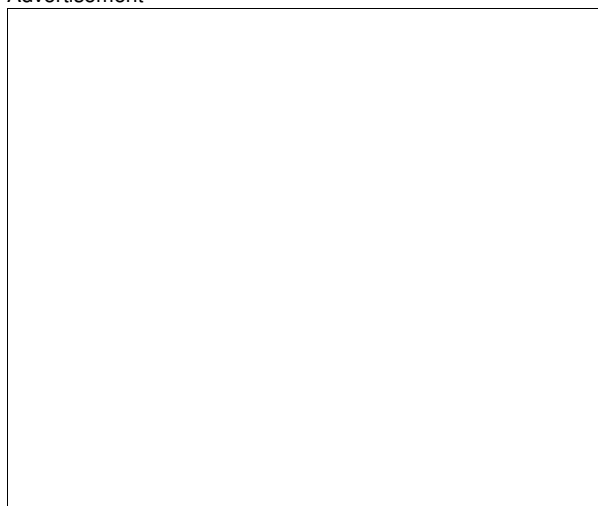
with gorgeous views of the city complete the Greektown experience. 555 E. Lafayette, Detroit. 888-771-4386. www.greektowncasino.com

Best Annual Event

Opening Day:

This Motor City tradition took the category by a landslide -- maybe it was the signing of Prince Fielder that had readers revved up. The Detroit Tigers' Opening Day is all about the party and arrival of spring. Detroiters love it.

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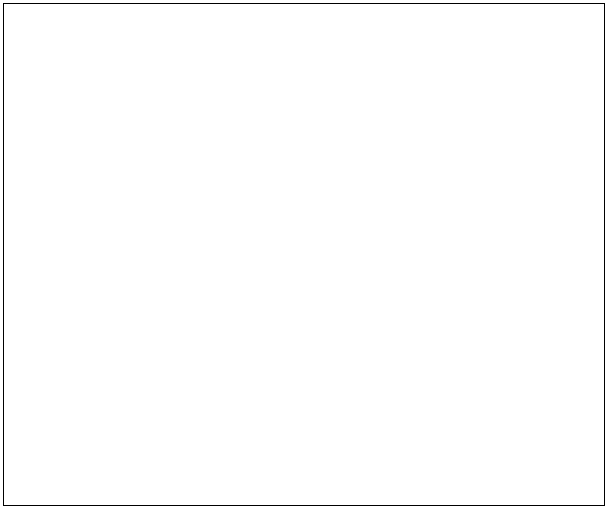
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Best place to watch the game: Rosie O'Grady's, Ferndale. Rosie's has dozens of TVs and a snack menu that offers chicken strips, wings, nachos, pizza and burgers. / KIMBERLY P. MITCHELL/Detroit Free Press

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