

BEST *of* BAMA

AWARDS 2021

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 2022? Tell us! Visit alabama-magazine.com to cast your vote!

Advertising Agency

Rocket City Digital Huntsville

rocketcitydigital.com

A full staff of cinematographer's, graphics designers, media buyers, account managers, experienced social media professionals and marketing strategists round out this award-winning marketing agency. They have been recognized by the American Advertising Federation with more than a dozen Addy Awards.

Architect

Goodwin, Mills and Cawood Montgomery

gmcnetwork.com

One of the largest architecture and engineering firms in the Southeast and ranked among the nations best, GMC designs schools, parks, hospitals and more.

Bank

Bank Independent North Alabama

bibank.com

Serving 18 communities in North Alabama, this financial institution opened in 1947 by a group of farmers in Leighton who pooled their resources when the area's only bank unexpectedly closed. To this day, they operate by the motto, "A rising tide lifts all boats," meaning if they can help the people and businesses of the community to thrive, we all win.



Charity Event

Festival of Flowers Mobile

festivalofflowers.com

This annual event is a fundraiser for Providence Hospital and the 2021 event raised money to purchase Critical Care Monitors for the Cardiac Care Unit. A fun community event, more than 10,000 participated this year.

Hospital

Grandview Medical Center Birmingham

grandviewhealth.com

A 402-bed tertiary care hospital that provides health care services to patients in Birmingham and surrounding communities, this facility offers diverse specialties from heart care to labor and delivery to 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

Dr. Daniel Rousso Birmingham

drrousso.com

Named a Top Cosmetic Doctor every year since 2014 by the prestigious America's Top Doctors publication, Dr. Rousso provides surgical and non-surgical procedures for the face, hair and body. His full-service practice also includes a medspa and concierge services.

Real Estate Agency

Amanda Howard Sotheby's International Realty Huntsville

amandahowardrealestate.com

More than 30 brokers, agents and certified Realtors work at this real estate agency and each call the Huntsville area home. Striving to be the most respected real estate firm in the communities they serve, their focus is on luxurious properties and service.

School / University

Ardent Birmingham, Huntsville

ardentpreschool.com

With four locations in Birmingham and two in Huntsville, this preschool and day care provides full-time, year-round care for infants six weeks through preschool. In a Christian environment, their award-winning service also offers a variety of extended learning opportunities such as sign language, Bible and Spanish and extracurricular activities such as ballet, tumbling and soccer. With songs and games, they make learning fun for little ones.





Art Festival

Orange Beach Festival of Art
Orange Beach
orangebeachal.gov

For more than 47 years, this celebration of visual, performing, musical and culinary arts serves as the area's first rite of spring. A three-time Best of Bama winner, more than 100 artists provide festival-goers plenty to see, hear, touch, taste and experience.

Art Museum

Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art
Auburn
jcsmauburn.edu

Located on the Auburn University campus, their wide-ranging visual arts collection spans centuries, genres and materials, with a focus on 19th and 20th century American and European art.

Bed & Breakfast

Liberty Hall
Camden
libertyhallbandb.com

One of the most intact antebellum mansions in the Black Belt, this classic Greek Revival plantation has been in the McDowell family since it was built in 1850. Overnight accommodations include four bedrooms with en-suite baths and two bedrooms with access to the house bath.

Golf Course

FarmLinks Golf Club
Sylacauga
pursellfarms.com

Gently sculpted out of scenic farmland that has been in the Pursell Family for three generations, the course, designed by Hurdzan-Fry Environmental Golf Design, Inc., features a mix of dramatic elevation changes, pristine fairways and immaculate greens.

Garden

Birmingham Botanical Gardens
Birmingham
bbgardens.org

For more than 55 years this garden has been open to the public 365 days a year from dawn to dusk. It is Alabama's largest living museum and is the only public horticultural library in the U.S.

Historic Landmark

USS Alabama
Mobile
ussalabama.com

This four-time Best of Bama winner has had a remarkable career. She began her World War II adventures in the North Atlantic in 1943, then later that year, went to the South Pacific seas. She ended up in Mobile as a National Historic Landmark and memorial to millions.

Hotel / Resort

The Grand Hotel
Point Clear
marriott.com

This picturesque beach hamlet carpeted with sweeping live oaks offers guests opportunities for both relaxation and entertainment. With two renowned golf courses at the Lakewood Club, a luxurious spa, pool complex, tennis courts, beachfront, boat access, restaurants, bar, bicycling and more, this historic property is also a four-time Best of Bama winner for Best Brunch.

Performing Arts Venue

Mary G. Hardin Center for Cultural Arts
Gadsden
culturalarts.com

With three departments including The Etowah Youth Orchestras, The School for the Arts and The Dance Conservatory, this venue offers educational experiences through training, development and performance.

Salon / Spa

The Spa at Battle House
Mobile
marriott.com

A full selection of massage, body and skin care services are offered at the spa located on the fifth floor of the historic Battle House Hotel. In addition to massages and body experiences, they also offer hydrfacial enhancements, make-up services, waxing and hair styling.

Wedding Venue

Windwood Equestrian
Pelham
windwoodequestrian.com

A lush space for exquisite weddings and events within a state-of-the-art equestrian facility. The



barns and training amenities are nestled into a rolling, wooded valley and surrounded by riding trails.

Zoo

Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo
Gulf Shores
alabamagulfcoastzoo.com

One of the most popular family attractions in the region, this zoo is home to an estimated 200 species, 31 sub-species and is a haven to eight endangered species. Spanning 25 acres with wide pathways, this zoo is located just six miles from the beach and this win marks the third year voted as The Best of Bama. The facility is disability accessible and provides free parking.





Bakery

Edgar's
edgarsbakery.com

What started as a small neighborhood bakery in 1998 has grown to include 10 locations throughout Alabama with plans for continued growth. This boutique bakery creates everything from petit fours to wedding cakes. It also offers catering, a deli-style menu and ships orders.

Bar

The Houndstooth Sports Bar
Tuscaloosa
houndstoothsportsbar.com

A favorite for locals and students alike, the Houndstooth hosts a weekday happy hour, Bingo night, Trivia night and a Dart league. These fun events paired with their extensive whiskey menu make it a great place to celebrate a Tide victory.

Barbeque Joint

Big Bob Gibson Bar-B-Q
Decatur
bigbobgibson.com

A local, state, national and international award-winning barbecue restaurant, Big Bob Gibson has been cooking the 'cue since 1925. They have two locations in Decatur and their white sauce has become so famous it is sold in eight states in more than 2,000 grocery stores.

Bartender

Matt Ortega
Huntsville
catacomb435.com

Dressed in traditional speakeasy attire, Ortega serves up eclectic libations in Huntsville's Catacomb 435. Unique ingredients such as poppy seeds, lavender and edible flowers are used to embrace the vibe of this prohibition-inspired establishment.

Brewery

Goat Island Brewing
Cullman
goatlandbrewing.com

A "brewmance" between a rocket scientist, geologist, insurance agent and cop was formed in 2015 when four friends decided "Life is too short to drink baaad beer." Of their nine flavors which range from a pilsner to an IPA and a German Hefeweizen, six are available year-round with three additional seasonal brews.

Brunch

Whisk'd
Decatur
facebook.com

Open from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. seven days a week, this brunch hotspot serves farm-to-fork specialties alongside an unlimited serving of free coffee. Among the people's choice menu items are the 'Nawlins Bennie, the Moon Pie Oatmeal and Fried Potatoes Five Ways.



Burger

Chez Fon Fon
Birmingham
fonfonbham.com

Hamburger Fonfon has won a number of awards in the past and has been ranked as a top 33 in the nation by Thrillist. The eight-ounce patties are ground in-house from boneless chuck, cooked to perfection and topped with Comté, grilled red onion, lettuce, tomato and a pickle.

Cafe

Catherine's Market
Alexander City
catherinesatcrossroads.com

Serving lunch daily from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., this cafe is a hot spot for college football game days. Menu offerings include gourmet sandwiches, paninis, salads, burgers, soups and a kids menu.

Coffee House

Karma's Coffee House
Cullman
karmascoffeehouse.com

Securing their fourth win as Alabama's Best Coffee House, Karma's was built to be a place for the community. Specializing in espresso drinks crafted by baristas, they also offer chai, matcha, smoothies, chillers, a variety of teas and much more.

Fine Dining

Camellia Cafe
Fairhope
camelliacafe.com

Located in the heart of downtown Fairhope, this establishment is known for their selection of wines from around the world and signature dishes made with fresh seafood and top choice meats. The menu changes seasonally as the culinary team focuses on local ingredients from area farmers.



Pizza

Post Office Pies
Avondale
postofficepies.com

Specializing in hand-tossed pizzas cooked to perfection in wood-fired brick ovens, this eatery is located inside an old Post Office. Named one of the Top 30 Pizzerias in America, they use locally-sourced ingredients and have a bar stocked with everyone's favorite booze and brews.

Seafood & Sushi

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

Serving fresh Gulf seafood procured from their own wholesale market, the award-winning sushi bar features extensive offerings of rolls, Sashimi and Nigiri. Ask about an off-the-menu special called "The Screamin' O."

Steak

Corks & Cattle
Enterprise
corksandcattle.com

Previously an abandoned cotton gin, Enterprise's premier market and cafe offers Certified Angus Beef, local ground bison and local Wagyu. Corks & Cattle also offers fish and pork as well as a multitude of wines from around the world and a large selection of craft beers.

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Furniture & Interiors

White Willow Cullman

whitewillowcullman.com

Locally owned and operated, this design and décor boutique carries a wide variety of unique interior and furniture pieces as well as offering custom design and planning services for jobs of all sizes.

Florist

In Bloom Huntsville

inbloomhuntsvilleal.com

With more than 36 years of combined experience in the industry, this full service florist operates within a 6,500 square foot studio staffed with a crew of seasoned designers. With two locations in Huntsville, their specialties are parties, weddings and special events.

Gift Shop

Fiddledee D Tuscumbia

facebook.com

Located in the heart of charming Tuscumbia, this is a trendy gift shop with a versatile inventory of candles, art, jewelry, accessories, pottery, florals and more.



Antiques

Montgomery Antiques & Interiors

Montgomery
mgmantiques.com

This gallery offers a variety of fine antiques, designer interiors and accents as well as a selection of sterling silver and vintage jewelry. With more than 20 vendors from across Alabama, many styles of period pieces range from Art Nouveau, Baroque, Chippendale, Federal, French Provincial, Mid-Century Modern, Neoclassical, Regency, Renaissance and Victorian among others.

Bridal Boutique

Bliss Bridal Fairhope

beablissbride.com

Offering an upscale yet affordable experience, this Southern bridal boutique also outfits bridesmaids, grooms and groomsmen. Wedding gown preservation, alterations and accessories are also available.

Children's Clothing

Mon Ami Mountain Brook

monamibham.com

This tween boutique outfits boys and girls from sizes 4 to 16/18. Trends include couture, funky, fun, classy, southern and preppy with brands from around the world.



Jeweler

Ware Jewelers Auburn, Opelika, Montgomery, Spanish Fort

warejewelers.com

Operating from four locations throughout the state and carrying popular brands such as David Yurman, John Hardy and Roberto Coin, this five-time Best of Bama winner offers the largest staff of registered jewelers, graduate gemologists, certified gemologist appraisers and watchmakers in Alabama.

Mall

The Summit

Birmingham

thesummitbirmingham.com

A creative hub of style and taste, the Summit is a sprawling outdoor mall complete with a variety of restaurants, high-end boutiques, chain retail establishments, salons, spas and movie theater. Located atop a hill at the intersection of highways 459 and 280, The Summit also offers a revolving calendar of special events ranging from car shows to sunset yoga series.

Men's Boutique

Bernard's Store For Men Jasper

bernardsstoreformen.com

Carrying lines from Patagonia, Southern Marsh, Coastal Cotton, Southern Tide, The Lake Co., Puppie Love and more, this two-time Best of

Bama winner has been outfitting men for 72 years. From casual to formal and made-to-measure clothing, Bernard's also carries shoes and accessories and offers online shopping with fast shipping for out of town customers.

Outlet Mall

The Outlet Shops of Grand River Leeds

shopsofgrandriver.com

More than just a shopping mecca, this outlet mall offers a drive-in movie theater, an off-leash dog park, playground for the kids, mini golf course and yard games—all in addition to more than 50 retail stores and a food court.

Women's Boutique

Carriage House

Decatur

shopcarriagehouse.com

Modern design plays side by side with classy style at this distinctive boutique. Inventory includes curated collections with the modern woman in mind. Merchandise may be purchased both in-store and online with a team of stylists available for consult.

