

# BEST *of* BAMA

## AWARDS 2024

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 2025? Tell us!

Visit [alabama-magazine.com](http://alabama-magazine.com) to cast your vote!



### Advertising Agency

**24 Communications**  
Montgomery  
[24c.co](http://24c.co)

Specializing in advertising, branding, media placement, website design and development, this is the second Best of Bama win for 24 communications. This full-service marketing and advertising agency has won numerous other awards including MarCom, Hermes, ADDY and Communitas among others.

### Architect

**Walcott Adams Verneuille**  
Fairhope, Gulf Shores, Mobile  
[wavarchitects.com](http://wavarchitects.com)

With more than three decades of design experience and the talent of 20 dedicated team members, WAV has been presented with many prestigious awards spanning from community and regional to national. Services include residential and commercial architecture as well as interior design.

### Bank

**Bank Independent**  
North Alabama  
[bibank.com](http://bibank.com)

Their story began in 1947 in Leighton, when the area's only bank unexpectedly closed, leaving the hardworking residents of eastern Colbert County without banking services. Today, this community bank employs more than 650 local team members in dozens of locations throughout North Alabama.

### Charity Event

**ROAR The Cure James Bond Gala**  
Birmingham  
[roartheure.org](http://roartheure.org)

An acronym for Radiation Oncology Accelerated Research, ROAR raises dollars for critical research at the UAB cancer research labs. Save the date for the annual black-tie gala which will be held on January 25, 2025.

### Hospital

**UAB**  
Birmingham  
[uab.edu](http://uab.edu)

The University of Alabama at Birmingham is an internationally renowned research university and academic medical center known for its innovative and interdisciplinary approach to education.

### Law Firm

**Wettermark Keith**  
Birmingham, Montgomery,  
Huntsville, Dothan  
[wkfirm.com](http://wkfirm.com)

This firm focuses on personal injury and wrongful death cases. While the firm's lawyers are understandably proud of their many seven-figure verdicts and settlements, the firm does not limit its representation to larger, more serious cases.



### Plastic Surgeon / Medical Spa

**Smart Skin**  
Homewood  
[smartskinmedspa.com](http://smartskinmedspa.com)

Offering anti-aging services such as injectables, lasers, lights, body and wellness treatments alongside skincare products, the goal of the team is to help patients feel fully confident in their own skin with exceptional care and natural results.

### Real Estate Agency

**Amanda Howard, Sotheby's**  
Huntsville  
[amandahowardrealestate.com](http://amandahowardrealestate.com)

More than 50 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

**Troy University**  
Troy  
[troy.edu](http://troy.edu)

At Alabama's International University you will find a diverse student body representing more than 60 nations, an extensive study abroad program, 16 Division I athletic teams and more than 150 student organizations. Along with numerous housing and cultural arts opportunities, Troy offers the complete college experience.







## Amphitheater

### The Orion Huntsville

theorionhuntsville.com

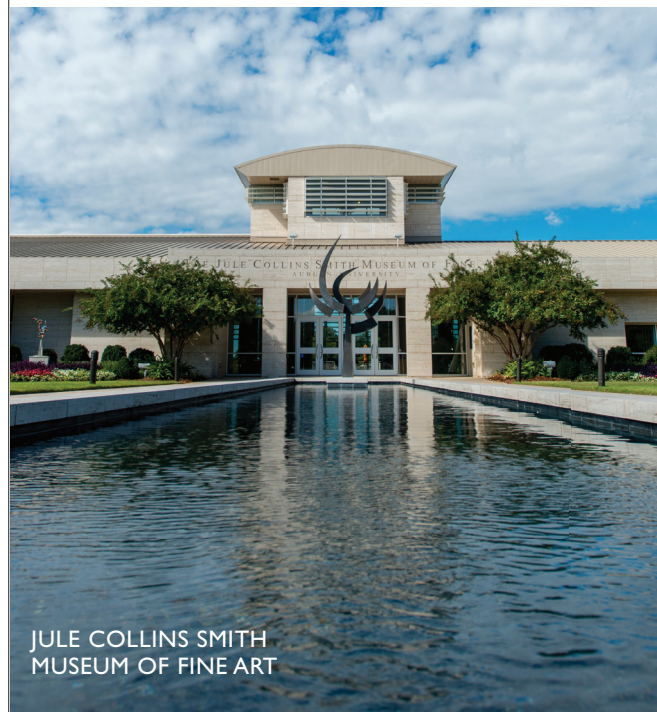
Inspired by the grand open-air amphitheaters of ancient Greece, this award-winning, 8,000-capacity destination venue was founded by Mumford & Sons co-founder Ben Lovett and his brother Greg Lovett. Thoughtfully designed with both guests and performing artists in mind, The Orion goes beyond music, providing exceptional hospitality experiences as well as cultural programming throughout the year including markets, art displays and educational events for the community.

## Art Festival

### Kentuck Northport

kentuck.org

Kentuck has a rich 52-year history as a nationally known crossroads of creativity and community. The two-day festival has its roots in folk art and features nearly 300 artists, live music, spoken word, activities for children, folk and contemporary craft demonstrations, food trucks and local craft brews.



JULE COLLINS SMITH  
MUSEUM OF FINE ART

## Art Gallery

### The Kelly Wetumpka

thekelly.org

The mission of the Kelly Fitzpatrick Center for the Arts is to engage, inspire and educate artists and the public at large by promoting local and regional visual arts through the collection, recognition, documentation and the publication of relevant works of American art.

## Art Museum

### Jule Collins Smith Museum Auburn

jcsmauburn.edu

This jewel of a museum has seven galleries with more than 1,500 works of art. Styles range from classical to modern including late 19th- and 20th-century European modernist pieces by Renoir, Matisse, Picasso and Dali as well as 14th-century sculptures from Tibet, India and China.

## Bed and Breakfast

### Magnolia Springs Magnolia Springs

magnoliasprings.com

Off the beaten path in southern Baldwin County on an avenue of stunning live oaks, this retreat offers a tranquil atmosphere both inside and out. Each room has individual character and a three course breakfast is served at guest's leisure from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m.

## Family Recreation

### Lake Guntersville State Park Guntersville

alapark.com

Among the many recreational offerings are an 18-hole championship golf course, the Screaming Eagle Zipline, a beach complex, an outdoor nature center, excellent fishing in Alabama's largest lake, 36 miles of hiking and biking trails, weekly guided hikes and a day-use area.

## Garden

### Dothan Area Botanical Garden Dothan

dabg.com

Tucked away in southeast Alabama is a 50-acre sprawl of trails, trees and floral displays that delight birds, butterflies and human visitors alike. The Dothan Area Botanical Gardens blends peaceful trails, mesmerizing floral displays and ancient trees for an experience that showcases nature in all its glory.

## Golf Course

### Grand National Opelika

rtjgolf.com

Voted the #1 public golf facility in America by the readers of *GolfWorld*, Robert Trent Jones, Sr. is on record saying that Grand National was the single greatest natural site for golf he had ever seen. The course is built on 600-acre Lake Saughatchee with 32 of the 54 holes draped along its filigreed shores.



LAKE GUNTERSVILLE  
HYDROFEST



EUFULA PILGRIMAGE

## Heritage Tour

### Eufaula Pilgrimage Eufaula

eufaulapilgrimage.com

Alabama's oldest tour of homes, the annual Eufaula Pilgrimage gives guests a dose of fun and history. The pilgrimage includes a tour of privately-owned historic homes dating back to the 19th century. Open-air art exhibits, afternoon teas, candlelight tours and live music help make the experience one full of Southern hospitality.

## Historic Landmark

### American Village Montevallo

americanvillage.org

Experience the power and drama of America's founding. Designed to be a classroom, a stage, a theatre and museum of ideas, The American Village is set upon a hill, modest in scale and offers a beacon of liberty.

## Hotel / Resort

### The Grand Hotel Point Clear

grand1847.com

Set on 550 acres of stunning natural beauty, a modern sanctuary of golf, tennis, beach, pickleball, croquet, pools and spa is an enchanting destination filled with gracious Southern charm. With nine dining and bar options, more than 37,000 square feet of meeting space and a 36-slip marina, this is an escape suitable to anyone and everyone.







## Music Festival

### Rock The South Cullman

rockthesouth.com

This annual summer event features a plethora of the biggest names in country music—Luke Bryan, Sam Hunt, Dierks Bentley, Florida-Georgia Line, Alan Jackson, Thomas Rhett and Eric Church have graced the Rock the South stage. Billboard rates Rock the South as the 6th Best Country Music Festival in the United States and this year's event takes place July 18-20.

## Performing Arts

### Oxford Performing Arts Center Oxford

oxfordpac.org

Presenting more than 130 events year-round, this PAC focuses on performance, education and community programs. Established in 2013, the center has been the primary performance venue in the region, thanks to the expansive restoration and expansion of a historic building.



## Salon / Spa

### Terramé Huntsville, Madison

terrame.com

With three locations, salon services include hair, make up, nails, spray tan and waxing. Spa services include massage, hydrotherapy, facials, body treatments and more. The Madison location also features a Corporate Wellness Room for hosting a variety of meetings and gatherings.

## Vacation Destination

### Kiva Dunes Gulf Shores

kivadunes.com

With vacation rentals ranging from beach homes to condos overlooking the 18th green of the Kiva Dunes golf course, each accommodation offers access to the resort's four pools, two restaurants and more than 3,000 feet of private beachfront.

## Wedding Venue

### The Battle House Hotel & Spa Mobile

renaissancebattlehouse.com

Weddings at the Battle House are grand affairs capturing the Southern Charm of Mobile's past and modern conveniences. Two ballrooms are rich with tradition and history and space can be customized to your taste. A Marriott Certified Wedding Planner can coordinate weddings of all types, including ethnic and military weddings.

## Zoo

### Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo Gulf Shores

alabamagulfcoastzoo.com

Home to roughly 200 species, 31 sub-species and haven to eight endangered species, this popular family attraction is only six miles from the beach. Spread over 25 acres, experience animal encounters and meet the newly-born endangered cotton-top tamarin twins.



## Bakery

### Edgar's Bakery & Cafe Statewide

edgarsbakery.com

Founded in Birmingham as a small neighborhood bakery by the husband-and-wife duo of Terry and Dottie Smith in 1998, Edgar's Bakery has since grown into one of Alabama's most beloved homespun bakeries, with nearly a dozen locations throughout the state. Producing luxurious cakes and sweets for all occasions, a full menu and nationwide shipping is available for those who live out of state.

## Bar

### The Depot Auburn

allaboarداuburn.com

The Depot is a modern grille gulf-coastal brasserie in Auburn's historic train depot. With a globally inspired menu by executive chef and co-owner, Scott Simpson, The Depot is the first restaurant in the State of Alabama to receive the prestigious James Beard Smart Catch Leader Award for their commitment to serve sustainable and responsibly harvested seafood. The restaurant is also a six-year winner of the Wine Spectator Excellence award.

## Barbeque Joint

### LawLer's North Alabama

lawlersbarbecue.com

This two-time Best of Bama winner serves barbecue pork, chicken, turkey and more alongside traditional sides and four signature sauces. With nationwide shipping you don't have to live in Alabama to taste the award winning flavors.

## Bartender

### Justin Owens Montgomery

23court.com

General manager and lead bartender of 23 Court Cigar Bar in Montgomery, Owens has worked in the service industry for nearly 20 years. In addition to this Best of Bama win, he won Bartender of the Year by the Alabama Restaurant and Hospitality Association in 2023.

## 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 11 flavors which range from a pilsner to an IPA and a Bavarian-style lager; many are available year-round with a few seasonal brews.

## Brunch

### The Pecan Downtown Camden

facebook.com

Serving Southern-inspired fare each Saturday with a selection of Mimosa options, this charming eatery in the heart of downtown Camden has a revolving menu each week. From 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. enjoy fan favorites ranging from French toast to Shrimp and Grits.

## Burger

### Thyme on Section Fairhope

thymebythebay.com

Seasoned ground beef, goat cheese, mushrooms, arugula, tomato, red onion, truffle aioli and a potato bun make the renowned Thyme Burger. Served with Truffle Fries in the heart of downtown Fairhope.







## Butcher Shop

**Mark's Mart**  
Northport, Selma  
chickenswirl.com

Specializing in high-quality cut-to-order meats, fine wines and local specialty items, Mark's Mart is the home of the original Chicken Swirl and has been serving central Alabama and it's surrounding areas since 1978.

## Café

**Sweet Basil Alabama**  
Florence  
sweetbasilalabama.com

Located in the English Village of Florence, this café serves elevated lunch fare such as a Mediterranean quinoa bowl, a spinach and shrimp quiche with Parmesan and Gruyere cheeses and even a Weight Watchers special of a grilled chicken breast sandwich served alongside a salad with Splenda poppy seed dressing.

## Caterer

**Chupper Time Catering**  
Huntsville  
chuppertimecatering.com

Chef Brandon Crosby, winner of Best Chef in 2023, stands at the helm of this high-end catering company with a customized menu that focuses on local and seasonal cuisine. Having served as a touring chef for musicians such as Jason Aldean, Zac Brown Band and John Mayer, he can tailor any menu to any preference.



## Chef

**Rob McDaniel**  
Birmingham  
helenbham.com

Owner and executive chef at Helen, McDaniel has developed a passion for Southern foods, foraging and sustainability that has evolved into the culinary style that he is known for today. He is a five-time James Beard Foundation Best Chef South semifinalist and was honored as Auburn University's 2012 Outstanding Hotel and Restaurant Management Program Alumnus.

## Coffee House

**Karma's Coffee House**  
Cullman  
karmacoffeehouse.com

Karma's mission is to create good coffee so that good people can inspire great change. They offer customers the freshest and healthiest menu items available by harvesting from their on-site garden and turning to local growers as a significant source of food supply.

## Fine Dining

**Cotton Row**  
Huntsville  
cottonrowrestaurant.com

Since opening in 2009, Chef James Boyce's award-winning restaurant has earned its place among Huntsville's downtown bustling dining scene, receiving numerous accolades for its refined Modern American cuisine, award winning wine cellar and gracious hospitality.



CHEF ROB  
MCDANIEL

## Pizza

**Valentina's**  
Huntsville  
valentinaspizzeria.com

Joe Carlucci's handcrafted pizzas have won myriad awards—locally, nationally and worldwide. On the menu is the 2022 winner of The Best Pizza in the World which has a red sauce base with fior di latte, hot Italian sausage and peppadew peppers.

## Seafood

**Sexton's Seafood**  
Birmingham  
facebook.com

Sexton's Seafood has been a family owned and operated business for more than 30 years, selling the freshest fish from the Gulf—swordfish, snapper, cobia, shrimp, tuna and more. Wild Alaskan King Salmon, crawfish, trout and other fresh fish are also available.

## Specialty Grocery Boutique

**Mosley's Fine Meats**  
Daphne  
facebook.com

This family owned and operated butcher shop also sells fine seafood, fine wines and specialty items such as Big Green Egg products and locally produced pantry items.

## Steak

**Corks and Cattle**  
Enterprise  
corksandcattle.com

A choice between a 14-ounce chargrilled New York strip topped with herb butter; an 8-ounce filet mignon topped with a red wine shallot sauce or a 16-ounce Ribeye topped with herb butter is not an easy one to make at this four-time Best of Bama winner for Best Steak.

## Sushi

**Chuck's Fish**  
Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile,  
Montgomery, Tuscaloosa  
chucksfish.com

Featured fish at Chuck's comes from their own wholesale market at Harbor Docks. Enjoy an award-winning sushi bar curated by renowned chef Yoshie Eddings, who has been the sushi chef at Harbor Docks restaurant for 30 years.



CHUCK'S  
FISH

**BEST  
of  
BAMA**  
AWARDS 2024

*Food &  
drink*

**BEST  
of  
BAMA**  
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*Food &  
drink*





Shopping



THE  
BRITTANY  
HOUSE

## Antiques

### The Brittany House Oak Hill

thebrittanyhouseantiquesatoakhill.com

Timeless period pieces circa 1800-1900 await the most discerning collector in the tiny town of Oak Hill. Peruse a carefully curated selection of antique furniture, silver, porcelain, books, architectural items and gifts. Many of the antiques at The Brittany House have their original brasses, fabrics and other embellishments.

## Bridal Boutique

### Bella's Bridal & Formal Hoover

bellasalabama.com

The largest bridal boutique in Alabama, Bella's offers more than 1,000 wedding dresses in sizes from 0-30. The collection is carefully selected to provide the latest fashions, designs and affordable prices without compromising quality.

## Children's Clothing

### Mon Ami Mountain Brook

monamibham.com

Tweens ages 4 to 16/18 years can find their own style from casual to sporty and dressy at this boutique. For both boys and girls, the shop has clothing, shoes, accessories and gifts to match any personality.

## Florist

### Athens Florist Athens

athensfloristandgifts.com

Owner Matthew Jimmerson has a passion for designing and creating art through florals. A native of Athens, his floral boutique provides arrangements for all occasions and serves all of Limestone county.

## Furniture & Interiors

### White Willow Cullman

whitewillowcullman.com

Designing dream spaces with a tailored and personalized touch, owner Libby Crider and her full-service design team take a clean and classic approach to design and have since attracted a large customer base not only in Alabama but also spanning from Nashville to Florida.

## Gift Shop

### The Garage Studio Point Clear

facebook.com

A creative studio for artists and a colorful, fun gallery full of unique one of a kind pieces. Located on Scenic Highway 98, shop original art, clothing, spa products, interiors and accessories.



THE  
GARAGE  
STUDIO



WHITE WILLOW

## Jeweler

### Barton-Clay Fine Jewelers Mountain Brook

bartonclay.com

Since 1987 and with a recent move to Lane Park, this family-owned boutique sells designer jewelry, luxury watches and gift items such as Mont Blanc pen sets. Designer brands include Joshua J, Longines, Phillip Gavriel, Michele, Hamilton, Yael Designs and more.

## Mall

### The Shoppes at East Chase Montgomery

theshoppesateastchase.com

The Shoppes at EastChase is the premier shopping center in south central Alabama. With more than 85 stores and restaurants, the center is anchored by Dillard's, Target, Kohl's and H&M.

## Men's Boutique

### Bernard's Store For Men Jasper

bernardsstoreformen.com

At this three-time Best of Bama winner, shop brands such as Old Row, Southern Marsh, Southern Cassanova, Johnnie-O, Polo Ralph Lauren, Southern Shirt Co, Gen Teal, Smith Lake T-Shirts and gear, Alabama and Auburn apparel and more.

## Outlet Mall

### The Shops of Grand River Leeds

shopsofgrandriver.com

More than 70 brands and outlets, featured stores include Brooks Brothers, Kate Spade, OshKosh B'gosh, Under Armour and more. Also enjoy entertainment, a dog park, drive-in movie theater and restaurants.

## Specialty Boutique

### The Alabama Gift Company Gadsden

thealabamagiftcompany.com

The Alabama Gift Company offers a hand selected variety of the best gifts and foods our state has to offer. Shop all things Alabama—their famous Alabama Made gift baskets can be shipped around the state and across the country.

## Women's Boutique

### The Pink Tulip Birmingham

thepinktulipclothing.com

A mother and daughter have teamed together to present a classy and conservative style for women of all ages with an affordable price point in mind. With two storefronts in Homewood and The Summit, they also have a strong online presence to shop from home.



BARTON-CLAY



Shopping