

Best New Restaurant

Rocket to Venus

3360 Chestnut Ave., (410) 235-7887, www.rockettovenus.com

Because it works. Because someone had a vision of the kind of place he wanted to open and made it happen. What we've always wanted in our heart of hearts is a nice place to go with our friends. And Rocket to Venus has turned out to be as attractive to the gray-haired set as it is to its fan base of thin pale people with black hair. We feel comfortable there, we can hear our own conversation, and we love running into all kinds of people. Holding back allowing smoking until 9 p.m. has helped a lot--a smart accommodation for those who want an early dinner and drinks without a secondhand-smoke hangover. We like the attention the menu pays to vegetarian dishes (love those wimpies), and the prices have been kept more than reasonable. The food is not what anyone would call challenging, but neither is it half-assed or boring. It measures up. Maybe it's not rocket science after all. <http://www.citypaper.com/bob/story.asp?id=14322>

Best New Appetizer

Rocket to Venus's Brussels Sprouts

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What kind of a city is it where the people go around talking about Brussels sprouts like it was braised veal cheeks in Lapsang fumet? At one point we couldn't stand hearing anymore about how amazing the Brussels sprouts at Rocket to Venus were, but when we tried them, we understood: They are good, insanely good--so good that they have everyone in town talking about a cooked vegetable. Tossed with just some olive oil, balsamic vinegar, and salt and pepper, and then roasted up so they're crispy-skinned and just this side of firm, the little buggers are served up in a big (cheap) heap. And Brussels sprouts are a total pain to prep, all of that peeling and trimming, so it's especially nice of Rocket to Venus to do all that work for us.

<http://www.citypaper.com/bob/story.asp?id=14355>

Readers Poll 2007

<http://www.citypaper.com/bob/story.asp?id=14538>

Eats and Drinks

Best New Restaurant: **Rocket to Venus**, 3360 Chestnut Ave., (410) 235-7887

Best Fancy Restaurant: **Charleston**, 1000 Lancaster St., (410) 332-7373

Best Cheap Restaurant: **PaperMoon Diner**, 227 W. 29th St., (410) 889-4444

Best Restaurant for Vegetarians: **One World Café**, 100 W. University Parkway,
(410) 235-5777

Best Outdoor Dining: **Little Havana**, 1325 Key Highway, (410) 837-9903

Best Late-Night Dining: **PaperMoon Diner**

Best Cup of Coffee: **Daily Grind**, numerous locations

Best Brunch: **Little Havana**

Best Place to Get Ice Cream: **Cold Stone Creamery**, numerous locations

Best Place to Get a Sandwich: **Attman's**, 1019 E. Lombard St., (410) 563-2666

Best Pizza: **Matthew's Pizzeria**, 3131 Eastern Ave., (410) 276-8755

Best Diner: **PaperMoon Diner**

Best Crab House: **Bo Brooks, Lighthouse Point Marina**, 2701 Boston St.,
(410) 558-0202

Best Crab Cake: **G&M Restaurant**, 804 N. Hammonds Ferry Road, Linthicum
Heights, (410) 636-1777

Best Chinese: **Ding How**, 631 S. Broadway, (410) 327-8888

Best Greek: **Samos**, 600 Oldham St., (410) 675-5292

Best Indian: **Akbar**, 823 N. Charles St., (410) 539-0944

Best Italian: **Amicci's**, 231 S. High St., (410) 528-1096

Best Japanese: **Matsuri**, 1105 S. Charles St., (410) 752-8561

Best Latin: **Arcos**, 129 S. Broadway, (410) 522-4777

Best Middle Eastern: **The Helmand**, 806 N. Charles St., (410) 752-0311

Best Thai: **Thai Arroy**, 1019 Light St., (410) 385-8587

Best Local Beer: **Resurrection Ale, Brewer's Art**, 1106 N. Charles St., (410) 547-6925

Best Neighborhood Bar: **Dizzy Issie's**, 300 W. 30th St., (410) 235-0171

Best Dive Bar: **Mount Royal Tavern**, 1204 W. Mount Royal Ave., (410) 669-6686

Best Upscale Bar: **Pazo**, 1425 Aliceanna St., (410) 534-7296

Best Scenester Bar: **The Ottobar**, 2549 N. Howard St., (410) 662-0069

Best Wannabe Scenester Bar: **Rocket to Venus**

Best Drunken Hookup Bar: **Magerk's Pub**, 1061 S. Charles St., (410) 576-9230

Best Sports Bar: **ESPN Zone**, 601 E. Pratt St., (410) 685-3776

Best Bar for Nonsmokers: **Hon Bar**, 1000 W. 36th St., (410) 243-1230

Best Gay Bar: **The Hippo**, 1 W. Eager St., (410) 547-0069

Best Lesbian Bar: **The Hippo**

Best Bar That Makes You Feel Like You're Not in Baltimore: **Red Maple**, 930 N. Charles St., (410) 547-0149

Best Bartender: **Brett Chalfant, Bleachers Sports Bar**, 2501 Fleet St., (410) 522-1626

Arts & Entertainment

Best Band: **Kelly Bell Band**

Best Solo Music artist: **Dan Deacon**

Best Club DJ: **K-Swift**

Best Local Album: **(tie) Kelly Bell Band, *Reincarnated*; Dirty Marmaduke Flute Squad, *Die Humpin!***

Best Rock Club: **The Ottobar**

Best Place to Hear Hip-Hop: **Sonar**, 407 E. Saratoga St., (410) 327-8333

Best Dance Club: **Sonar**

Best Club Night or Event: **Taxidermy Lodge (Talking Head and Sonar)**

Best Karaoke: **Frazier's on the Avenue**, 919 W. 36th St., (410) 662-4914

Best Jukebox: **Rocket to Venus**

Best Strip Joint: **Larry Flynt's Hustler Club**, 409 E. Baltimore St., (410) 468-0990

Best Movie Theater: **Charles Theatre**, 1711 N. Charles St., (410) 727-3456

Best Local Theater Company: **Everyman Theatre**, 1727 N. Charles St., (410) 752-2208

Best Drag Performer: **Tia Chambers**

Best Public Art: **The median along Mount Royal Avenue**

Best Place to See Art: **American Visionary Art Museum**, 800 Key Highway,
(410) 244-1900

Best Non-Art Museum: **Baltimore Museum of Industry**, 1415 Key Highway,
(410) 727-4808

Best New Book by a Local Author: ***What the Dead Know* by Laura Lippman**

Best Radio Station: **WTMD (89.7 FM)**