

# NEWS RELEASE

Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau



## Best of Rockford Region Restaurant Week Award Winners Announced

*Community Selects Award Recipients for Best Bite, Best Atmosphere, Best Restaurant Week Package, Best Cocktail or Brew, and Best for All*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 7, 2022**

**Rockford, IL** – Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (RACVB) is excited to announce the 2022 Rockford Region Restaurant Week “Best of” Winners.

Residents and visitors to the Rockford Area showed great support of local restaurants, bars, and food establishments throughout the week (January 24-30) by visiting participating restaurants and voting for Restaurant Week’s “best of” awards. Votes were cast throughout the week on GoRockford.com. Categories ranged from the best bite to creating a sense of belonging for those visiting the local restaurants.

“Restaurant Week was a hit,” said **Martasha Brown**, RACVB director of marketing & communications. “Not only did our community show support for our restaurant industry, but there was tough competition in this year’s ‘best of’ awards with over 40 businesses participating. That’s double the number of local eateries that participated last year.”

**The 2022 Restaurant Week Winners are as follows:**

**Categories include:**

- **Best Atmosphere and Vibes:** A food establishment that showcases the best vibes through lighting, service, and overall experience. **Winner - Ernie’s Midtown Pub** in Rockford
- **Best Restaurant Week Package:** The most creative deal, experience, or package. **Winner - The Fire Barn** in Durand
- **Best Cocktail or Brew:** The most creative and tasty beverage. This category includes coffee, cocktails, smoothies, beer, and other freshly served beverages. **Winner - 8<sup>th</sup> Ward Pub** in Rockford
- **Best Bite:** Vote for the meal packing the most flavorful bite. **Winner - Salamone’s** in Cherry Valley
- **Best for All:** Your favorite food establishment showcases a welcoming environment for all. This is defined as a venue that welcomes residents and visitors by creating a sense of belonging. **Winner - Lucha Cantina** in Rockford

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The winning restaurants will receive an award in addition to recognition on TV ads, a local billboard, exposure on GoRockford's social media channels, and more.

"Feedback has been great from our restaurateurs. They felt supported and loved by all those who turned out. We know that some had the best week they had since before the pandemic began in March of 2020," said **John Groh, RACVB president/CEO**. "The restaurants in our region give us all much to be proud of. This year's Restaurant Week was a chance to show our collective support for them while helping to increase revenue and foot traffic to our hospitality partners."

A special thank you to the City of Rockford for sponsoring this year's Rockford Region Restaurant Week.

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**About RACVB:** *RACVB is responsible for promoting the Rockford region as an attractive travel destination and enhancing its public image as a dynamic place to live and work. Through the impact of travel, RACVB strengthens the economic position of the region and provides opportunities for people in our communities.*  
[www.gorockford.com](http://www.gorockford.com)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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