

HOLLYWOOD EAST

TINSELTOWN
COMES TO QUINCY

SHIFTING GEARS

THE FUTURE OF
THE AUTOMILE

BIG IDEAS

SOME SOUND ADVICE
FOR THE NEW GOV

TOURISTS SPEAK!

12 TOP HOTELS
IN TOWN

Boston

TOP 5 RESTAURANTS



The tacu tacu is a favorite Celeste.

TOP 50 RESTAURANTS

IF

we had to put a label on this year's Top 50 Restaurants feature, we might call it the Year of the Italian Restaurant, judging by the eight Boot-inspired spots on the list (plus a

handful under a broader Mediterranean umbrella). Or maybe it'd be the Year of the High-End Seafood Tasting Menu, given the prevalence of fancy sushi and other special-occasion fish-forward feasts. Or perhaps, more succinctly, this was simply the year we were excited to get out and dine in-person again. Whether we're sitting inches from a wine-loving stranger at a communal table in the middle of Cambridge's hippest new wine bar/pescatarian restaurant or enjoying a cozy evening twirling forkfuls of carbonara in sight of the Zakim, this past year has been a time to relish all that Boston's restaurant scene has to offer.

That's why this year, we've decided to once again rank our Top 50 restaurants after a pandemic-related pause. While challenges remain—the industry will surely continue to face staffing difficulties and supply-chain issues for months to come—restaurants and diners are embracing some semblance of normalcy again, and we're following suit as we count down 50 of the most exciting places to eat right now.

The restaurants on this year's Top 50 list touch on a variety of cuisines, neighborhoods, and vibes, but they have one thing in common: They're where we want to be for a fun night out. Maybe fancy, maybe not: We're just as enthusiastic about a dressed-up *omakase* feast at an old favorite as we are for a counter-service platter of the best fried chicken around from a local staple that just re-emerged from a long hiatus. After a few years of dining disruptions, we're betting you will be, too.

TOP 50 RESTAURANTS

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**TOP 5
RESTAURANTS**

**14
CONTESSA**

Nothing beats a scene-y New York brand extension, said no Bostonian ever. But game respects game. Roll into town like Major Food Group's sparkling trattoria—rocking a carpet bag packed with dynamite cooking, wow-factor pastas (see: hand-cranked macaroni smothered in preposterously rich wild-boar ragu the color and velvety viscousness of chocolate fondue), deep-cellar Nebbiolo knockouts, stunning Back Bay sight lines, and non-pandering service of the polish encountered at Big Apple siblings Carbone and Dirty French—and we might just make an exception. We're not an unreasonable people. *Back Bay.* contessatrattoria.com.

