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The Fearless Forks 2008

Written by GIL MICHAELS Published: FRIDAY, 22 AUGUST 2008

The 2008 Fearless Fork awards were announced earlier this month by the Fork Awards Tribunal (FAT), at an awards selection meeting held at a remote, undisclosed location near Alameda Point.

The site's identity was kept a tight secret for security and safety reasons, due to the event's reputation for overindulgences, tomfoolery and genuine unseemliness.

According to happy FAT officials, this year's awards set a precedent with 166 forks selected. Officials also announced that the event was relatively peaceful, unlike last year's tumultuous meeting where unruly burger advocates separated into factions, some supporting Bip's Broiler and others the Alameda Grill, then staged violent clashes, with one senior combatant losing her dentures, and another spilling his glass of Rosenblum.

In contrast, this year's event was marred by only a single incident, when a rowdy group of one taqueria's supporters got into a loud shouting match with two boisterous members of another local taqueria's "carne asada cult."

There were also some solemn moments, when the entire assemblage stood in tearful silence to memorialize some of this year's departed eateries: Araujo's, Kucina, Season To Taste, The Bamboo Kitchen, The Dog Out, Central Doughnuts and The Ice Cream Dock.

Loud huzzahs of joy then rang out for some of this year's better culinary arrivals and revivals: Alameda Wine Co., Barcelona, Alameda Taqueria, Havana, Acquacotta, Everett and Jones at three locations, Mint Leaf, Baci-Ariana Café, Wing Stop, Burgermeister, Albert's Café and Zeytini.

FAT also announced the inclusion this year of the "Nirvana Fork" award, which indicates an offering that is truly outstanding.

Here, then, in no particular order, are the 2008 winners.

Fearless Fork Awards

- Paella Asena
- Mojito Havana
- Cheese Sandwich Bip's Broiler

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- Vodka Press McGrath's
- Polenta Aroma
- Cubano Sandwich The Hobnob
- Thai Chicken Salad Toomie's
- Fried Quesadilla Taqueria Ramiro
- California Roll Kamakura
- Rib-eye and Cheese Barceluna
- Street Tacos El Caballo Wraps
- Roast Beef Sandwich Why Cook
- Margarita La Piñata #3
- Sliders The Hobnob
- Cookies Mona's Table
- Duck Strudel Angela's
- Hot Wings Wingstop
- Tuna Luna Barceluna
- Fiesta Tostada The Acapulco
- Turkey Sandwich Sandwich Board
- Gourmet Burger Pappo
- Frozen Pizza Viccolo @ Marketplace
- Grilled Tri-Tip Joe Scalise and Sons
- Appetizers al Fresco Aroma
- Spinach Salad A tie: Why Cook? Trader Joe's
- View Pasta Pelican
- Italian Sandwich Bachi-Ariana Café
- Negrito Barceluna
- Bouncing Beef Dragon Rouge
- Gravy Fries L & L Hawaiian Barbecue
- Dim Sum East Ocean
- Wienershnitzel Speisekammer
- BBQ Baby Backs Everett and Jones

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Barolo Du Vin Fine Wines
Chicken Sandwich Mona's Table
Bento Box Kai's
Denver Omelette Jim's Coffee Shop
Chili Fries Bip's Broiler
Rainbow Roll Kamakura
Swedish Pancakes Marti's Place
Chicken Katsu Hawaiian Drive Inn
Quiche Mona'sTable
Lamb Salad Asena
Bombay-Tonic The Lemon Tree
Lamb Shanks Gold Coast Grill
Hash Browns Ole's Waffle Shop
Kid-Friendly Place Tomatina
Hippie Burrito Albert's Café
Blinis Marti's Place
Chicken Mole The Acapulco
Pizza Margharita Barcelona
Veal Champagne Gold Coast Grill
Bruschetta Trader Joe's
Mashed Potatoes Speisekammer
Wine Tasting Alameda Wine Co.
Chicken Burrito Taqueria Ramiro
Curly Fries Burgermeister
Lettuce Wraps Ching Hua
Chicken-Tortilla Soup El Caballo Wraps
Food Delivery Meals On Wheels
Tartar Sauce E. Waldo's at JP Seafood Co.
Coffee Crosstown CoffeeHouse
Cowboy Steak Baron's Meats & Poultry
Scallops Havana
Holiday Buffets Pier 29
Sushi Sushi House
Spring Rolls Mint Leaf

Afritada Sampaguita International Cuisine
Pork Loin Sandwich Mona's Table
Chicken Tikka India Palace
Guacamole/Chips The Acapulco
Chicken Pot Pie Trader Joe's
Bar Snacks Alameda Wine Co.
Volcano Forbidden Island
Mustard-Oil Sauce C'era Una Volta
Martini Z's
Beet Salad Speisekammer
Italian Roast Chicken Acquacotta
Hangar Steak Pappo
Greek Sampler Gold Coast Grill
Wedding Cakes Boniere Bakery
Cheese-Jalapeño Bread Harbor Bay Safeway
Carnitas Platter Otaez
Spaghetti Sauce Genova's at Encinal Market
Doughnuts Lee's Doughnuts
Chow Mein Hong Kong City
Cream Pies Nation's
Shrimp Tacos La Piñata #3
Turkey Ravioli Genova's at Encinal Market
Greek Wines Du Vin Fine Wines
German Beer Speisekammer
Caesar Salad Angela's
Wine List Asena
Kahlua Pork L & L Hawaiian BBQ
God Shave The Queen McGrath's
Rice and Beans The Acapulco
Chinese Delivery Ching Hua
Burrito Mojado Alameda Taqueria
Edamame Zen Sushi
Teriyaki Kamakura
Menudo Otaez

Chicken-fried Steak Albert's Café
Sashimi Angelfish
Fried Rice East Ocean
Cosmopolitan Z's
Steamers Gold Coast Grill
Maki Kai's
Breakfast Sandwich Bip's Broiler
Bubble Tea Quickly
Dining Room Pier 29
Sake Kamakura
Carne asada Alameda Taqueria
Malts Bip's Broiler
Mussolini McGee's
Champagne Bar Alameda Wine Co.
Fries Speisekammer
Pulled Pork Sandwich Mona's Table
Boilermaker Pop Inn
Gelato Fudgelato
Fancy Chocolates Gaslight Emporium
Fried Whole Fish La Piñata #3
Rack of Lamb Gold Coast Grill
Ham and Eggs Jim's Coffee Shop
Pad Thai Toomie's
Breakfast Burrito Albert's Café
Ceviche Calafia Taqueria
Tonkatsu Kai's
Corned Beef/Cabbage Ole's Waffle Shop
Olive Oils Du Vin Fine Wines
Burmese Cuisine Burma Superstar
Bleu Cheese Burger Bip's Broiler
Italian Sausage Nicosio's at Dan's Produce
Pork Tamale The Acapulco
Adobo Sampaguita International Cuisine
Potato Salad Bachi-Ariana Café

Enchilada Otaez

Prawns/ Bean Sauce Ching Hua

Pasta Primavera Zeytini

Bloody Mary The Hobnob

Crab Cones Dragon Rouge

Caesar Salad Angela's

Corned Beef Sandwich Mona's Table

PBR Tall McGrath's

Trout Mousse JP Seafood Co.

Nachos La Piñata #3

Stuffed Pork Chop Joe Scalise & Sons

Pate/Rillettes Alameda Wine Co.

Catering Aroma

Lychee Mojito Dragon Rouge

Lo Mein Hong Kong City

Mama Rose Burrito The Acapulco

Falafel Café Central

Vodka Hangar One

Linguini and Clams Gold Coast Grill

Early-Bird Menu Pier 29

Meat Pies The New Zealander

Joe's Special Jim's Coffee Shop

Italian Wines Acquacotta

Panini Bachi-Ariana's Café

Nirvana Awards

(in no particular order)

Chile Relleno Nirvana The Acapulco

Wine Nirvana Alameda Wine Co.

Beer Nirvana Encinal Market

Ice Cream Nirvana Tucker's

Produce Nirvana Dan's Produce

Kobe Beef Nirvana Baron's Meats and Poultry

Cheese Plate Nirvana Alameda Wine Co.

Sausage Nirvana Baron's Meats and Poultry

Duck Nirvana Pappo

Cheese Nirvana Farmstead Cheeses & Wines

Seafood Nirvana JP Seafood Co.

Bread Nirvana Feel Good Bakery

Tequila Nirvana La Piñata #3

Missed? Dissed? Pissed? Harangue Gil Michaels at satfats510@mailstation.com.

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