

Historic Downtown Wilmington Named Best Al Fresco Dining Neighborhood



5th Avenue South, Greenville Main Street, Vail Village and Larimer Square also winners

'Tis the season for eating outdoors! USA TODAY 10Best teamed up with a panel of traveling foodies to help nominate 20 streets and neighborhoods across the USA for the title of Best Al Fresco Dining Neighborhood, and for the past four weeks, USA TODAY and 10Best readers have been voting for their favorites.

Snagging the number one spot was Historic Downtown in Wilmington, N.C. This quaint waterfront neighborhood is no stranger to the 10Best Readers' Choice winners list, as it previously won the category Best American Riverfront.

The top 10 winners in the category Best Al Fresco Dining Neighborhood are as follows:

1. Historic Downtown - Wilmington, N.C.
2. 5th Avenue South - Naples, Fla.
3. Main Street - Greenville, S.C.
4. Vail Village - Vail, Colo.
5. Larimer Square - Denver
6. State Street - Santa Barbara, Calif.
7. River Walk - San Antonio
8. Wicker Park - Chicago
9. Peachtree Road - Atlanta
10. Adams Morgan - Washington



2 5TH AVENUE SOUTH Naples, Fla.

Naples is one of the wealthiest communities in the nation, yet the whole appeal of Florida's West Coast is a laid back, relaxed oceanfront vibe that directly flies in the face of the East Coast's glitz and glamour. Fifth Avenue South exemplifies this, a subdued shop and restaurant lined boulevard forming the heart of Old Naples, running about ten blocks from Ninth Street to the ocean and Gulf Shore Boulevard. Many of the several dozen restaurants here, equally popular with tourists and residents, offer al fresco dining. There is a broad mix of casual and fine dining, and every sort of cuisine is represented, plus plenty of ice cream for warm weather strolling.

Photo courtesy of Culinary Concepts

A panel of experts picked the initial 20 nominees, and the top 10 winners were determined by popular vote. Experts Caroline Potter (OpenTable, Inc.), Eric Grossman, Megy Karydes, M. Linda Lee (10Best), Akila McConnell (The Road Forks), Larry Olmsted (*Great American Bites*) and Kim Sunee were chosen based on their extensive knowledge of food and travel.

Other nominees for Best Al Fresco Dining Neighborhood included Back Bay in Boston, Chicago's Riverwalk, Dupont Circle in Washington, French Quarter in New Orleans, Garden District in New Orleans, Georgetown in Washington, Lake Travis and Lake Austin in Austin, Meatpacking District in New York, Montana Avenue in Santa Monica and Rittenhouse Square in Philadelphia.

10Best and USA TODAY extend their congratulations to all the winners.