

Top Ten Restaurants in Montana

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8 of the 10 are pinned on the map above. Neither OpenStreetMap nor Wikidata carries a location for Herb & Omni and Blackbird Kitchen, so they are listed below but not pinned — a missing pin is left missing rather than guessed at. Each row also links straight to its own location in Google Maps.

The MICHELIN Guide does not yet publish a selection covering Montana, so this list leads with James Beard Foundation recognition.

The ten

#	Restaurant	City	Distinction	Cuisine
1	Wild Crumb	Bozeman	James Beard Outstanding Bakery (2026)	Bakery and cafe
2	Shan	Bozeman	James Beard Best New Restaurant finalist (2024); Best Chef: Mountain semifinalist, Jarrett Wrisley (2026)	Chinese and Thai
3	Campione	Livingston	James Beard Best Chef: Mountain finalist, Joshua Adams (2025); semifinalist (2024); The New York Times, 50 Best Restaurants in the United States (2023)	Italian
4	Herb & Omni	Whitefish	James Beard Best Chef: Mountain finalist, Earl James Reynolds (2026)	Farm to table
5	Walkers Grill	Billings	James Beard Best Chef: Mountain semifinalist (2024, 2025)	New American and tapas
6	Blackbird Kitchen	Bozeman	James Beard Outstanding Restaurant semifinalist (2026)	Italian and wood-fired
7	Ember	Hamilton	James Beard Best Chef: Mountain semifinalist, Brandon Dearden (2026)	Wood-fired Montana
8	Sip 'n Dip Lounge	Great Falls	GQ, top ten bars in the world, ranked "#1 bar worth flying for" (2003)	Tiki lounge
9	Club Moderne	Anaconda	National Trust for Historic Preservation, "America's Favorite Historic Bar" (2016)	Bar
10	Gallatin River Lodge	Bozeman	Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice, Top 25 Small Hotels in the United States (2017)	Fine dining

Why these ten

Montana has no MICHELIN selection, and exactly one James Beard win is attached to a Montana address that is still trading: Wild Crumb's Outstanding Bakery award from the June 2026 ceremony. That single win leads the list.

Attrition explains why there is only one. Montana has held two James Beard America's Classics, and both are gone. Matt's Place Drive-In in Butte won in 2016 and closed in early 2021; Pekin Noodle Parlor, also in Butte, won in 2023 and closed in April 2026 after 115 years. Closed restaurants do not belong on this list, so a state that should be anchored by three national awards is anchored by one.

The middle of the table is where Montana is actually deep. The Foundation publishes its finalist and semifinalist lists every year, and Montana has appeared on them repeatedly: rows two through seven are all Best Chef: Mountain or Outstanding Restaurant nominations, with finalists placed above semifinalists and the older award year first inside each group. Bozeman alone accounts for three of them. The last three rows are Wikipedia-notable institutions, and it is worth being plain that two are bars: Sip 'n Dip and Club Moderne are dining-and-drinking landmarks with documented national recognition rather than conventional restaurants.

Several live nominations were squeezed out by the cap of ten rather than by any doubt about them, among them Little Star Diner and Devil's Toboggan in Bozeman, The Social Haus in Greenough and The Tasting Room at Chico Hot Springs in Pray. One 2026 semifinalist was excluded outright: Pangea in Missoula, whose chef Brandon Cunningham was named that January, has since closed, with the Missoulian reporting lawsuits over unpaid final wages against its parent group.

Sources

- [James Beard Foundation, 2026 Award winners](#)
- [James Beard Foundation, 2026 nominees](#)
- [James Beard Foundation, 2026 semifinalists](#)
- [James Beard Foundation, 2025 nominees](#)
- [James Beard Foundation, 2025 semifinalists](#)
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- [List of James Beard America's Classics](#)
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