



The Veggie Awards 2007

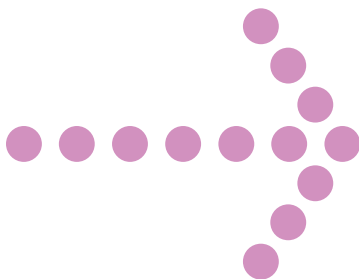
It's official: Vegetarianism *has* arrived. From doughnuts and shoe stores to online blogs and vegan non-profits, living the veg lifestyle is easier—and *way* more fun—than ever before. The VN editorial team spent months scouting the best of the best of everything veg: restaurants, products, people, and companies, and as our year-end gift to you, we've compiled our top picks and packaged them up as The Veggie Awards. Wonder who we think makes the best vegan candy bars? You got it. Curious who reigns as our favorite vegan personality? Read on. Looking to spend some quality time online? We've got you covered.

Far be it from us to be conversation hogs: you voted, we counted. In addition to our tasty Editors' Picks, we've also tallied your faves and discovered what you and your fellow VegNews readers can't live without. Your favorite restaurant, website, blog, and cookbook all get a mention, along with dozens of other winners of the edible and non-edible varieties. This year's Veggie Awards broke new ground with nearly 20,000 responses from you, our super-savvy readers. So kick back, grab a cup of hot soy cocoa, and cozy up with this very special edition.

RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

Spiral Diner & Bakery
(Fort Worth, Texas)

LET'S SEE... WHAT GIVES a restaurant star quality? Delish vegan food, for starters. Think homey mashed potatoes and gravy, savory meatball sandwiches, Sunday morning pancakes and fresh-baked pies. Mmmm. Add to that tall order a kitchen stocked with environmentally friendly cleaning products and post-consumer recycled paper goods, and we're getting somewhere. Can we get a glass of organic wine to go with that BBQ Tempeh Brisket? Now we're *really* talkin'. At Spiral Diner & Bakery in Fort Worth, Texas—that's right, Cowtown, USA—hungry vegans get the whole shebang. Amy McNutt, the restaurant's owner and operator, is committed to keeping her customers well fed with organic produce whenever possible, to keeping prices low and wages high, and to only using biodegradable take-away containers. Avid admirers—who've gone on the VN record referring to their favorite haunt as "the sh*t" and "the bomb diggity"—will, like the rest of us, be thrilled to learn that a second SD location, in Dallas, is in the works. This means *two* places in Texas to get vegan milkshakes. Yeehaw!



readerraves

“Spiral Diner makes living in Fort Worth possible. It is a refuge in a land of prejudice; I could not live without them. The food just happens to be the best I have ever tasted! Amy is a genius!”

LAURA LILES Forth Worth, TX

Photo by Nick Prendergast