

BEST OF TREASURE VALLEY FOOD & DRINK

BEST FINE DINING

COTTONWOOD GRILLE

913 W. River St., Boise, 333-9800 • www.cottonwoodgrille.com

Peter and Hilary Blatz's Cottonwood Grille has a warm, lodge-like feel inside and an open, casual ambience on the patio. The service is friendly and crisp, and it's a favorite for proms, special family events and romantic dinners.

The Blatzes opened Cottonwood 10 years ago. Peter runs the kitchen; Hilary manages the front of the house and, as a certified sommelier, runs the wine program.

The couple has steadily honed Cottonwood's cuisine and service style, making it one of the most popular restaurants in Boise.

Their secret: the more local the better, Peter Blatz says. His menu reflects the flavors of Idaho, including locally

raised elk, venison, buffalo, pork and trout, much of it dressed and prepared in-house. Produce is local when in season, so always check out the fresh sheet.

"When people come here from out of town, they don't order a filet mignon. They can get that anywhere," Blatz says. "Here they get something that is uniquely Idaho."

HONORABLE MENTIONS

- ▶ Chandlers Steakhouse, 981 W. Grove St., Boise, 383-4300
- ▶ Angell's Bar and Grill, 999 W. Main St., Boise, 342-4900
- ▶ Epi's Basque Restaurant, 1115 N. Main St., Meridian, 884-0142
- ▶ The Red Feather Lounge, 246 N. 8th St., Boise, 429-6340
- ▶ Brick 29, 320 11th Ave. S., Nampa, 468-0029

BEST FRIES

BOISE FRY COMPANY

111 Broadway Ave., Boise, 495-3858 • www.boisefrycompany.com



SHAWN RAECKE / sraecke@idahostatesman.com

If these Boise Fry Company curly and homestyle fries look good, just wait till you try them with a little dash of vanilla salt.

Made with fresh Idaho potatoes and fried to your liking, the Boise Fry Company outdid McDonald's this year on best fries.

Boise Fry Company offers you the choice of six kinds of potatoes and four cut styles.

Each is accompanied with homemade seasonings, spritzers and seven dipping sauces made from scratch — and all can be transformed into thousands of fry combinations.

Don't stop there! If you are interested in a juicy burger, Boise Fry offers burgers on the side, and drinks and beer to wash it all down, leaving your stomach happy.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

- ▶ McDonald's, multiple locations
- ▶ Red Robin, multiple locations
- ▶ Hugo's Deli, multiple locations
- ▶ Westside Drive-In, 1929 W. State St., Boise, 342-2957
- ▶ Big Juds, 1289 Protest Road, Boise, 343-4439

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