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New steak, seafood restaurants rank high as some of the best

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Seafood and steaks are high priorities in Houston — at least when choosing a favorite new eating spot.

Reef Restaurant, located in Midtown and serving seafood with Mediterranean and Asian influences, is the Best New Restaurant of 2007, according to voters in the *HBJ* Dining Guide Survey.

With an average dinner ticket coming in at \$31 before beverages, Reef's offerings range from Thai-style whole fish to fried macaroni and cheese.

Beyond the kitchen, 3RD Bar features a separate menu and serves food until 2 a.m. Thursday through Saturday, which includes a popular item known as the "3RD Bar Plateau," which is described on the menu as a "grouping of all things salty and raw."

The 8,000-square-foot restaurant, located at 2600 Travis and McGowen, was opened by Bryan Caswell and Bill Floyd, the former executive chef and food and beverage director at Hotel Icon's Bank restaurant.

Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steakhouse earned the No. 2 spot for Best New Restaurant for its turtle soup, martinis and filet mignon. The famous Del Frisco chain opened its Houston location in November of last year in part of a renovated Galleria-area complex.



PHOTO BY KIM COFFMAN COURTESY OF AZZARELLI'S

A new location of Azzarelli's in Katy features a Sicilian-style pork chop. Chef/owner Frank Triola opened his second location on Westheimer Parkway.

Also high on readers' favorite new restaurants list was The Grove, located on the 12-acre park development downtown called Discovery Green. The restaurant serves seafood and steaks and features a large outdoor bar on the second level.

New Italian restaurants also scored high this year with *HBJ* readers, who cast votes for a new Katy location of Azzarelli's and Ristorante Cavour. Armando's, 1308 Cantina, Beavers and Dantons were also among new favorites. ■

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