

BEST *of* ATLANTA

Atlanta

DANCE CLUB
 ART GALLERY
 LINGERIE
 SUSHI
 BREWPUB
 HAPPY HOUR
 TV ANCHOR
 CUPCAKES
 YOGA FOR KIDS
 ANTIQUES
 FINE CHOCOLATES
 GARDEN STORE
 CHAMPAGNE TOAST >>
 LIGHTING
 ARTSY CINEMA
 RADIO TALK SHOW
 TROUT FISHING

ESPRESSO
 SHOES
 CUSTOM SHIRTS
 WINE BAR
 COMFORT FOOD
 MANI-PEDI
 COFFEEHOUSE
 PARTY DRESSES
 ICE CREAM
 BIKE PATH
 TREE ORNAMENTS
 LUXE COCKTAILS
 SPORTS REPORTER
 STEAKHOUSE
 BOLOGNA SANDWICH
 SEXY JEANS
 PEKING DUCK

plus **127** other
 great discoveries

bonus Gift Guide

PHOENIX
FOLLIES

Mayhem and
 mishaps of 2004
 with **Bill Campbell**,
Elton John, the lynx that
 terrorized Buckhead
 and the case of the
 exploding pants!



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BEST OF ATLANTA 2004



For more than two decades, the editors of *Atlanta* Magazine have looked far and wide to determine the best our city has to offer. Our annual list is the original and still the most authoritative “Best of Atlanta.” Through the year and especially during the fall, we canvass the metro area—checking out **retail stores**, dining in **restaurants**, observing local **media**, visiting **art galleries** or hiking **nature trails**—all in an effort to bring you a don’t-miss list of **what’s most outstanding about Atlanta**. Whether those things are brand new or tried-and-true places, we’ve tested them to make sure they’re still at the top of their game. The following pages are a culmination of this year’s search.

Whether it’s a stellar cultural outing, a great place for a memorable dinner, the best radio talk show or simply a fabulous pair of shoes, we hope our guide not only provides what you’re looking for, but shows you a way to celebrate it as well.

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BEST OF ATLANTA

DINING



[eat savor be merry]

BEST OF DINING

BEST RESTAURANT

Seeger's

111 West Paces Ferry Road
404-846-9779

Chef Guenter Seeger, the grizzled master of creativity, is a chef's chef, admired by his colleagues and revered by true connoisseurs. Here, the food gets a perfect score, the elegance is subdued, and those who gripe about the price fail to understand the importance and relevance of this extraordinarily forward restaurant.

BEST NEW RESTAURANT

Rathbun's

112 Krog St.
The Stove Works
404-524-8280

Good American food and plenty of it have caused a rush to this excellent chef-run restaurant in a fun, post-industrial location. Chef Kevin Rathbun cooks up a storm in his first bid at entrepreneurship, with a hearty, all-encompassing menu you will adore—as did the editors of *Esquire*, who recently named it one of the nation's 21 best new restaurants. Savor items like New Orleans-style eggplant fries, homemade mozzarella, lobster tacos and pricey, daily "Second Mortgage" plates.

BEST RETURN TO ELEGANCE

Restaurant Eugene

2277 Peachtree Road
The Aramore Building
404-355-0321

They don't make them like this anymore! Quiet, suave, conservative and with a touch of Southern accent, the first new fine-dining restaurant to hit Buckhead in a long while—and the other Atlanta restaurant to hit this year's *Esquire* top 21. Chef Linton Hopkins and wife Gina are cut from old-fashioned, quality cloth and their dining room is a class act that attracts a tony, discriminating clientele. Dress for the occasion or you'll regret it.

BEST STEAKHOUSE IN THE CLASSIC MOLD

Bone's

3130 Piedmont Road
404-237-2663

The archetypal gold-standard experience: 25 years of personalized service, local atmosphere and fine steaks served without embellishment. Fancy is all in the eye of the beholder, but the lack of accoutrements is part of the charm.

BEST ATLANTA TRADITION

Pano's & Paul's

1232 West Paces Ferry Road
404-261-3662

Celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, Pano's & Paul's is an Atlanta institution. Opulent, traditional without being stuffy, this is the place to be if you

want fried lobster tail or Dover sole with a side order of glamour. The lounge is one of Atlanta's best-kept secrets, a throwback to the days when martinis didn't come in fruit flavors.

BEST FRENCH

Joël

3290 Northside Parkway
The Forum Building
404-233-3500

Thanks to a new \$29 three-course menu full of exquisite choices, more people than ever are able to sit at Chef Joël Antunes' table. This gifted and inspired young master uses a wealth of luxury ingredients from sweetbreads to rose petals without claiming fine-dining status, the better to delight us with his contemporary French-Mediterranean flavors and magic desserts. Despite the office tower location, the patio bar also makes for a romantic evening.



Lovely little bites at Nan

MAN: RATHBUN'S; DAMON



NEW SENSATION

Chef Kevin Rathbun's eponymous restaurant was recently named one of the nation's 21 best new restaurants by *Esquire*.