

ARLINGTON
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EDITORS' CHOICE
2020

IN NOVEMBER, we shared the complete list of our Editors' Choice selections that represent some of our favorite people, places and things in the Arlington / Mansfield / Grand Prairie area. Here, we spotlight five of the winners who team to make our great region even greater.

TEX MEX
La Isla Restaurant

In 1996, the Zavala family opened the doors at 611 W. Park Row Dr. in the University of Texas at Arlington area. After months of struggling to stay alive, a timely newspaper story featuring La Isla Restaurant as "the new kid on the block" sparked some interest. Now, nearly two and a half decades later, the restaurant isn't just flourishing; it's our choice for the best Tex-Mex food in the area.



La Isla Restaurant brings a notable passion to cooking - there are more than six dozen delicious choices on the dinner menu, alone - as well as providing fast, friendly service.

The bottom line: When we say, "Olé!" (that means, "Bravo!" by the way), we are joined by a chorus of similarly satisfied patrons. **For more:** laislarestauranttx.com

PET CULINARY CARE
Three Dog Bakery

In 1989, three dogs, two guys, and one \$0.59 biscuit cutter created the world's first bakery for dogs. The revolutionary idea - 100-percent natural, wholesome, human-quality ingredients - gave pet owners a new option in healthy feeding.



At the Arlington location, Kim Harmon has taken that foundation and run with it, thanks to a stellar staff made up of humans and bakery dogs who ensure that all their customers leave satisfied. The 2,000 square-foot bakery located at Parkway Central specializes in all-natural, fresh-baked dog treats and personalized celebration cakes, as well as premium dog food, toys, collars and accessories and specialty items. We say the place is so dog-gone perfect, it will make your tail wag. **For more:** threedog.com/bakery/parkway-central

GOLF COURSE
Tierra Verde

It's hard to find a more beautiful course than the award-winning Tierra Verde Golf Club. In fact, it is the first golf course in Texas and the first municipal course in the world to be certified as an Audubon Signature Sanctuary.



Opened in 1998, and carved from 250 acres of secluded terrain, the course features a layout that encompasses a variety of natural settings and offers an outstanding playing experience on every hole.

Tierra Verde was named the top golf course in the DFW Metroplex in 2012 by Avid Golfer magazine (public rankings - premium category). Each hole has five sets of tees, sculpted fairways, strategically placed sand bunkers and water hazards - all accented by stately trees and beautiful native grasses. **For more:** arlingtongolf.com/tierra-verde

Al's Hamburgers

There is something to be said for a family owned business that has been putting smiles on customers' faces for more than six decades. We'll say this: Al's, you're our choice for the best burger in the area.

So, how has the team at Al's Hamburgers managed such success for so long? For starters, there's the food - from day one, when Al Mathews opened the doors in 1957, he insisted on serving only the freshest meats and produce. That tradition continues today, as Al's descendant Melody Lawrence and husband Gary head a team that buys only the best and prepares it to perfection in the kitchen. "We've made very few changes over the years," says Melody, who began working at the restaurant at age 18.

One thing that Melody and Gary have changed is the location. Just this fall, the restaurant relocated to 1276 Fielder North Plaza, where patrons can enjoy indoor and outdoor dining.

They'll also enjoy a menu that includes breakfast dishes (omelets, pancakes, French toast, biscuits and gravy - and more), as well as "other meals" options such as pot roast, meatloaf, chicken tenders and street tacos.

Oh, and burgers. Definitely burgers. You really need to check out the burgers.

For more: [facebook.com/alshamburgerstx](https://www.facebook.com/alshamburgerstx)



restaurant506 at The Sanford House

This month, as you carefully consider how to safely enjoy a long-time tradition, we suggest you also give some thought to another. Pre-holiday endeavors such as looking at lights, shopping or enjoying a Christmas-themed program can easily evolve into Date Night, and when they do, you can ensure that at least the dining portion of date night will be "oh, so, perfect" by including a visit to restaurant506 at The Sanford House as part of the itinerary.

The often celebrated restaurant506 features "Inspired American" cuisine. In fact, see the photo to the right for some inspiration. The culinary team creates delicious seasonal menus that are hand-made with the freshest ingredients that look every bit as good as they taste.

And your service team, from the person who greets and seats you to every member of the wait staff, is, likewise, inspired to make sure you leave the establishment with a smile.

The eatery is open to the public for lunch Wednesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., for dinner Wednesday through Saturday from 5-9 p.m. and for brunch Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Sanford House practices social distancing measures to make sure you have a safe meal. And, given, that we're talking "date night," being secluded during a delicious meal sounds like a great idea. For more: thesanfordhouse.com/restaurant506.

