

THE 39TH ANNUAL GUIDE TO THE BEST OF EVERYTHING → 291 WINNERS!

# BEST OF BOSTON 2012

# Boston



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*Best of*

**BOS**



# TOWN

2012

What's up with the economy? Who's going to be our next senator? Can the Red Sox somehow make the playoffs? There's just so much that's up in the air right now. What Boston needs is something it can count on. Which is why we've spent the past 12 months eating, shopping, testing, surveying, weighing, measuring, and comparing our way all across the city, the 'burbs, the Cape, and the Islands. And now, for the 39th year in a row, we present you with the definitive guide to the very best of everything.

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FOOD → 89 SHOPPING → 100 SERVICE → 108 WEDDINGS → 112  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT → 114 BEYOND THE CITY → 120





#### BAR MENU

### CLIO

Want to know a secret? We love eating at a fine-dining establishment's bar, where we get the same great fare and ambiance sans obsequious servers. And the best spot in town is Clio, which offers selections from the main menu as well as superlative bar-only options (*togarashi*-spiced fried chicken, fall-apart duck drumettes). Of course, the best part of the experience just may be picking the brain of bar whiz Todd Maul (his burnt-cherrywood Old Fashioned, by the way, is amazing).

370A COMMONWEALTH AVE.,  
BOSTON, 617-536-7200,  
CLIORESTAURANT.COM.

#### LATE NIGHT

### UNI

When this newly revamped sushi hot spot introduced a weekend-only, late-night menu, we put it into our regular post-party rotation. With its *umami*-packed ramen topped with barbecued eel; blistering bonito-topped shishito peppers; soft, unctuous pork-belly buns; and deep-fried hot dogs with miso-mustard sauce and pickled vegetables, Uni provides us with an excellent excuse for sleeping till noon on Sunday.

370 COMMONWEALTH AVE., BOSTON, 617-536-7200,  
UNISASHIMIBAR.COM.

→ **BEST RESTAURANT REVAMP**  
Clio, Ken Oringer's flagship restaurant, didn't really need an overhaul (with, ahem, the exception of that faded cheetah carpet). It was already drawing a consistent crowd with its palate-pleasing fare. But the restaurant's recent décor upgrade—refreshed textiles and an expanded bar to showcase an impressive cocktail list—has made it clearer than ever that Clio is among the city's finest eateries. ▶ 370A Commonwealth Ave., Boston, 617-536-7200, cliorestaurant.com.