



Best Chef: Executive Chef Tom Gray at Bistro Aix

Best Waiter/Waitress

Natalia Lupas at Bistro Aix

Talk about bad timing. After three years wowing customers at Bistro Aix in San Marco, Natalia Lupas is finally getting the recognition she deserves. Let's just hope she can get her hands on a copy of Folio Weekly in Romania. Jacksonville's best server has packed up and left the Mussels Frites in the hands of lesser servers in order to return to her home country for an unspecified amount of time. Lupas, who her manager explains "was always trying to please," not only had a great attitude and a sense of urgency, but also boasted an impressive knowledge of the food and wine she served.

Best Restaurant Atmosphere

Best Restaurant in Jacksonville

Bistro Aix

Foodies love this place. Chef Tom Gray's seasonal and innovative French-inspired cuisine tastes like it's made with love — and plenty of butter. But food is only part of the attraction at San Marco's Bistro Aix. The artfully designed restaurant accommodates both young and old, hipster and establishmentarian, whiskey guzzler and wine drinker. A serpentine bar draws those who like to watch the action in the kitchen while a few well-placed mirrors help those who like to watch the action, everywhere else. The bistro helped lead the San Marco restaurant revolution, but hasn't lost an inch on service or culinary credibility over the years. It remains an exceptional place to eat — and be seen.

Best Chef

Tom Gray at Bistro Aix

Folio Weekly-reading gastronomes agree: Bistro Aix Executive Chef Tom Gray has redefined the culinary landscape in Jacksonville. Inspiration — shaped by customer opinion — yields menu items like oak-fired fish over basil potatoes, spinach and olives topped with a fabulous tomato-artichoke beurre blanc. And Chef Gray is nothing if not accessible. "I definitely listen to the guests," says Gray, who's quick to share credit with his team. "I rotate a portion of the menu and get feedback from guests on what they like."

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