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A new No. 1 tops the PBJ's favorite restaurant list

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Food & Lifestyle

A new No. 1 tops the PBJ's favorite restaurants list



The stylish exterior has proven to be a hit with Amaterra's patrons.

GREGOR HALENDA



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May 23, 2025 **Updated** May 23, 2025 2:20pm PDT



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Marcus Breuer said Amaterra [was long destined to be more than just a restaurant](#).

"It's a place where people come together," said Breuer, the Southwest Portland venue's co-founder and CEO, in an email interview. "We aim to

create a space where people can gather, connect and celebrate what matters most: togetherness."

That strategy has clearly worked: Amaterra has been selected as [Portland's most-popular restaurant](#), so deemed by Portland Business Journal readers in a weeks-long survey. More than 600 readers voted in the poll.

"To be chosen as your readers' favorite reaffirms that our mission is resonating," Breuer said. "It's a huge testament to our team and our members who make this place what it is."

When it opened in 2021, the PBJ's wine writer Pete Danko described Amaterra as "An ambitious wine and food project just minutes from the center of Portland" that's "complete with an operating winery, vineyard, restaurant and event spaces." The venue is "cut into the tree-filled slopes behind the West Hills Plaza shopping center," Danko wrote.

Amaterra's status at the top indicates a new station for Ringside Steakhouse, which has generally received the most votes in our survey. The dining mainstay is [looking to recover from an April fire](#) that has temporarily closed it.

Five restaurants leaped into the top 10 of the 2025 list after [missing that level in 2024](#).

Amaterra's operators consciously worked to build its brand loyalty over the last few years.

"In a time when digital connection has replaced so many face-to-face interactions, we've seen traditional forms of in-person membership and community, like clubs, churches and social groups, begin to fade," Breuer said. "At Amaterra, we want to play our part in reversing that trend."



The wine club aspect of Amaterra has attracted hordes of new fans.

JOHN VALLS

To do so, it created a club model ("one of the most inclusive clubs around," said Breuer) centered on a one-time "social membership" fee that can be applied toward the purchase of at least two bottles of wine.

"The barrier to entry is intentionally low, but the value is high: a warm, welcoming environment where people can gather, feel seen and be part of something meaningful," Breuer explained. "Our membership isn't about exclusivity, it's about belonging. We've designed experiences that encourage members to connect with one another, return often and feel at home here."

The venue is also riding high with an expansion: The Amaterra Kitchen + Social Club is set to open in Bend June 6.

"Looking ahead, we're focused on deepening connections, both through expanding our membership community and continuing to deliver standout moments," Breuer said. "We'll keep pushing creative boundaries in our wine and culinary programs, while designing events and experiences that feel thoughtful, seamless and celebratory."

Here's our full Most Popular Restaurants List. Feel free to comment on your favorites [on our LinkedIn page](#).

THE LIST

Serving up the 70 most popular restaurants in and around Portland

Overall score

Rank	Prior Rank	Name / prior rank / website
1	2	Amaterra
2	1	RingSide Steakhouse
3	3	Nostrana
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