



AMERICA'S RIB KING

**"FAMOUS DAVE"
ANDERSON**

GET FIRED UP • MAKE IT FAMOUS • SMOKE THE COMPETITION!

Famous Dave Anderson Awards & Honors

1983 – Anderson was named to a National Task Force on Reservation Gaming by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C.

1983 – Anderson was appointed to The Council on Minority Business Development for the State of Wisconsin by Governor Earl.

1984 – Anderson was appointed to The Wisconsin Council of Tourism by Governor Earl.

1985 – Anderson was named a Bush Leadership Fellow by the Bush Foundation, St. Paul, Minnesota, recognizing him for a lifetime of outstanding achievement.

June 1997 – Ernst & Young, sponsored by NASDAQ and USA Today, recognized Dave Anderson as Minnesota and Dakota's Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year. The Entrepreneur of the Year program honors and recognizes entrepreneurs who have demonstrated excellence and extraordinary success through innovation, financial performance, and personal commitment to their business and community

March 1998 – Anderson named Restaurateur of the Year by Mpls. St. Paul Magazine.

December 1999 – "Famous Dave's Backroads & Sidestreets" wins the National Barbecue Associations "Award of Excellence" for being the "Best New Barbecue/Grill Cookbook!"

2001 - Nominee for the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans Award.

January 10, 2002 – Honored as an Olympic Torch carrier for the 2002 Winter Olympics held at Salt Lake City, Utah.

February 2, 2002- Receives the Odyssey Award by Big Brothers Big Sisters for significant contributions to his profession and the community either as mentors or in service to youth.

July 3, 2002 – President Bush appoints Dave to the President’s Board of Advisors on Tribal Colleges and Universities.

May 2003 – Dave receives Nightingale-Conant coveted “Acres of Diamonds” Award in recognition of his personal commitment for helping others find their own “Acres of Diamonds!”

December 2003 – President Bush appoints Dave ninth Assistant Secretary for the US Department of the Interior for Indian Affairs and confirmed by a full US Senate vote. Dave is responsible for a \$2 billion dollar budget and over 10,000 employees.

May 2004 – Northland College presents Dave an Honorary Doctorate Degree for his commitment to public service.

April 30, 2005 – The Boys and Girls Clubs of America appoints Dave to the Board of Governors.

May 12, 2005 – Northland College appoints Dave to the Board of Trustees

December 2006 – Minnesota Entrepreneurs’ Entrepreneur of the Year Award

January 2007 – Northwoods University Outstanding Business Leader Award

March 2008 – Received the Urban Financial Services Coalition’s Living Legend Award

June 2009 - Famous Dave's is honored by ringing the Opening Bell on NASDAQ

August 2009 - Dave's Day is declared in honor of Famous Dave's 15th Anniversary

October 2009 - Johnson & Wales University Recognizes Dave as a Presidential Distinguished Visiting Professor

December 2009 - Indiana Wesleyan University presents Dave with their Presidential Citation for his work in Leadership



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Famous Dave's of America Awards & Honors

First Place Awards, People's Choice, Blue Ribbons, Best of The Best, Best of Class... You Name We've Won It! ...NO other restaurant in history has won more best of class awards than Famous Dave's. Famous Dave's has been recognized as one of **America's "Hottest Concepts"** by *Nation's Restaurant News*.

Over 400 Best of Class Awards and counting... Everything from Best Ribs, Best BBQ Sauce, Best New Restaurant, Best Menu, Best Dining Experience, Best Family Restaurant, Best Website Design, People's Choice Awards...etc, etc, etc. You know what they say..."It ain't braggin' if it's the truth!"

"Making it Famous!" is a way of life at Famous Dave's. Excellence and striving to be Best of Class is a daily discipline at Famous Dave's... The Best Ribs in America!

HERE'S WHATS IMPORTANT: We don't strive to be The Best of The Best just to call attention to ourselves... we strive everyday for excellence and to be The Best of The Best because of you...our customers... we sincerely believe that YOU should ONLY be eating the best awarding winning recipes... because you deserve it!!!

2009

- "Best BBQ" – Phoenix Magazine – Best of the Valley Reader's Poll – Phoenix AZ – Desert Ribs
- "Best Ribs – Golden Fork Award" – Fox Cities Magazine – Green Bay/Appleton WI – Team RnB
- "Best Wings – Grand Champion" – King of the Wing Competition – Pensacola FL – Fun Yum
- "Best Buffalo Wings" – King of the Wing Competition – Pensacola FL – Fun Yum
- "Best Barbeque – 2nd Place" – "A" List Denver Online Metroguide – Denver/Thornton CO – Basic Food Group
- "Best Bar B Que – 2nd Place" – Quad City Times Reader's Choice 2009 – Davenport IA – Elmore Foods
- "Best Restaurant Website" – Web Marketing Association – Minneapolis MN – Famous Dave's Support Center
- "Best of Taste" – 2nd Place – Taste of Colorado – Denver/Thornton CO – Basic Food Group

- “Most Unique Item – Chocolate Covered Bacon” – Taste of Colorado – Denver/Thornton CO – Basic Food Group
- “Best Barbecue Restaurant – South New Jersey – NJ Monthly Reader’s and Critic’s Poll – Brick NJ – North Country BBQ
- “Best BBQ” Reader’s Choice – 2009 “Best of the Best” edition – What’s Up El Paso – El Paso TX – Sonoran TX
- “Best Catering” Reader’s Choice – Lillie Suburban Newspaper – Roseville, Little Canada MN – Roseville MN
- “First Place – Sauce” – Critic’s Choice – Mansfield Rockin’ Ribs – Mansfield OH – Corporate Rib Team
- “Second Place – Best Ribs” – Critic’s Choice – Mansfield Rockin’ Ribs – Mansfield OH – Corporate Rib Team
- “Best BBQ” – Taste of Tacoma – Tacoma WA – Utah BBQ
- “Best Burger” First Place – City of Tracy 4th of July Picnic – Tracy CA – Star Ribs
- “Top Barbecue” Reader’s Choice – 5280 Magazine – Denver/Thornton CO – Basic Food Group
- “People’s Choice Award” – Taste of Fort Collins – Thornton CO – Basic Food Group
- “Best Restaurant – Best of the Main Line” – Reader’s Choice – Main Line Times/Main Line Suburban Life – Philadelphia PA - Pitmasters
- “The People’s Choice” – 2009 National Capital Barbecue Battle – Washington DC – East Coast Rib Team
- “Best Restaurant” Reader’s Poll – Bakersfield Californian – Bakersfield CA - Tacaza
- “Best BBQ” Reader’s Poll – Bakersfield Californian – Bakersfield CA - Tacaza
- “Critic’s Choice Greatest Ribs in America” – 1st place – Marc’s Great American Rib Cook-off – Cleveland OH – Corporate Rib Team
- “Critic’s Choice Greatest Sauce in America” – 3rd place – Marc’s Great American Rib Cook-off – Cleveland OH – Corporate Rib Team
- “Best Barbecue” Reader’s Choice – Minneapolis City Pages – Minneapolis MN
- “Best Blues Club” – Minneapolis City Pages – Minneapolis MN
- “Best Barbecue” – Fresno Bee People’s Choice – Fresno CA - Tacaza
- “Best Appetizers” – Daily Herald Reader’s Choice – Chicago corporate locations
- “Best BBQ” – Daily Herald Reader’s Choice – Chicago corporate locations
- “Best Business Lunch” – Daily Herald Reader’s Choice – Chicago corporate locations
- “Best Caterer – restaurants” – Daily Herald Reader’s Choice – Chicago corporate locations
- “Best Comfort Foods” Daily Herald Reader’s Choice – Chicago corporate locations
- “Best Ribs” – Daily Herald Reader’s Choice – Chicago corporate locations
- “Best Theme Restaurant” – Daily Herald Reader’s Choice – Chicago corporate locations
- “Best Place to Work” – Daily Herald Reader’s Choice – Chicago corporate locations
- “Best Carryout” – Daily Herald Reader’s Choice – Chicago corporate locations
- “Best BBQ Ribs” – Fresno Bee – Fresno CA – Tacaza
- “Best Barbecue Restaurant” – Minneapolis-St. Paul Magazine, Reader’s Poll – Minneapolis, MN
- “Best Barbecue” – Minnesota Monthly – Reader’s Poll – Minneapolis, MN
- “Best Chili – Professional Division” – 1st Place – Heart of America Chili Challenge – St. Joseph, MO – Concord BBQ
- “Best Chili in Missouri” – Missouri State Champion – Heart of America Chili Challenge – St. Joseph, MO – Concord BBQ

2008

- “Favorite Barbecue” – Omaha Magazine – Omaha NE – Cutchall Management
- “Best Ribs” Readers poll – Best of the Northland – Duluth MN – Baxter BBQ
- “Best Ribs” Readers poll – Nashville Scene – Nashville TN – Famous Five Dining
- “Cleveland’s Best BBQ” – Fox 8 Hitlist – Cleveland OH – Buckeye BBQ
- “Best BBQ” and “Best Restaurant” – The Daily Sentinel – Grand Junction CO – Basic Food Group
- “Best BBQ” – The Billings Gazette – Billings MT – Rocky Mountain Ribs
- “Best Barbeque Restaurant in the Central Valley” – People’s Choice – Fresno Bee – Fresno CA – Tacaza
- “Best Bar-B-Que” – First Place – Omaha Magazine “Best of Omaha” 2008 – Omaha NE – Old Market Ventures
- “First Place – Chili Cook Off” and “Best Design” Table Set Up – Nautical Mile Chili Cook-Off – Roseville, MI – Blue Ribbon Barbecue
- “Best BBQ” – Cityview – Best of Des Moines Magazine – Des Moines IA
- “Best Barbecue Restaurant” – Minneapolis-St. Paul Magazine – Minneapolis/St. Paul MN
- “Best of the West 2008 BBQ” – West Suburban Living Magazine – North Riverside IL
- “Best Place for Ribs”, “Best Place for American Cuisine” – Courier-Post Newspaper (South Jersey) – Cherry Hill NJ – Pitmasters
- “Silver Spoon Award 2008 – Favorite Barbecue Restaurant” – Minnesota Monthly Reader’s Choice – Minneapolis/St. Paul
- “Best Blues Bar” – The City Pages *Best of the Twin Cities* – Calhoun Square, Minneapolis MN
- “Best BBQ” – Twin Cities Magazine – Minneapolis/St. Paul
- “Best BBQ” – Kane County Chronicle 2008 Reader’s Choice – Carpentersville IL
- “People’s Choice” – Wine, Brews and Blues Festival – Vista CA – Star Ribs
- “Best BBQ 2008” Reader’s Choice – azcentral.com’s 2nd Annual Viewer’s Poll – Phoenix AZ – Desert Ribs
- “Best Barbecue” – Colorado Springs Gazette – Colorado Springs CO – Basic Food Group
- “People’s Choice” – Chine National Capital BBQ Battle – Washington DC
- “Critic’s Choice Ribs”, “Critic’s Choice Pork”, “People’s Choice Best Ribs” – Cedar Rapids Barbecue Round Up – Cedar Rapids IA – Corporate Rib Team
- “Best of Tacoma in BBQ” – Taste of Tacoma – Tacoma WA – Utah BBQ
- “Best BBQ” – AOL City’s Best – Milwaukee – Waukesha WI – Team RnB

2007

- “Best Ribs – 1st place”; “Best Beans – 3rd place” – Midwest Championship Rib Cook-Off & Activities – Famous Dave’s Saginaw, MI – Big Ten Ribs
- “Best Dessert – Bread Pudding” – Tallahassee Magazine readers – Tallahassee, FL – Fun-Yum
- “Best Overall Restaurant” – 2007 Taste of St. Joe – Famous Dave’s St. Joseph, MO – Concord BBQ
- “Spirit Award” – Nation’s Restaurant News – System-wide award
- “Best Barbecue” – Phoenix Magazine – Famous Dave’s Phoenix, AZ – Desert Ribs
- “People’s Choice – 1st place”; “Critic’s Choice” – Columbus Ribfest – Columbus, OH - Famous Dave’s Rib Team
- “The Chinet People’s Choice Award” – 15th Annual Safeway National Capital BBQ Battle

- “Critic’s Choice: Best Pulled Pork” – Famous Dave’s 3rd Annual BBQ and Bluesfest – Minneapolis, MN - Famous Dave’s Rib Team
- “People’s Choice”, “Best Sauce”, “Best Presentation” – Holy Smokes Rib Off – Famous Dave’s Toledo OH – Big Ten Ribs
- “Best Blues Bar” – The City Pages *Best of the Twin Cities* – Calhoun Square, Minneapolis
- “Best Sauce” – Sioux Falls Ribfest – Famous Dave’s Sioux Falls SD - DTSG
- “The Public Health Excellence Award for Food Safety” – Famous Dave’s Manchester NH – North Country BBQ
- “Judge’s Choice” – Taste of Grand Haven – Team R n’ B Michigan
- “Best BBQ” and “Best Caterer” – Chattanooga News Free Press – Famous Dave’s Chattanooga - Famous Five Dining
- “Most Rockin’ Place in Knoxville to get BBQ” – WIMZ radio listeners – Famous Dave’s Knoxville - Famous Five Dining
- “Silver Fork Award – Best BBQ” – Greater Manchester Dining Guide – North Country BBQ Ventures
- “Best BBQ Restaurant In Frederick” – Frederick Magazine – Famous Dave’s Frederick, Maryland
- Blue Ribbon “Best Southern Cuisine” – Taste of Tallahassee – Famous Dave’s Tallahassee FL – Fun-Yum
- “Best Barbecue in Ocean County” – Asbury Park Press – North Country BBQ
- “Silver Spoon Award 2007 - Favorite Barbecue Restaurant” – Minnesota Monthly Magazine Reader’s Choice
- “Best Barbecue Restaurant” – Minneapolis-St. Paul Magazine Reader’s Poll
- “Best Ribs – Best of Long Island 2007’ – Long Island Press – Famous Dave’s Westbury NY – North Country BBQ
- “Philly’s Best BBQ” – AOL City Guide 2007 – Pit Masters LLC
- “New Jersey’s Best BBQ” – AOL City Guide 2007 – North Country Barbecue Ventures – Famous Dave’s North Jersey
- First Place – “Super Chili Bowl Cook Off Competition for Best Chili” – Famous Dave’s Bismarck, ND – DTSG, Inc.
- “Best Barbeque 2006” – Tucson Weekly – Famous Dave’s Tucson, AZ – Sonoran BBQ
- “Best Barbecue 2006” – Yuma Sun – Famous Dave’s Yuma, AZ – Sonoran BBQ

2006

- Critic’s Choice Best Ribs - The Nugget Best of the West Rib Cook-off, Reno, NV
- “Choice Restaurant” – Chains Gold Award from Restaurant and Institutions Magazine
- Readers Choice – Leader Telegram – “Best BBQ”
- Best of West & Press Readers Choice – “Best BBQ & Best Chicken” – Wyandotte West Newspaper
- “Best in BBQ” - City View’s Best of Des Moines
- “Best BBQ” – Readers Choice – Central NJ
- “City’s Best BBQ” – Philadelphia City Guide
- “Best BBQ” - Taste of Tacoma
- “Best of BBQ” – Seattle Bite, Largest Food Festival in Washington State
- Readers Choice Poll/Best of Delco - “The Best Ribs in Delco” – Delaware County Newspaper
- “Silver Plate Award” – IFMA

- People's Choice "Best Ribs" & 2nd Place "Critics Choice Best Ribs" – Ribfest - Cleveland Ohio
- Battle of the Bones, Grand Haven, MI – 1st Place – "Judges Choice", 2nd Place – "People's Choice", 1st Place – "Best Booth"
- Famous Dave's BBQ, Mishawaka, IN was voted Best BBQ in the 2006 Channel 16 (NBC channel WNDU) Viewer's Choice Awards.
- Famous Dave's- BEST BBQ - by the readers of the Wichita Register
- Best Barbecue / Reader's Choice- "Best of the Twin Cities 2006" issue -The City Pages
- Best Blues Bar- "Best of the Twin Cities 2006" issue - The City Pages
- Best BBQ Famous Dave's- "Best Restaurants" issue - Wichita Register

2005

- Readers Choice – NJ Monthly Critics Choice Award – "Best BBQ Restaurant"
- Readers Choice – Best of the Best BBQ" – Fredrick, MD
- People's Choice – Ribfest - Cleveland Ohio
- People's Choice Award for all Famous Dave's in MN – City Pages
- "Best Blues Club" – City Pages
- "Readers Choice – Favorite BBQ" – South Bend Tribune
- "Best Ribs" People's Choice Award – Southern FL Cook-Off 2nd Year in a row
- "Best Beans" – 2nd Place - Southern FL Championship Cook-Off
- "Celebrity Cook-Off" – First Place – Southern FL Championship Cook-Off
- 2005 Readers Choice - "Positive Attitude - Matt Diamond"
- 2005 "Best BBQ"
- 2005 "Organization of the Year", Kansas City, KS - Convention & Visitors Bureau
- 2005 Readers Choice - "Favorite BBQ" - Kansas City, KS
- Peoples Choice – "Best in the West Nugget Rib Kick-off" – Sparks Nevada
- "Outstanding Customer Service" – Kane County Chamber of Commerce
- Readers Choice "Best Tasting Ribs" – Elgin Courier Newspaper
- "Golden Fork Award" - Famous Dave's Best Ribs – Fox City Magazine
- Wichita award- First Place Peoples Choice - Wichita Chili & BBQ Cook Off!

2004

- "Best BBQ" In the City-City View Magazine- Des Moines
- "Best Ribs" People's Choice Award – Southern FL Championship Cook Off
- "Best Beans" 1st Place – Southern FL Championship Cook Off
- "Celebrity Cook Off" – 2nd Place – Southern FL Championship Cook Off
- "Best Ribs" – 1st Place – People's Choice – Cedar Rapids
- "Best Ribs" – In Bismarck – Mandan – Bismarck, ND
- "Best Ribs" – 1st Place – People's Choice – Muskegon BBQ Cook off
- "Best Ribs" – 1st Place – Judge's Choice – Muskegon BBQ Cook off
- "Best Beef Brisket" – 1st Place – Clarksville, TN
- "Best BBQ Overall" – 6th Place – Clarksville, TN
- "Best Ribs" 3rd Place – Critics Choice – Cleveland Cook off
- "Best Ribs" 1st Place – People's Choice – Pittsburgh Ribfest

- “Best Ribs” 1st Place – People’s Choice – BBQ Battle Cedar Rapids, IA
- “Best Single Product Roll Out” Sassy BBQ Salad - Menu Masters
- “Best Caterer” – Twin Cities Best Restaurant – Twin Cities Business Month
- “Top 50 Growth Chains” Presented to FD In recognition of outstanding sales – Restaurant Business
- “Best Ribs” 1st Place – Rib America Food & Music Fest, Pittsburgh, PA
- “Best Commercial Produced for \$3,500 or Less” – MUFSSO
- “Best Commercial Produced for \$10,000 or Less” – MUFSSO
- “Best Caterer” – 2nd Place – Twin Cities Business Monthly
- “Best Ribs” 1st Place – Twin Cities Business Monthly
- “Best Hot BBQ” – The City View Best of Des Moines
- “Best BBQ” People’s Choice Awards – Taste of Chattanooga
- “Best Bread Pudding” 1st Place – Taste of Chattanooga
- “Runner Up – Signature Dish” – Taste of Chattanooga
- “Best Beef Brisket” – Cookin on the Cumberland BBQ Cook-Off – the Rib Team
- “Best BBQ” – People’s Choice – The Reader (Omaha, NB)
- “Best BBQ” – Omaha Magazine
- “Best BBQ” - 1st Place – People’s Choice - Wichita
- “Best BBQ” – Best of the Bluffs

2003

- “Best BBQ” People’s Choice Awards – Taste of Chattanooga
- “Best Bread Pudding” 1st Place – Taste of Chattanooga
- “Best Takeout” 1st Place – City Page Minneapolis
- “Best Restaurant for Ribs” – Courier News- Mountainside New Jersey
- “Best Ribs” 3rd Place- Sioux Falls Ribfest
- “Best BBQ” - City Pages Minneapolis
- “Best BBQ” – Best of the Bluffs

2002

- “Best Ribs” 1st Place – Fargo Ribfest
- “Best BBQ” Editorial Pick – Best of CitySearch Minneapolis
- “Best BBQ” Audience Pick – Best of CitySearch Minneapolis
- “Best Dining with Music” Editorial and Audience Pick – Best of CitySearch Minneapolis
- “Best Catering” –The Dakota Southwest Review
- “Best Ribs” People’s Choice – Fargo Ribfest
- “Best Ribs” – Minneapolis/St Paul Magazine
- “Best Catering- Roseville Reader
- “Best BBQ” Madison, WI- Madison Magazine
- “Best Ribs” Madison, WI- Madison Magazine
- “Best Place to Eat Out with Your Kids” Minneapolis, MN- CityPages
- “Best Blues Bar” Minneapolis, MN- CityPages
- “One of the Top BBQ in Nashville” Nashville, TN- The Nashville Scene
- “Best BBQ” – Best of the Bluffs

2001

- “Best Ribs” 3rd Place – Cleveland Ribfest
- “Best Ribs” 1st Place – Sioux Falls Rib Fest – South Dakota
- “Best Ribs” 1st Place – Cedar Rapids Rib Fest
- “Best Desserts” 2nd Place – Taste of Madison
- “Best BBQ” in Madison – Isthmus Magazine
- “Best Wings” 2nd Place – Cedar Falls Wing Ding Contest
- “Best BBQ” 1st Place – Golden Fork – Fox Valley, Wisconsin

2000

- “Best Ribs” – Twin Cities Business Monthly
- “Best Ribs” – Rib America 2000, Indianapolis
- “Best Ribs in America” – 2000 Great American Rib Cook-off, Ohio
- “Best Ribs” – Sioux Empire Ribfest, Sioux Falls
- “People’s Choice” – Ribfest and More, Fargo
- “Best Ribs” – Pontiac Rib America 2000 Ribfest
- “Best Ribs” – Twin Cities Rib Fest 2000
- “Best Ribs” – Minnesota Monthly Magazine
- “Best Takeout” – Minneapolis/St. Paul Magazine
- “Best BBQ in Madison” – Isthmus Magazine
- “Best BBQ in Madison” – Madison Magazine
- “Best Food in Cedar Valley” – Taste of Waterloo
- “Best Tasting Wings” – Cedar Falls Wing Ding Contest
- “Best Ribs” – Post-Crescent 2000 Encore Award
- “Best Ribs” – Fox Cities Magazine 2000 Golden Fork
- “Best BBQ” – Citysearch, The Best of the Twin Cities
- 2nd “Best Ribs” Critics Choice – Cleveland, Ohio
- “Best Ribs” People’s Choice – Cleveland, Ohio
- “Best Ribs” – Sioux Falls, South Dakota
- “Best Ribs” Critics Choice – Twin Cities
- “Best Ribs” 2nd Place – Lincoln, Nebraska

1999

- Critic’s Choice “Favorite Ribs” – Minnesota Monthly Magazine
- “Best BBQ Ribs” – Great American Cook Off, Cleveland, Ohio
- “Best BBQ Ribs” – Twin Cities Ribfest
- “Best BBQ Ribs” – Naperville Sun Reader
- “Best BBQ Ribs” – West Suburban Living Reader
- “Best BBQ Ribs” – Minnesota Monthly Magazine
- “Best BBQ Ribs” – Minneapolis/St. Paul Magazine
- “Best BBQ Ribs” – Fargo Dome Ribfest
- “Best BBQ Ribs” – Sioux Empire Ribfest, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

- “Best BBQ Ribs” – Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier
- “Best BBQ Ribs” – Mature Lifestyles Madison Reader
- “Best Chicken Wings” – Cedar Falls Chamber of Commerce
- “Best Sauce” – Great American Rib Cook-off, Cleveland, Ohio
- “Best Entrée” – Taste of Waterloo
- “Best Pork” – Mankato Ribfest
- “Top 10 Restaurant” – Minneapolis/St. Paul Magazine
- “Best of 1999 – Music Club” – Nightclub & Bar Magazine
- “Best BBQ Sauce in America” – American Royal Barbecue Contest, Kansas City
- “Best Desserts” – Minnesota Monthly Magazine
- “Best BBQ Joint” – Minneapolis/St. Paul Magazine
- “Hot New Concept” – National Restaurant Chain Publication
- “Entrepreneur of the Year” – Ernst & Young NASDAQ, USA Today
- “Best Chicken Wings” – LaCrosse Tribune
- “Best New Barbecue/Grill Cookbook” – National Barbecue Associations Award of Excellence for “Famous Dave’s Backroads & Sidestreets”

1998

- “Best Ribs” – Des Moines Register
- Critic’s Choice “Favorite Ribs” – Minnesota Monthly Magazine
- Critic’s Choice “Favorite Music/Entertainment” – Minnesota Monthly Magazine
- Critic’s Choice “Best Take-Out” – Minneapolis/St. Paul Magazine
- “Best Ribs” – LaCrosse Tribune
- “Best BBQ Ribs” – Minnesota Monthly Magazine
- “Best BBQ Sauce” – Fargo Ribfest – People’s Choice
- “Greatest Ribs in America” – Great American Cook Off – Critic’s Choice
- “Best BBQ Ribs” – Twin Cities Business Monthly Magazine
- “Best BBQ Ribs” – Minneapolis/St. Paul Magazine
- “Best Music/Entertainment” – Minnesota Monthly Magazine
- “Best Ribs” – Appleton Post-Crescent Reader
- “Best New Restaurant” – Madison Capital Times
- “Entrepreneur of the Year” – TwinWest Chamber of Commerce, Minneapolis
- “Best BBQ Ribs” – Madison Magazine
- “Best New Restaurant” – Madison Magazine

1997

- “Best Ribs” – City Pages Reader Poll
- “Best Ribs” – Minnesota Monthly Magazine
- “Best Last Meal in the Twin Cities” – Minneapolis/St. Paul Magazine
- “Best Ribs” – Minneapolis/St. Paul Magazine
- “Best Restaurant Design” – Minnesota Shopping Center Assoc.
- “Best Sauce in America” – Great American Rib Cook-off
- People’s Choice “Best Ribs” – Fargo Dome Ribfest
- Critic’s Choice “Best Ribs” – Fargo Dome Ribfest
- “Best Ribs” – Naperville Ribfest

- “Best Sauce” – Twin Cities Ribfest
- “Best Ribs” – Twin Cities Ribfest
- “1997 Hot Concept” – Nation’s Restaurant News
- “Entrepreneur of the Year” – Emerging Company Division
- “Best Music” – Minnesota Monthly Magazine
- “Best Music” – Minneapolis/St. Paul Magazine
- “Best Restaurant Promoter” – Minneapolis/St. Paul Magazine
- “Entrepreneur of the Year” – Twin Cities Business Monthly
- “Best New Restaurant” – Minneapolis/St. Paul Magazine

1996

- “Best New Restaurant” – Minneapolis/St. Paul Magazine
- “Best Last Meal in Minnesota” – Minnesota Monthly Magazine
- “Best Desserts” – Minnesota Monthly Magazine
- Critic’s Choice “#1 Ribs in MN” – Minnesota Monthly Magazine
- “Hot New Concept” – National Restaurant Chain Publication
- “Best Ribs” – Minnesota Monthly Magazine

1995

- “Best BBQ Sauce in America” – American Royal Barbecue Contest
- “Best BBQ Joint” – Minneapolis/St. Paul Magazine