

2017

# BEST OF BUSINESS

**GULFSHORE BUSINESS MAGAZINE'S BEST OF BUSINESS READERS' POLL, NOW IN ITS FIFTH YEAR, GENERATED RECORD-SETTING PARTICIPATION, WITH MORE THAN 7,000 UNIQUE VOTES CAST FOR HUNDREDS OF BUSINESSES—AN INCREASE OF ROUGHLY 1,600 MORE THAN THOSE SUBMITTED IN 2016.**

Online polling was conducted at [www.SurveyMonkey.com](http://www.SurveyMonkey.com), where respondents were required to provide a valid name and email address so that people could cast only one vote. The winners in each category are listed as well as the immediate runners-up (in alphabetical order).

COMPILED BY Mindy Paniagua, Tess Raines, Allie Taylor and Phil Borchmann

PHOTOS BY Alex Stafford

MEET  
THIS  
YEAR'S  
47  
WINNERS →

sional education experience, is based in Fort Myers and is an approved Florida Real Estate School, Florida CAM School, Florida Insurance School and NMLS Approved Course Provider.

**FINALISTS**  
PREMIERE PLUS REALTY CO.  
SUNSHINE ACE HARDWARE

## FOOD/ HOSPITALITY/ ENTERTAINMENT

### BEST CATERER

Created by Chef Brian Roland in 2012, **Crave Culinaire** has become a success through its vision of gastronomy. It offers conventional catering, with personal chef concierge services through in-home dining, cooking classes, customized event catering and more.

**FINALISTS**  
ARTICHOKE AND CO.  
SAGE EVENTS, LLC

### BEST AFTER-WORK GATHERING PLACE

**Cru** is a recognized restaurant-bar at the Bell Tower Shops in Fort Myers that is known for its American tapas. Its menu includes sweet and sour octopus, dried aged duck breast and buffalo bolognese.

**FINALISTS**  
7TH AVENUE SOCIAL  
SOUTH STREET CITY  
OVEN AND GRILL

### BEST INDEPENDENTLY OWNED RESTAURANT

**Bleu Provence** is an award-winning French restaurant with a cottage-style decor. Its slow-cooked menu includes boneless wagyu short ribs, duck leg confit and pork shank. The restaurant has been open

since 1999 and has a selection of more than 30,000 bottles.

**FINALISTS**  
EL GAUCHO INCA RESTAURANT  
SUMMERLIN JAKE'S  
SEAFOOD AND STEAKS

### BEST POWER LUNCH

**Shula's Steak House** is located in Naples. The restaurant is part of former football coach Don Shula's steakhouse chain and is well-known for its aged beef.

**FINALISTS**  
EL GAUCHO INCA RESTAURANT  
USS NEMO'S  
VERANDA

### BEST ENTERTAINMENT VENUE

**Artis-Naples** is the home to the Naples Philharmonic and The Baker Museum. The venue is Florida's hub for visual and performing arts, hosting more than 800 concerts, performances, exhibitions and education events for children and adults.

**FINALISTS**  
BARBARA B. MANN  
PERFORMING ARTS HALL  
SIX BENDS HARLEY-DAVIDSON

## CREATIVE

### BEST JEWELER

Mark Loren has been creating custom-designed jewelry at **Mark Loren Designs** since founding the company in 1982. The firm has a goldsmithing studio and gallery in Fort Myers. Services include jewelry inspection and cleaning, diamond setting and re-cutting, and watch repair and batteries.

**FINALISTS**  
BIGHAM JEWELERS  
DIAMOND DISTRICT