



AWARDS AND HONORS

Few restaurants in history have achieved as much recognition in a few short years as Famous Dave's. We don't mean to brag, but look at the awards and honors we've received.... so far.

2006

- "Best in BBQ" - City View's Best of Des Moines
- "Best BBQ" – Readers Choice – Central NJ
- "City's Best BBQ" – Philadelphia City Guide
- "Silver Plate Award" – IFMA
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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
- Best of Wyandotte county from K.C. Magazine

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” – MUFSO
- “Best Commercial Produced for \$10,000 or Less” – MUFSO
- “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 of City Search” – Best BBQ Food in the Twin Cities

2003

- “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 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” People’s Choice Award – Tulsa
- “1st Art of BBQ” People’s Choice Award – Tulsa
- “Best Ribs” Diners Choice Award, Mpls/St.Paul Magazine

2003 (con't)

- “Best BBQ” – Bliss Magazine (Florence)
- “Silver Spoon Award” – (Florence)
- “Restaurant of the Year” – (Hermitage)
- “#1 BBQ Restaurant” – Best of City Search. Com
- “#1 Family Dining” – Best of City Search.Com
- “#1 Group Dining” – Best of City Serch.Com
- “Barbeque Food Find” – Food Network
- “Best Ribs” 2nd Place – Nashville Scene (One of Nashville’s Best)
- “Best BBQ: 2nd Place – Nashville Scene (One of Nashville’s Best)
- “Friendliest Wait Staff” 2nd Place – Nashville Scene (One of Nashville’s Best)
- “Best Caterer” 2nd Place – Nashville Scene (One of Nashville’s Best)
- “Rookie Restaurant of the Year” FD Hamilton Place
- “Best New Restaurant” – Chattanooga Times Free Press
- “Franchise of the Year” – Famous Five Dining Mike Lister, Chairman, FAB
- “Best BBQ” – People’s Choice – The Reader (Omaha, NB)
- “Best BBQ” – Omaha Magazine

2002

- “Best Ribs” 1st Place – Fargo Ribfest
- “Best BBQ” Editorial Pick – Best of City Search Minneapolis
- “Best BBQ” Audience Pick – Best of City Search Minneapolis
- “Best Dining with Music” Editorial and Audience Pick – Best of City Search 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- City Pages
- “Best Blues Bar” Minneapolis, MN- City Pages
- “One of the Top BBQ in Nashville” Nashville, TN- The Nashville Scene
- “Restaurant of the Year” – (Hermitage)
- “Rookie Restaurant of the Year” – (Hermitage)
- “Best Ribs” 2nd Place – Nashville Scene (One of Nashville’s Best)
- “Best BBQ: 2nd Place – Nashville Scene (One of Nashville’s Best)
- “Friendliest Wait Staff” 2nd Place – Nashville Scene (One of Nashville’s Best)
- “Best Caterer” 2nd Place – Nashville Scene (One of Nashville’s Best)
- “Best BBQ” – People’s Choice – The Reader (Omaha, NB)
- “Best BBQ” – Omaha Magazine

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
- “Best Ribs” Everyone’s a Critic Award – MN Monthly
- “Best BBQ” – Twin City, City Search
- “Best Dining with Music” – Twin City, City Search

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” – City search, 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
- “Best Music” Diners Choice FD BBQ & Shack, Mpls/St. Paul Magazine
- “Best Ribs” Diners Choice, Mpls/St. Paul Magazine

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 Back roads & Side streets"
- "Best Ribs" 1st Place – Rainbow Rockin Ribfest Double Winner Critics Award & People's Choice.
- "Favorite Ribs" Everyone's a Critic

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” – Twin West 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
- “The Best of Business” – Editor’s pick of the years biggest Achievements – Twin Cities Monthly

1995

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