

2024 BEST MAPLE MENU

The Vermont Maple Festival is preparing to sponsor the third annual BEST MAPLE MENU contest. The contest will expand this year, to include participants from throughout Franklin County. Any food-service establishment, with maple on the menu, is invited to register for this month-long, diner-judged contest.

This friendly competition begins April 1, with diners serving as judges. 90+% of last year's participants are slated to return to the 2024 contest. These food/beverage businesses will be automatically registered and will have contest materials delivered by the last week of March. Newcomers may register, now through March 15. All participating eateries can expect mention in local newspapers, on social media and at the festival's opening ceremonies. They will be listed in various locations throughout the festival.

Nelly's was the winner of the first contest for Best Maple Menu, in 2022. Kaiju Kitchen had the winning menu in 2023. Other participants, last year, included Nelly's, Red House Sweets, Maple City Diner, Mill River Brewery/Pub, The Travelled Cup, The Drake, 14th Star Brewery, Mill River Taphouse, Catalyst Coffee Bar, Off the Rails and Green Mountain Cafe.

To be eligible: you must offer at least one maple-infused item on your menu; you must be willing to provide customers with ballots (supplied by the festival), beginning on April 1, and to then collect and hold completed ballots. They will be picked up and tallied on May 1, with the winner to be announced later that week. The winning establishment will receive an engraved wooden plaque and a gallon of maple syrup, along with press coverage.

Bakeries, coffee shops, delis, pizza parlors, smoothie shops, breweries, dine-in restaurants and takeout restaurants are invited to register or seek further information at kayethecook@yahoo.com. There is no registration fee, no need to divulge recipes and all materials will be provided. The deadline for registration is March 15.