

Hale 'Aina

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for Michel's chocolate cheesecake.

Michel's not only got the most votes as overall favorite, but our readers singled it out as their favorite spot for Sunday brunch, over a strong field which included Orchids, the Kahala Hilton, the Willows, Protea and the Hano Hano Room.

Last year when Michel's took Sunday brunch honors, the Colony Surf's general manager, Judy Daniel said, "That's great. But next year our goal is to win for breakfast, lunch and dinner." It looks like they made it.

AMERICAN AND JAPANESE

This is one of those "only in Honolulu" stories. Our readers' favorite restaurants for American food and for Japanese food are owned by the same company, which is headed by a Canadian, Rod Gardiner.

Gardiner was pleased to hear that **Hy's Steak House** was a repeat winner for American food, vaulting past runners-up Canlis and The Third Floor. He's glad to report that business

continues to be brisk at Hy's, which serves a traditional steak and seafood menu at the Waikiki Park Heights Hotel. He has added a late night menu from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m., serving "heavy pupus" for diners whose evening extends into the wee hours.

Gardiner was even more pleased to hear that his **Kobe Japanese Steak House** had topped last year's winner Benihana and strong runner-up Kamigata as favorite Japanese restaurant. Kobe, located on Ala Moana between the Ilikai and the Hilton Hawaiian Village, serves steak and seafood Teppanyaki style, and has, he claims, "the prettiest sushi bar in town."

FRENCH

Honolulu residents are obviously not confused between the two Michel's. Michel's at the Colony Surf might be their favorite overall, but when they want French food in the grand manner, they turn instead to Michel and Dominique Fernez's **Chez Michel** at Eaton Square. Chez Michel was voted our readers' favorite French restaurant, with Bon Appetit, La Mer and Alfred's also in the running.

"Tell everyone we're not resting on our laurels," says owner Fernez. "We

try to improve every day." The Fernezes have also taken over La Maison du Chocolat, the gourmet chocolate shop in Ala Moana Center. And if their attractive French restaurant needed anything to make it more appealing, they now have a display counter of Belgian chocolates in the entryway.

ITALIAN

"Well, I'm glad to hear we didn't let the place go downhill," said Fred Livingston, when he heard that his restaurant, **Matteo's**, had been named our readers' favorite Italian restaurant. Matteo's is a second-time winner, but Livingston is not. He purchased Matteo's, located at Waikiki's Marine Surf Hotel, in April 1985.

Livingston's other restaurant, the Trattoria, came in second, with strong competition from Andrew's in the Ward Centre.

Livingston has not changed the food at Matteo's, except to list "a few specialty items on the menu that were always available, but which only the regulars knew about." But everything else is changed. Livingston embarked on an ambitious \$500,000 renovation program. Matteo's now has a new

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