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kitchen, a new entrance and a completely refurbished dining room, where handmade koa wine racks will house 5,000 bottles of Livingston's 15,000-bottle wine cellar.

CHINESE

Joe Wang, who owns **King Tsin** with his brother Peter, says theirs was the first Szechuan restaurant in Honolulu when it opened 11 years ago. Plainly, King Tsin is still going strong, because again this year it emerged as our readers' premier Chinese restaurant. In a town full of good Chinese restaurants, the votes were spread considerably, with Yen King, Maple Garden, Hee Hing and Dynasty II, also prominent in the running.

Owner Wang reports that he is seeing more tourists now that King Tsin is mentioned in several guidebooks. But most of his customers continue to be local people attracted to King Tsin's fiery Northern Chinese cooking and its reasonable prices.

THAI

The big winner in this category is Keo Sananikone, who owns both the runners-up, Mekong I & II, and the overwhelming favorite, Keo's Thai Cuisine on Kapahulu. Sananikone reports that his restaurants are doing consistently well. "We're not seasonal because 90 percent of our customers are local." He has expanded his menu, but would like to point out that he has not raised his prices in two years.

Sananikone earned a degree in architecture from the University of Washington and taught at McKinley High School before turning his hand to cooking 10 years ago. His Thai dishes have proved so popular, and he gets requests for recipes so frequently, that Sananikone has just published a full-color cookbook entitled (what else?) Keo's Thai Cuisine.

MEXICAN

La Mex and Bueno Nalo have their faithful following, but **Compadres** is clearly our readers' favorite Mexican restaurant. Compadres, which is only two years old, has won this award twice in a row. Dick Bradley, who co-owns the Ward Centre restaurant with his partner Rick Enos, says, "We're really appreciative of the community support we've gotten. We've truly become a local restaurant."

It's no longer possible to simply tell someone you'll meet them at Compadres. Now you'll have to specify which