



Image courtesy of Xandra Russell

Event organizer Xandra Russell with Jim Avrea, owner of Aloha Steakhouse, host of the Awards Ceremony.

Winners Announced for the 2025 Ventura Vegan Chef Challenge

The Ventura Vegan Chef Challenge has officially wrapped up, and chefs were presented awards on Monday, February 10th, at a private ceremony held at Aloha Steakhouse. Winners were chosen by Ventura residents who dined at the participating restaurants during the Challenge.

Various community members and local foodies voted for the participating chefs and dishes. Voters were vegan, vegetarian, and meat-eaters. Their dining support enabled us to honor some wonderful local chefs!

Vegans want more options, and restaurants want more customers, making the challenge a win-win. Former chef Alex Bury also points out that “If a group of friends is planning a dinner out on the town, and one of them is vegan, the entire group will skip a restaurant without good vegan options.”

AWARDS LIST

- First Place: Paradise Pantry
- Second Place: Farmer and the Cook
- Third Place: Aloha Steakhouse
- Best Breakfast: Honey & Herb

- Best Cupcakes: Camarillo Cupcake
- Best Destination for Vegan Date Night: Mirchi Indian Cuisine
- Best Gluten-Free Treats: Baked by Tallulah
- Best Late Night Eats: BellRinger Brew Co
- Best Mexican Food: La Jenelle Natural Cafe
- Best Pasta: Vegan Thyme
- Best Pop-Up: Masarap Lumpia
- Best Salad & Best Presentation: Asiatique Eatery
- Outstanding Veg Cutlet: Indian Rasoi

The Vegan Chef Challenge invites diners to explore the many benefits of a plant-based diet by signing up for the free 10 Weeks to Vegan program. This guided challenge gives people everything they need to start eating vegan. To learn more, visit www.10weeks.org.

Vegan Outreach is an international, nonprofit organization aiming to reduce animal suffering by promoting a vegan lifestyle through education and making vegan options more accessible. www.veganoutreach.org.



Chef Kelly Briglio, co-owner of Paradise Pantry, first-place winner.



Xochitl Becerra, owner of La Jenelle Natural Cafe, who won an award for Best Mexican Food.

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