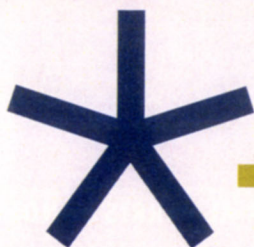




Boston Magazine



The Best of Boston 2004

Edited by
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Illustration by EBOY

EXPECTATIONS ARE FUNNY THINGS. Conventional wisdom has it that people and places rise to the level of expectations set before them, but as we scoured the landscape for the Best of Boston this year, our experience was the opposite. We found that we were forced to set our expectations higher, because the city had risen past them. ¶ As always, we went looking for the best of everything, anonymously and at the magazine's expense. For 10 months we tested, watched, and ate our ways through town. ¶ Soon enough, we noticed changes in the city: It has gotten better. A lot better.

*Local Flavor

BACK BAY

STEPHANIE'S ON NEWBURY When browsing the shops on Newbury Street leaves you peckish, pop into this Back Bay mainstay, still serving reliably tasty dressed-up comfort food after 10 years in business. Snag a seat at a sidewalk table and watch the world amble by as you dig into the satisfyingly messy Cuban sandwich (roasted pork, ham, pickles, and Swiss) or the simple and classic lobster roll. At brunch, the creamy crab cake Benedict with jalapeño hollandaise is reason enough to linger. 190 NEWBURY ST., BOSTON, 617-236-0990. [continued on page 208]



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