

BEST OF BIG SKY 2019

THE RESULTS ARE IN
WITH RECORD VOTING!

COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE YEAR

1ST DICK ALLGOOD

For more than a quarter century Dick Allgood has made Big Sky home, cementing his legacy in various pockets of the everchanging town over time. Many know him as owner of an old local's favorite Allgood's Bar and Grill, which Allgood opened shortly after arriving in Big Sky in 1993 and ran for 18 years.

Before Allgood was a business owner, though, he made his mark overseas in Vietnam, serving the country during the war as a U.S. Air Force pilot. He has been an active member of the Big Sky post of the American Legion, on which he currently serves as adjutant. In 2017, he was recognized for his valor and continued commitment to bettering his community as one of 14 recipients of the Montana Congressional Veterans Commendation.

"I always tried to give back to the community more than I took out of it," Allgood said. The last few years as he battled health issues the community recognized his outstanding dedication to Big Sky by returning the favor, supporting him with kind notes and additional aid.

Allgood holds closest in his heart the bonds forged in nearly three decades of residency in Big Sky. "The biggest thing for me here is the overwhelming number of friendships and relationships with people over the years," he remarked while choking back tears. "It's been a very important part of my life."



2ND DOUG BING

Doug Bing can still recall driving through the Gallatin Canyon for the first time in 1973 and knowing Big Sky was the place for him. Shortly afterward, he moved and started Blue Ribbon Builders. He married his wife, JoDean, and raised his three kids in the place he has called home for so long and continues to be an integral and long-standing part of the growing community.

3RD JACKIE ROBIN

Jackie Robin not only owned The Hungry Moose Market and Deli, perhaps one of Big Sky's most distinguishable staples, for nearly 25 years, she was often the one helping you behind the counter and greeting you in the store with a smile. Inspired by hardship in her own life, Robin also started the annual Soul Shine, an evening in remembrance of her late husband, Mark, and to raise awareness and funds for ALS.

BEST BUSINESS

1ST ACE HARDWARE

Ace Hardware has been an integral part of the community in Big Sky for nearly two and a half decades. Its involvement in the community is one of its team's core values and sponsorship of the "Spike for the Cure" volleyball game is just one of the ways that they give back. With a business model focused on the nuts and bolts of customer service, it's no wonder that Ace took home the top spot for best business in Big Sky. Whether you need a 16-millimeter wrench, a new snow shovel or kitchenware, the helpful staff will greet you and help you find exactly what you need as soon as you walk through the doors.

"We're just proud to get recognized for the high level of service that we really try and train hard to provide for the community and to be recognized at achieving that is humbling," said Ace Owner Kevin Barton. "Ace, as a corporation, has the slogan 'The Helpful Place,' so we train from day one so that the associates can be helpful and it's their mission to seek out customers to help. When we get applause for that, it makes it worthwhile that we're doing the right thing." acebigskytools.com



2ND TWO PINES PROPERTIES

With an office located in Big Sky Town Center, Two Pines Properties is ready to serve visitors and property owners alike. Voters recognized Two Pines' expertise and customer service as top qualities. twopines.com

3RD GALLATIN ALPINE SPORTS

For the 25th year, Gallatin Alpine Sports is proud to offer outdoor gear to those inspired to get out and go in the Big Sky area. gallatinalpinesports.com

BEST RESTAURANT

1ST GALLATIN RIVERHOUSE GRILL

Among Big Sky eateries, few form a cultural cornerstone the way the Gallatin Riverhouse Grill does; with its unwavering "always for the locals" credo and delicious Texas-style barbecue, the Riverhouse is a restaurant for all but especially for locals.

From hosting shoulder-season Bingo nights—evenings of intense competition, benevolent heckling, camaraderie and fundraising for local causes—to evenings following performances at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center across the street, to nights sitting around the outside fire pits, \$7 friend chicken, cold beer and good friends in between, the Gallatin Riverhouse Grill is there for Big Sky—and with a dependable seven-day-a-week schedule.

"You know, we're for the locals—we do it all for the locals, and we're happy for the support," said Greg "Carnie" Lisk, who co-owns the Riverhouse with business partner Kyle Wisniewski. "I also want to thank everyone for the patience when we're busy. We couldn't do it without the locals and the help of our incredible staff." gallatinriverhousegrill.com



2ND OLIVE B'S BIG SKY BISTRO

Last year's crowned victor, Olive B's Big Sky Bistro was a close second due to their consistent and delicious menu that has secured a loyal patronage over the years. olivebsbigsky.com

3RD HORN AND CANTLE

Serving up rustic American cuisine and steaks in a cozy, modern, log cabin-inspired lodge, Horn and Cantle at Lone Mountain Ranch is always a crowd pleaser. hornandcantle.com

BEST BAR

1ST BLUE BUDDHA SUSHI

That didn't take long. After opening in Town Center a stone's throw from The Wilson Hotel, Blue Buddha Sushi has quickly emerged as the premier place to belly up and grab a drink in town—a town with no shortage of establishments serving alcohol. With \$3 handrolls during happy hour, \$2 Coors all the time, as well as more exotic fare and beverages, Blue Buddha Sushi might even become a contender for Best Restaurant in the near future.

"When I heard we won, I felt extremely honored for the award," said owner Troy "Twist" Thompson. "We've only been open for four months, so it's a great accomplishment, but now I feel like we need to earn it. We need to put in the work to prove it during the busiest times of the year." bluebuddhasushilounge.com



2ND BEEHIVE BASIN BREWERY

No TVs, just great beer and conversation are the recipe that makes Beehive Basin Brewery one of our favorite local watering holes. Co-owners Casey Folley and Andy Liedburg's taproom, now four years old, is also a favorite meeting place for Big Sky dogs. EBS recommends starting off your visit with a pale ale. beehivebasinbrewery.com

3RD THE ROCKS TASTING ROOM

Another newcomer found its way onto the best bar list. Ever since moving into the space previously occupied by the Cave Spirits and Gifts, The Rocks became a favorite destination to grab Montana-made beer and spirits. Owners Ben and Kara Blodgett have got a good thing going. the-rocks-tasting-room-and-liquor-store.business.site/

BEST LOCAL MEAL DEAL

1ST LONE PEAK BREWERY

Lone Peak Brewery Owners Steve and Vicki Nordahl have concocted a new deal for the locals of Big Sky. The "Pint Pass" allows members to sip and dine at prices similar to that of happy hour, any day and any time. Hop into Lone Peak Brewery and get your pass to enjoy your favorite brews at a price that you'll "barley" notice.

"It's kind of cool having a new category in the voting this year," Steve said. "That's exactly what the Pint Pass is there to do: which is reward the locals. We're in a tourist town, we have no choice but to charge tourist prices, but we get the fact that that's not ideal for the folks that are trying to live [here] every day. So that gives them, essentially, happy hour prices all the time." lonepeakbrewery.com



2ND GALLATIN RIVERHOUSE GRILL

With a variety of meal options to choose from and an ample amount of live music on tap, you're sure to find something to suit your fancy and your wallet at the Gallatin Riverhouse. gallatinriverhousegrill.com

3RD BLUE MOON BAKERY

Whether it's slices, scones, or a salad you seek, Blue Moon Bakery has you covered for any meal of the day. bigskybluemoonbakery.com

BEST SALON

1ST THE TRIBE

A rockstar in the studio and also in real life, Hanna Powell opened up The Tribe behind the post office in the Meadow Village three years ago and Big Sky has a better looking population because of it. You can't visit The Tribe and not leave feeling like a million bucks. Book an appointment with Hanna or Erin Mulhern and you won't be disappointed with the results.

"We at the Tribe want to sincerely thank our awesome community for the continued support," said Powell, who grew up on the other side of Lone Mountain in Harrison and Ennis. "It's hard to believe we have been open for almost three years. Happy Holidays from Hanna and Erin!" tribesalonbigsky.com/



2ND HAIR NINJA SALON

Offering a full range of services, from hair coloring, eyelash extensions, manicures/pedicures and full body waxing, the Hair Ninja Salon boasts a relaxing atmosphere where Leah Clendenin and her staff have silently mastered the craft of beautification. hairninasalon.com/

3RD MOUNTAIN HAVEN SALON

Located in the Bighorn Center, Jaci Sand's Mountain Haven Salon provides a welcoming atmosphere where Sand and her staff consistently demonstrate their gift for making their clients comfortable and pulchritudinous. schedulingcity.com/scheduling/mhs793

BEST BUILDER

1ST BIG SKY BUILD

For the fifth consecutive year, Big Sky Build takes home the crown for best builder. Having been in the business for 12 years, they know a thing or two when it comes to building. With homes in the Yellowstone Club, Spanish Peaks and Moonlight Basin, they continue to enrich our community with architecture that compliments our mountain vistas.

"Big Sky Build is once again thrilled to be recognized for this incredible award. It is hard to put into words what this means to the men and women of our company," said Big Sky Build President John Seelye. "I would like to acknowledge that besides the hard work of the Big Sky Build crew that we couldn't do it without our valued sub-contractors, suppliers, architects, design teams and our clients. Thank you all! To my direct coworkers and to the community of Big Sky, I love and support you all." bigskybuild.com



2ND BLUE RIBBON BUILDERS

With over 40 years of constructing exquisite homes under their belt, BRB continues to pursue excellence and innovation in all their projects around town. blueribbonbuilders.com

3RD HIGHLINE PARTNERS

Highline Partners has built a sterling reputation as a boutique home-builder focused on green and sustainable construction methods and materials. highline-partners.com

BEST BURGER

1ST BY WORD OF MOUTH

Winning the distinction of Best Burger anywhere is no easy feat—by a certain age, most Americans will have consumed thousands in their lifetime. So for By Word of Mouth to win the award back-to-back years, their place in burger-making history is forever solidified.

The basis for this double-decker accomplishment is easy to understand—complete with two Montana Angus beef patties, BYWOM's "special sauce," lettuces, pickles, cheese, caramelized onions and a Wheat Montana bun, and served with garlic fries and coleslaw, The BYWOM Burger is the real deal.

"Thanks to the locals that make this happen," said Pam Flach, co-owner and -founder of Bywom. "It's always fun to watch people take that first bite."

Pair with a cold beer or one of their hallmark craft cocktails and you have yourself the best burger in Big Sky.

opentable.com/by-word-of-mouth



2ND LONE PEAK BREWERY

With an ample pairing of freshly made, local beer and a wide selection of mouth-watering burgers, Lone Peak Brewery came in close second for Big Sky's best burger selection. lonepeakbrewery.com

3RD CORRAL BAR, STEAKHOUSE & MOTEL

Considered one of the last bastions for the true Big Sky local, the Corral Bar, Steakhouse & Motel serves up juicy, sizzling burgers—and fast. corralbar.com

BEST OUTDOOR RETAILER

1ST GRIZZLY OUTFITTERS

With a name like Grizzly Outfitters, it's no wonder they're revered as the Best Outdoor Shop in Big Sky for 2019. Located deep in the heart of bear country, Grizzly is well equipped to outfit anyone for the multitude of outdoor ventures in the Big Sky area and beyond. From the hikers to the bikers to the riders in your life, Grizzly Outfitters has you covered whether you're looking for rentals or new gear to buy. They will even custom fit your gear to make it suit you perfectly. Stop in and say hi when you're out and about, don't worry, the staff doesn't bite.

"It means a ton," said Andrew Schreiner, who co-owns Grizzly with business partner Ken Lancey. "My crew works hard every year and I really love the fact that the community appreciates what we do and that it can be reflected by being selected as Best of Big Sky." grizzlyoutfitters.com



2ND GALLATIN ALPINE SPORTS

For the 25th year, Gallatin Alpine Sports is proud to offer outdoor gear to those inspired to get out and go in the Big Sky area. gallatinalpinesports.com

3RD EAST SLOPE OUTDOORS

Following a 2016 finish as Best Business of Big Sky, East Slope Outdoors will now take their rank amongst the Best Outdoor Shops in Big Sky, offering ski, ride and fly fishing services. eastslopeoutdoors.com

BEST SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS

1ST ROXY'S MARKET & CAFE

That feeling of checking out at the grocery store and shamefully toting your items away in a plastic bag is all too familiar- unless you shop at Roxy's. Since its inception, Big Sky's newest grocery store has been on a green mission to make their business more sustainable, and patrons have taken notice.

Roxy's uses compostable bags whose durability allows for up to 100 reuses. The store was also one of the community's first businesses to compost in an effort to reduce a portion of the heavy waste many grocery stores often create. Behind-the-scenes efforts contribute to Roxy's commitment to the planet, as well. Store management offers incentives to employees who commute to work sustainably as well as to those who quit smoking.

"[We] don't do this for the publicity," said Josh Treasure, Roxy's general manager, adding that he hopes other businesses will follow suit. "We do this because it's the right thing to do." Roxymarket.com



2ND FULL CIRCLE RECYCLING

Full Circle Recycling aims to make recycling a convenient and cost-efficient option. By servicing the Big Sky community, Full Circle helps residents to limit their impact and acts on behalf of the environment that makes Big Sky such a special place. Werecyclemt.com

3RD YES COMPOST

The only composting service offered in Big Sky, Karl Johnson's one-man show inspired by passion and hard work allows businesses and households in the community to actively participate in "closing the loop" between food waste and food growth. yescompost.com

BEST HOTEL - BIG SKY

1ST LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH

Standing alone atop the list of Best Hotel/Ranch/Lodge is Lone Mountain Ranch. With over a century of experience hosting guests, LMR has earned its stripes as a world-renowned establishment. Offering activities such as cross-country skiing, horseback rides and snowshoeing, just to name a few, boredom will be one thing you can't find there.

"It is an absolute honor to be selected for this award and we are very thankful for it," said Abril Gruber, the director of operations for Lone Mountain Ranch. Accompanied by the Horn & Cattle Restaurant right on site, LMR visitors can sample everything that Big Sky has to offer from blue-ribbon trout fishing streams to fine-dining cuisine. LMR has a lengthy list of honors, including being named one of the "Unique Lodges of the World" by National Geographic. lonemountainranch.com



2ND BUCK'S T-4

Buck's T-4 has all of your home-away-from-home needs covered. Dine in at their on-site restaurant before retiring to their cozy, rustic accommodations after a long day on the slopes or the Gallatin River. buckst4.com

3RD THE WILSON HOTEL

The newcomer to the Big Sky hospitality industry is The Wilson Hotel. Located in the heart of a burgeoning Town Center, Marriott's Montana venture has quickly become a mainstay of our local economy. marriott.com

BEST NONPROFIT

1ST BIG SKY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

The BSCO makes our little mountain hamlet a better place for everyone who lives, works and plays here. Continually improving our trails and parks, making connections between individuals participating in their myriad programs, our local 'Parks and Recreation' crew undoubtedly supports healthier, happier and more connected lifestyles for Big Sky denizens and visitors alike. Just go watch a softball game or take a hike on Beehive Basin Trail #40.

"It means a lot to the entire Big Sky Community Organization team to be recognized in this capacity by the people we serve, when we work alongside so many wonderful nonprofits in our community," said BSCO Executive Director Ciara Wolfe. "So thank you for the love Big Sky, the feeling is mutual." bscomt.org



2ND BIG SKY COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

Seasonal unemployment and the high cost of living in Big Sky and the surrounding Gallatin Valley leave many residents feeling the struggle of making ends meet despite being fully employed. That's where the food bank has come to rescue for nearly eight years. The BSCFB bridges the gap when clients are in a food emergency, helping Big Sky become a more stable and livable place for everyone. bigskyfoodbank.org

3RD BIG SKY SKI EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Providing world-class ski education in nordic, alpine and freeride disciplines to well over 120 young athletes, many of whom are competitive on the national level, the BSSEF provides the opportunity for kids to become great skiers while learning how to compete and enjoy life in the mountains. bssef.com

BEST ARCHITECT

1ST CENTRE SKY ARCHITECTURE

Centre Sky Architecture has been in the business of helping people shape their lives—and their homes—for 16 years. Since 1998, Principal Architect Jamie Dugaard and his team have been turning dream homes into a reality, with four offices sprinkled throughout the Rocky Mountains.

"Centre Sky Architecture is humbled to be named Big Sky's Best Architect," said Centre Sky office manager Meghan Altman. "Throughout the years it has been a pleasure to work with such amazing clients, designing their dream homes and projects. Big Sky has always attracted the best people and being able to work hand in hand with the local builders, interior designers and various artisans has been a pleasure! We cannot imagine a better place to work than Big Sky. Thank you!" centresky.com



2ND FAURE HALVERSON ARCHITECTS

Faure Halverson Architects does it all. From the architecture to the engineering, Faure Halverson serves a large portion of the western U.S. fharchitects.com

3RD BECHTLE ARCHITECTS

Bechtle Architects have deep roots in Big Sky as they have designed many of the buildings throughout Town Center and Big Sky Resort. bechtlearchitects.com

BEST PHOTOGRAPHER

1ST RYAN TURNER

From shooting stunning landscapes to capturing a perfect powder slash on Lone Peak, local photographer Ryan Turner knows what it means to encapsulate the essence and spirit of Big Sky country in a still frame. Turner is passionate about using light and scenery to create art that can be appreciated in various presentations. This past year, Turner and his wife, Angi, celebrated the 20-year anniversary of Ryan Turner photography, which they started in Big Sky in 1999.

"I'm super thankful that I get to do what I love and be creative," Turner said. He also expressed gratitude for the opportunity he often gets in the community to pass on his knowledge and encourage the next generation of artists.

With a great appreciation for community and the outdoors, Turner has called Big Sky home for 23 years. "The support I get from clients allows me to be able to make art," he said. "I'm blessed."

ryanturnerphotography.com



2ND DAVE PECUNIES

Dave Pecunies employs his style of raw authenticity enhanced by a unique and creative perspective to capture the mountain town lifestyle. Pecunies shoots a range of subjects, from community events to landscapes to wildlife of the West. davepecunies.com

BEST ARTIST

1ST HEATHER RAPP

Heather Rapp's art brightens Big Sky with vibrant colors and whimsical patterns in various corners of the community. Rapp was raised in the mountains of Montana and Colorado, and many of her pieces are characterized by mountain landscapes and wildlife creatively elevated through palette knives, spray bottles and saturated colors that effectively capture the magic of the high alpine.

"Being able to share my own unique vision of the nature that surrounds us in such a vibrant way I hope can bring energy to the community," said the local artist whose work can be found wrapped around local utility boxes or hanging from walls of many Big Sky businesses.

Rapp expressed appreciation for the positive manner in which Big Sky often receives her creative vulnerability. "I am so grateful that I live in such a supportive community."

Heatherrapp.com



2ND KIRA FERCHO

Kira Fercho captures the spirit of the West in her oil paintings of the region's people, landscapes and animals. Trained in Russian impressionism and Western tonalism, Fercho brings a unique style and important subject matter to Big Sky. kirafercho.com

BEST TOURIST ATTRACTION

1ST BIG SKY RESORT

Built around mighty Lone Mountain, the town of Big Sky owes its beginning to Big Sky Resort. Established in 1973, Big Sky Resort has been capturing the hearts of visitors for nearing half a century. Offering summer activities such as hiking and mountain biking and continuing the long-loved tradition of presenting premier skiing for experts and newbies alike, the Boyne-owned resort capitalizes on all the unique landscape has to offer.

Through the implementation of new amenities and technologies, Big Sky Resort continues to grow and improve. Now boasting Ramcharger 8 on Andesite Mountain, the most technologically advanced chairlift in North America, and a newly renovated base lodge now called The Exchange, the resort's commitment to creating a one-of-a-kind experience shows in many contexts.

"Thanks to the Big Sky community for this great honor!" said Troy Nedved, Big Sky Resort's general manager. "We can't wait to share The Exchange and Vista Hall with our guests this season. "[There's] more to come as we continue to fulfill our Big Sky 2025 Vision. More exciting upgrades are in the works."

bigskyresort.com



2ND OUSEL FALLS TRAIL

A popular destination for both locals and visitors, Ousel Falls Trail felt the impact of thousands of hiking boots this past year. A must-see under the reflecting light of the summer sun or petrified in the frigidity of winter, the well-developed trail offers a big reward for a short walk.

3RD YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Treasured as the nation's first national park, Yellowstone still boasts many of the same wonders that inspired its designation in 1872. Just a brief and scenic drive south from the town of Big Sky, Yellowstone National Park enriches the area with history, recreation and wildlife. nps.gov/yell

BEST SPA

1ST OZSSAGE

Hanging on the wall in the lobby of OZssage is a print of owner Jacque Raeger's son Alex backflipping on a pair of skis. "Let us help get you back on your feet" the sign reads. And this is exactly what Raeger and her staff pride themselves on at the best spa pick of the year: helping the active community of Big Sky stay well and enjoy all that the mountain landscape has to offer.

"What's special here is the community created between business and clients," OZssage manager Amanda Falk said. Raeger echoed the sentiment, calling OZssage a community spa rather than a resort spa.

By hand selecting compassionate therapists, Raeger ensures that the clients who have been visiting her for 20 years and those walking through the door for the first time will have a quality healing experience and leave feeling rejuvenated. ozssage.com



2ND SANTOSHA WELLNESS CENTER

For the last seven years, Santosha Wellness Center has been offering a space for various practices of health and wellness to the community of Big Sky, including a variety of massage practices from around the world and holistic healing services. Santosha is a go-to place for yoga as well as other spa services. santoshabigsky.com

3RD SOLACE SPA

Solace Spa at Big Sky Resort connects long ski days on Lone Mountain to relaxation and healing. Solace is a popular spa-treatment center for locals and tourists alike. bigskyresort.com/solace-spa-and-salon

BEST APRES SKI

1ST MONTANA JACK

After a day of sweeping turns on the mountain, an important decision must be made: where will après festivities take place? A sure choice is Montana Jack, which is conveniently located steps away from lifts in the base area. Always buzzing with energy from those fresh off the slopes, Montana Jack brings crowds with an appetite for post-ski celebrations and, on occasion, dancing.

Sarah Joyner, Montana Jack's general manager, expressed gratitude for the community's selection of best après spot: "Thanks to all who have joined us after their ski day to enjoy libations with friends, live music and great food. We are grateful for you - cheers to another great ski season!"

bigskyresort.com/resort-dining/montana-jack



2ND SCISSORBILLS SALOON

Scissorbills Saloon, a classic local's favorite, provides skiers with refreshing Montana draft beers, music and an exchange of stories from the day's best moments with familiar faces. scissorbills.com

3RD BEEHIVE BASIN BREWERY

Down the mountain in Town Center, Beehive Basin Brewery is a great place to wind down from a day on the slopes. With a selection of creative, in-house brews to brighten the dark winter evenings, Beehive is favorite among Big Sky skiers and boarders ... and their dogs. beehivebasinbrewery.com

BEST ANNUAL EVENT

1ST MUSIC IN THE MOUNTAINS

It may come as no surprise that the community voted Music in the Mountains as best annual event in Big Sky. The weekly summer performance attracts audiences in the thousands without fail each week, rain, shine or snow. Bringing premiere acts to the Town Center stage since 2010, the Arts Council of Big Sky sets loftier goals each year for booking quality national acts.

Brian Hurlbut, ACBS executive director, credits a portion of the free series' success to the people of Big Sky. "I think this selection is pretty appropriate," he said. "It's such a community event, and not just through the effort of the Art's Council. The way that the community has responded has allowed us to keep growing." bigskyarts.org



2ND BIG SKY PBR

A rowdy summer favorite for many, the Outlaw Partners event is distinguished locally as well as nationally. This year, Big Sky PBR won its seventh consecutive award for PBR's Event of the Year. bigskypbr.com

3RD CHRISTMAS STROLL

A long-time celebration continues to raise holiday spirits each year with a combination of sleigh rides, Christmas cookies, visits with Santa and impromptu snowball fights in the snowy streets of Big Sky. This year, the Christmas Stroll experience spanned two evenings in mid-December as festivities were held between two of Big Sky's hubs, Meadow Village and Town Center.

BEST REAL ESTATE AGENCY

1ST BIG SKY SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY

In 1992, Cathy Gorman and her husband Tim Cyr opened the Big Sky Sotheby's office after being selected by the national company to forge a presence in Big Sky.

Boasting many long-time local agents who offer treasured inside knowledge to clients, Sotheby's has a strong grasp on the community and what it means to be part of it. Many agents raise children in the community and volunteer to serve on various boards and committees in town. With a conveniently located Town Center office, their door is frequently open with a friendly face waiting to answer questions on the other side. bigskysir.com



TIE FOR SECOND PLACE



2ND L&K REAL ESTATE

L&K Real Estate's mission to provide guidance in real estate for everything from ranch properties to ski-in-ski-out residences has been distinguished as one of the best in town for years as the agency continues to support buyers, sellers and developers in navigating the unique market of Big Sky. lkrealestate.com

2ND BIG SKY REAL ESTATE COMPANY

Big Sky Real Estate, one of the largest real estate firms in Big Sky, specializes in luxury properties and matching buyers not only with the finest land and homes but also the best-suited lifestyle. Bigsky.com

3RD LTD REAL ESTATE

True to its name, Live the Dream operates under the mission of helping people bring to fruition visions of mountain living and all the adventure that comes with it. ltdrealestate.com

BEST INTERIOR DESIGN

1ST ERIKA & COMPANY

After working under the distinguished Montana designer Carole Sisson for 15 years, in 2017 Erika Jennings rebranded her Carole Sisson Designs' satellite Big Sky location as her own Erika & Company Interior Design. In just two short years, Jennings has established a community-favorite firm, prioritizing personal relationships with clients in order to bring out their own unique style in their home through her expertise.

Living in Big Sky for 20 years, Jennings is constantly inspired by the surrounding landscape and outdoor aesthetic of Big Sky, implementing features like Montana moss rock in homes, one of her favorite local stones.

"I love our community," Jennings said. "We have beautiful things and beautiful relationships in the amazing outdoors." erikaandco.com



2ND ALDER AND TWEED

A family business that brings 40 years of experience to the table, Alder and Tweed offers custom service to each client. They aim to exceed expectations with each project, holding their design as well as customer service to a high standard. alderandtweed.com

3RD MELANIE TURNER INTERIORS

Melanie Turner bolsters stunning design work with extensive qualifications. She works to achieve glamorous and classic looks in luxury Big Sky homes while maintaining an essence of simplicity. melanieturnerinteriors.com

BEST FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

1ST FIRST SECURITY BANK

For those who bank with First Security, it's apparent that the welcoming financial institution is far more than what its title suggests. On an average day, patrons strolling up to the counter are often greeted by many smiling faces before reaching their destination.

In addition to warm customer service, First Security employees are known for their enthusiasm, often bringing an element of celebration to a standard errand at the bank. In addition to the annual customer appreciation barbecue, this year First Security Bank celebrated the institution's 100th anniversary with a school-style spirit week, complete with daily costumes and decorations as well as prizes for visitors.

First Security goes above and beyond what it means to be a local bank. "We make it a priority to be a community leader, whether that means by financial support or by volunteering at community events," said Tyler Wheeler, the bank's marketing director. "We take great pride in our Big Sky community." ourbank.com



2ND AMERICAN BANK

When patrons walk into American Bank, they can count on being greeted by friendly faces and the enticing scent of buttery popcorn. Known for their customer service and tasty amenities, American Bank has locals looking forward to running errands at the bank. americanbankmontana.com

3RD YELLOWSTONE BANK

For those who frequently travel up the canyon to Bozeman, Yellowstone Bank is a popular choice. Having opened their doors over a century ago, this financial institution knows what it means to operate a business in Montana and tend to local customers accordingly. yellowstonebank.com

BEST LANDSCAPING

1ST BIG SKY LANDSCAPING

Big Sky Landscaping is proof that more than just glaciers had a hand in configuring this earth. BSL has been in the business of shaping Big Sky for more than 16 years. While they can't quite move mountains—yet—BSL can accommodate nearly any request to landscape your yard.

"It's an honor to be voted the best landscaping company for the second year in a row," said Alan McClain, owner and manager of BSL. "I'm most psyched for my employees," he added. "They are the people out there everyday working hard, being creative and representing us in a professional manner. I'm proud of them for earning us this recognition." bslmt.com



2ND PRECISION LAWN AND SNOW SERVICES

Since 2005, Dale Somerby and his crew at Precision Lawn and Snow Services have been caring for residential and commercial properties and offering top-notch service for all your landscaping needs. (406) 579-2245

3RD 46 NORTH LANDSCAPE AND DESIGN

Approaching their 10th year in the earth moving and shaking business, 46 North Landscape and Design is well equipped to create the tailor-made yard you're looking for. 46northlandscape.com/

BEST PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

1ST TWO PINES PROPERTIES

Two Pines Properties handles more than just the two forms of property management they are known for. Co-owners Wes and Alex Hoecker are heavily involved in the community in various forms. “We say that we want to do business the right way and impact Big Sky on a greater level, so the fact that we’ve been recognized is proof in the pudding that we’re carrying out the goal that we set forth before we started Two Pines,” Wes said.

Whether you seek a vacation rental or a long-term rental option, Two Pines offers what voters have identified as the best property management company in town, not only for those on vacation but for property owners as well. “Our whole entire success is because of a lot of other people, so it means a lot,” Alex said. twopines.com



2ND HAMMOND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

For the past 12 years, Hammond Property Management has come to know the ins and outs of property management in Big Sky, including the heavy lifting like snow removal and maintenance. hpmmontana.com

3RD BIG SKY VACATION RENTALS

Big Sky Vacation Rentals can help with all of your property management needs. Kick back and let them do the work. bookbigsky.com

BEST PIZZA

1ST MILKIES PIZZA & PUB

This might sound cheesy, but it’s no wonder Milkies Pizza & Pub was selected as the best pizza in Big Sky. With more than 25 years of experience in the business, co-owner Van Burton and his staff offer up to 20 toppings to dress up your pie, so the hardest choice may just be deciding which ones you want. Pair a cold beer with a steaming hot pizza made completely from scratch, right in house. Located in Westfork Meadow Plaza, Milkies is your one-stop shop for the top pie in town.

“[Winning] makes me feel pretty good,” Burton said. “I know years ago I was voted best pizza in Big Sky. . . We get a lot of local business in here and they’re the ones that make it go and make this place grow.” milkiesspizza.com



2ND OUSEL AND SPUR PIZZA CO.

Ousel and Spur, located in Town Center features exquisite toppings such as elk sausage to distinguish their pizzas from the rest. ouselandspurpizza.com

3RD BLUE MOON BAKERY

Whether it’s slices, scones or a salad you seek, Blue Moon Bakery has you covered for any meal of the day. bigskybluemoonbakery.com

BEST SHOPPING

1ST MONTANA SUPPLY

Montana Supply offers a wide selection of clothing and accessories that exemplify a modern Western chic style. “We’re honored to be chosen among so many other Big Sky businesses,” said Josh Tozier, who co-owns the shop with his wife Alaina Stinson. “We’ll continually strive to provide the best experience for the community and any visitors that come to Big Sky.”

In the conveniently located Town Center location, shoppers readily find selections from their favorite brands and often discover new ones. “Thanks to the loyal customers that saw us from Big Sky Shirt Company to High Country Goods to, what is now, Montana Supply,” Stinson said. Montana Supply has items to cover you head to toe, no matter the season. montanasupplyco.com



2ND TROVE WEST

Trove West has a large selection of local handmade arts and wearable items, as well as gifts. Their abundant choices make the stop well worth it. trovestorewest.com

3RD SHELLY BERMONT FINE JEWELRY

Located in the Meadow Village of Big Sky, Shelly Bermont showcases her stunning original work that is a treat to peruse and admire. shellybermont.com

BEST FISHING OUTFITTER

1ST GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

Don't be fooled by the name: Gallatin River Guides does much more than simply row your boat. Fishing four rivers in the immediate area for more than three decades, GRG has a feel for where they'll be biting no matter the season.

New to the fishing scene or looking to further your knowledge? GRG hosts the Montana Fishing Guide School and the Montana Women's Fly-Fishing School, as well as offering guided fishing trips all year round. New owner Mike Donaldson has an energized crew set on making your experience as memorable as possible. If you're hooked on fishing, like many voters in the area, GRG can help you set the hook.

“What an honor! This is such a great community and it's awesome knowing we are a part of it,” Donaldson said. “Thanks for the support Big Sky, we couldn't do it without you.” montanaflyfishing.com



2ND EAST SLOPE OUTDOORS

East Slope Outdoors has been a staple in the Big Sky community for 35 years offering guided fly-fishing trips as well as essential gear rentals. eastslopeoutdoors.com

3RD RICK REED

Rick Reed is an experienced and well-known guide in the Big Sky area who owns Reed Guide Service and Outfitting. He'll have you hooked on fly fishing in no time. (406) 579-2792

BEST COFFEE

1ST CALIBER COFFEE

If it's a high-octane cup of coffee you seek, Caliber Coffee is the best around, according to Best of Big Sky voters. With a wide range of drips to sip on, you're sure to indulge in something delightful. Caliber Coffee has two locations throughout Big Sky, one in Westfork Meadows and one along Highway 191.

Caliber owner Stephanie Alexander, who bought and took over the business in 2017, has a professional and dedicated staff to carry out her vision.

"At Caliber, our No. 1 priority is providing a kind and welcoming space to bring people together," said Dani Zaremba, a barista at Caliber. "We treat our customers like family and believe this is the reason the shop has become a staple in our tight-knit community. Winning the Best of Big Sky again is a tribute to the amount of support our community provides. Roasting coffee is the easy part."



2ND HUNGRY MOOSE MARKET AND DELI

Following the recent renovation of the Moose, now is the time to stop in and grab a hot cup of Joe. hungrymoose.com

3RD TOAST

Pop into Toast and grab your morning coffee on the go, or if you have some time, stay a while and enjoy the laid back vibe. toastbigsky.com

BEST HOTEL - BOZEMAN

1ST THE LARK

The Lark may only have been around for four years, but its location has welcomed visitors for more than five decades. The Lark was constructed from the bones of the old "Imperial 400 Motel" that previously occupied the space. In 2015, after significant renovation, the Lark took its place among those in the Bozeman hospitality industry, first in the eyes of voters this year.

"We host a lot of travelers from all over the world, but for the locals to recognize what we do and how much pride we have in it, that means a lot too," said group coordinator Anica Lees, at the Lark, who was echoed by hotel manager Kristen Mann. "It means everything because we truly love Bozeman and we really want everyone to come here." larkbozeman.com



2ND ELEMENT BOZEMAN

Re-create your element at the Element Bozeman Hotel by Westin. If you happen to stop by the comfy confines on East Mendenhall Street in Bozeman, enjoy the comforts of excellence and look for our favorite magazine! marriott.com

Explore

Big Sky

EDITOR'S CHOICE


COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE YEAR
MARY AND BRIAN WHEELER

The Wheelers have played instrumental roles in the growth and wellbeing of Big Sky. Serving on numerous boards and committees and volunteering countless hours, the couple has had a heavy hand in nurturing Big Sky into the community it is today. The Wheelers have been residents for 30 years and raised their children in the community.

BEST RESTAURANT
BUCK'S T-4 LODGE

A Big Sky dining mainstay for decades, the EBS editorial team would be remiss not to tap Buck's T-4 Lodge and Restaurant for the Editor's Choice for Best Restaurant. The menu, designed and executed by chef Scott Mechura, eloquently balances gourmet, comfort food and wild game in a cozy space across Highway 191 from the Gallatin River. Here's to many more years of Buck's T-4. buckst4.com


BEST LOCAL MEAL DEAL
MI PUEBLITO TACO BUS

Taco 'bout a deal! Mi Pueblito Taco Bus is one of the newest additions to the Big Sky dining menu. With a spicy and mild selection of authentic Mexican cuisine there's something for everyone. (406) 223-6421


BEST BUSINESS
BIG SKY CONOCO TRAVEL SHOPPE

Going 16 years strong, the Conoco at the corner of Highway 191 and Lone Mountain Trail has been serving weary travelers as well as Big Sky locals. From gas to hunting licenses to firewood, the Conoco has all your on-the-go needs in one location. bigskyconoco.business.site


BEST COFFEE
STEELE PRESSED JUICE

With origins stemming from their days at the Big Sky Farmer's Market, owner Jen Steele has turned her dream into a reality. Now with a kiosk shop in town center, Steele and her staff are serving up delicious smoothies and coffees.


BEST EVENT
PEAK TO SKY

Big Sky is still recovering from the two-night historical Peak to Sky event that brought Rock n' Roll Hall of Famers to play beneath the Big Sky for an unforgettable musical experience last July. Mark your calendars for the next one... peaktosky.com


BEST SHOPPING
LONE PEAK CAREGIVERS

Stopping into one of Lone Peak Caregivers' two locations is always a pleasurable experience. Customers will leave feeling well taken care of. lonepeakcaregivers.net

Explore

Big Sky

BEST ON THE MOUNTAIN


RESTAURANT
THE CABIN BAR AND GRILL

This white tablecloth establishment has been wowing Big Sky Resort patrons for nearly two decades; with a diverse menu sporting everything from mussels steamed in red curry coconut milk to cast-iron seared, bone-in pork chops, The Cabin Bar and Grill is a cut above for on-mountain cuisine. cabinbarandgrill.com


BEST LOCAL MEAL DEAL
YETI DOGS

Hot dog, this was an easy pick. Yeti's is a local hotspot where many people choose to "ketchup" and enjoy their favorite dog. After a day on the mountain this is the perfect place to have a brew and a quick bite.

bigskyresort.com/resort-dining/yeti-dogs

and Grill is a cut above for on-mountain cuisine. cabinbarandgrill.com