

CONNECTICUT'S FAVORITE GREEN RESTAURANT

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Connecticut's Favorite Green Restaurant

The Nature Conservancy awards country's best green restaurants, including this year's top Connecticut vote-getter.

New Haven, CT – The Nature Conservancy launched a contest in September asking foodies in Connecticut and across the country to nominate their favorite green restaurants for Nature's Plate, a second annual people's choice contest to find consumers' top green restaurants in each location. Since October 1, voters have been submitting their choice for which sustainable, organic or farm-to-table restaurant would take home the 2013 Award, and today the winners were announced:

In Connecticut, with 887 votes cast across the state, the winner is: G-Zen in Branford. Congratulations, G-Zen! G-Zen offers a full vegan/vegetarian & raw foods menu that is entirely plant-based and sourced from the freshest ingredients available that are organic, sustainable and local whenever possible. Executive Chef Mark Shadle is a culinary Olympic gold winner and has more than 25 years of experience in the natural foods movement and vegetarian cuisine. "We are so proud to accept this Green award. G-zen has received many National awards for its superior vegan cuisine and culinary achievements; however, this award is one that is closest to our hearts," Chef Mark Shadle and Chef Ami Beach Shadle said in a statement. "To be recognized on a local level for all of our hard, hands-on labor and sustainable business practices makes our labor of love that much sweeter."

The Nature Conservancy works with food producers everywhere and bringing together traditionally unexpected partners in the name of healthy food and a healthy environment, finding solutions that are good for business, consumers and nature.

While this contest is focused on restaurants, it's only the start of a conversation about food, conservation and The Nature Conservancy's work with farmers, fishermen and others. You can also learn more about what makes a restaurant green and be sure to check in next year for the 2014 Nature's Plate Award Contest. The Nature Conservancy does not endorse, recommend, or certify any restaurant as being green or sustainable.

This state-by-state and city-by-city contest took place in: California (Los Angeles and San Francisco) Colorado, Connecticut, Florida (Miami), Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois (Chicago), Massachusetts (Boston), Minnesota (Minneapolis & St. Paul), New Jersey, New Mexico (Albuquerque and Santa Fe), New York (NYC & Finger Lakes/Central Western), North Carolina (Durham), Ohio (Cleveland), Oregon, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia), Virginia (Charlottesville) and Washington.