Second helping awards

The *Guide's* reviewers have trawled the state in the name of research. They give out a few extra gongs of their own.

Best multicultural moment
China Lane, Angel Place. Sitting in a city laneway with a lady from Shanghai, eating great renditions of Chinese classics and discovering the chef is a Pom. (That would be Englishman Ben Haywood – ex-Le Manoir and Fat Duck.)

Playlist of the year
Nominees include **Marque, Momofuku Seiobo, Ananas Bar and Restaurant.** Nice to know our chefs think about engaging all the senses. Nothing sets the mood quite like the French electric swing played in Ananas Bar and Restaurant. Thanks to music-streaming service Spotify and some clever marketing, you can access a playlist on its website to enjoy at home.

Best original decor/soundtrack/everything
Farmhouse, Kings Cross. Who wouldn't fall for this tiny rustic space featuring a stone floor, communal timber table, home-made chairs, and generous, wholesome food from passionate young chefs – all just minutes from the mean streets of Kings Cross?

Best view
Flooded Gums, Bonville. Watching the sky darken over Bonville Golf Course's impossibly tall gumtrees, their silver trunks dramatically lit against an emerald carpet. All this and a menu that treats local, seasonal ingredients simply and with respect.

Finest cliche view
The Reef, Terrigal. It's hard to beat sitting here, glass in hand, listening to water hitting the sand, boats bobbing on the waves and sandy kids resembling crumbed cutlets cantering about.

Best amuse
Gingerbread jujubes and tea-infused walnuts at **Neila, Cowra.** These small morsels signify that what is to come will be different, interesting, intriguing and appetising. And it always is.

Best butter
Tomislav, King Cross. This ever-inventive diner serves its bread with wattleseed toffee butter. Such a sense of experimentation and curiosity.

Best buns
New Shanghai, Ashfield. The pork and crab pan-fried dumplings are the bomb.

Best condiments
- Spicy eggplant relish at **Cornersmith, Marrickville.**
- Cauliflower mustard pickles at **The Jaaning Tree, Nambucca Heads.**
- Kick-arse artisan Korean ingredients at **Restaurant Atelier, Glebe,** including fish sauce from Jeju island and an incredibly pure soy sauce.

Favourite counter meal
Cafe Sopra, Bridge Street. The mozzarella and aperitivo bars are a great spot for a casual-dining catch-up in the city, with solid wine to boot.

Best snacks
- Pork okonomiyaki pancake at **HaNa Ju-Rin, Crows Nest.**
- Tiny, perfectly round steamed taro with salt and black sesame, **Sakana-Ya, Crows Nest.**
- Knockout burgers at **Warren Turnbull's Chur Burger** – and he's really nailed the kumara chip. It's so easy to make them soft and flabby, and they burn easily.

Memorable meals
- **The Bridge Room, Sydney.** Pressed ox heart tomato, salted sheep's milk curd, heirloom tomatoes, amaranth, smoked pepper oil and radish.
- **The Morrison, Sydney.** Sean Connolly's lo cooked lamb shoulder. Something like 12 ho at 76 degrees. So flavoursome.
- **Tyler's Pantry, Mogo.** Everything.

Best fantasy menu descriptions
Restaurant Arras, Sydney. "Duck and cove "Sunday Dinner Bread", "It's all Greek to me "Pick me up", "Oodles of Stroodles", "Rhuba rhubarb, rhubarb" … say no more.

Best above-and-beyond customer serv
Bitton Cafe & Bistro, Alexandria. Plenty of restaurateurs meet and greet guests. But the there's owner David Bitton, who, on a cold, ra Sydney night, insisted we stay cosily inside w he waited on the wet kerb to hail us a cab. Honourable mention to Gabrielle Webster, sommelier at Bloodwood, Newtown, for spen such a generous amount of time explaining w options. Her recommendations were all spot-

Best semi-naked moment
Restaurant unnamed. Is that bartender jus wearing an apron? What happened to his pan . Apparently that's what happens wi one samples every tequila he po in order to give you a lesson i tequila tasting.

Snappiest service
Katers, Sutton Forest. Ou waiter caught an errant fly his bare hands. We're confident they were washe afterwards.

Finest celebrity encounter by two degr of separation
Berowra Waters Inn, Bero

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