

Best of 2016 ■



BAKERY

Sandwiches are legendary at **A SWEET AFFAIR BAKERY** - fresh chicken salad or turkey with cranberry sauce—but ultimately, it's all about the fresh baked goods here. A Walnut Creek mainstay for over 30 years, a huge variety of pastries, cookies, cakes and cinnamon rolls pack the display cases and leftovers are served to customers for samples. *1815 Ygnacio Valley Road, asweetaffairbakery.com*

PASTA

The feather-weight strands of pasta in the Fettucine Alla Viareggina at **MONTECATINI RISTORANTE** cause you abandon all restraint and dive into this house specialty covered in scallops, prawns, shrimp, and a rich tomato cream sauce. Chef Ermes Paulin has cooked for many international dignitaries, but for the past 27 years, he's been pleasing Walnut Creek patrons with his delicious, freshly prepared pastas and other Italian dishes *1528 Civic Drive, montecatinirestaurant.com*

TACOS

A time honored tradition of Mexico, grilled, stuffed, and tortilla wrapped tacos are a three bite delight.

MARIA MARIA wins for balancing spice and sweetness in pineapple carnitas tacos topped with onion, radish, and cotija cheese and grilled shrimp tacos smothered in pico de gallo, avocado and a heavenly chipotle cream sauce. Or simply order the chicken or steak street tacos and wash them down with a margarita on the creekside patio. *1470 N. Broadway, mariamariarestaurants.com*

BAR

The name says it all. **ROOFTOP** delivers star-filled nights and sunset vistas atop a stunning brick building in the middle of Walnut Creek's burgeoning shopping district. Snag a seat at the bar to sip the restaurant's hand-crafted cocktails and curated wines. A retractable roof, plus heating and cooling systems, keep you comfortable rain or shine. Come here for the energy and ambiance, there's no place else like it in town. *1500 Mt. Diablo Blvd., rooftopwc.com*

RUNNERS UP:

BREAKFAST: **Katy's Kreek** TACOS: **Cinco de Mayo**
PIZZA: **Rocco's** BURGERS: **Broderick** SEAFOOD: **Scott's**
BAR: **Sunol Ridge** SALAD: **Tender Greens** DELI
SANDWICH: **Genova Delicatessen** CHINESE FOOD:
Dragon Pond ICE CREAM: **Lotties** BAKERY: **54 Mint**
RESTAURANT: **Va de Vi** PASTA: **Salvatore's** SUSHI:
Andy's HAPPY HOUR: **Fleming's** COFFEE: **The Coffee**
Shop TAKE-OUT: **Whole Foods Market**