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York City fusion restaurant named one of best in US



Owner and Chef Hamir Patel with several of his dishes and desserts inside Hamir's Indian Fusion at 24 S. George St. in York. PHOTOS BY PAUL KUEHNEL/ YORK DAILY RECORD

USA TODAY RESTAURANTS OF THE YEAR

6 local eateries we wish were on the list

Lena Tzivekis

York Daily Record
USA TODAY NETWORK - PENNSYLVANIA

The USA TODAY Restaurants of the Year list was released, and York's Hamir's Indian Fusion made the cut.

The list was compiled by USA TODAY Network food journalists from across the country, who pooled their expertise to select the restaurants, which include the places they know, love and recommend. Among the 39 restaurants named, Hamir's was the only Pennsylvania restaurant to make the list.

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'Passion, dedication and teamwork'

Lena Tzivekis York Daily Record | USA TODAY NETWORK - PENNSYLVANIA

Hamir's Indian Fusion has set the bar for flavor and ambience in Central Pennsylvania dining for eight years. Now, it's making headlines across the country.

The York City restaurant made USA Today's 2026 Restaurants of the Year list and has been named one of the top 39 places to eat in America.

"We are deeply honored and humbled to be on the list of the Restaurant of the Year. This recognition is a reflection of the passion, dedication and teamwork that bring our vision to life each day," said owner and chef Hamir Patel.

"We share this achievement with our entire community — from our local farmers and producers to our staff and patrons — who have been part of our journey from the very beginning."

What makes Hamir's Indian Fusion stand out among others?

In the kitchen, Patel often works as a one-man-show with the help of a small prep-team, incorporating traditional

techniques in Indian cooking that all start out with grinding fresh, whole spices.

Originally from Mumbai, Patel didn't learn to cook until adulthood. And despite earning a degree in mechanical engineering, he took after his family members and went into business management. For years, he owned a Mobil gas station in the Philadelphia suburbs.

When he and his family moved to Central Pennsylvania, he managed Wendy's locations in York and Harrisburg.

At that time, his passion for cooking evolved, and the turning point came when he wanted to support his dear friend, Denise DelGrosso Gilliland, who was diagnosed with breast cancer. "When this happened to her, I said, 'How can I help?'" Patel said.

Gilliland, a breast cancer survivor, hosted 12 friends in her home, for a "Cooking for a Cause" evening, with

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RIGHT, TOP: A Mexican-Indian inspired queso sauce with black beans and corn is served with fresh naan bread. RIGHT, BOTTOM: Hamir's offers a variety of desserts including layer cakes topped with chocolate drizzle, fresh fruit and served with locally made ice cream.

Johnston named permanent warden of York prison

Anthony Maenza

York Daily Record
USA TODAY NETWORK - PENNSYLVANIA

York County's Prison Board of Inspectors has named interim warden Joseph "JJ" Johnston to the post on a permanent basis.

Johnston takes over the post effective immediately, according to a statement released by the prison board. He's served as the prison's interim warden since Nov. 14, following the departure of Adam Ogle.



Johnston

"I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve the York County community as warden of York County Prison," Johnston said in a statement. "It is an honor to work alongside dedicated

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