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Best Restaurants

Our thoroughly researched, call-it-like-we-see-it ranking of the restaurants that make Boston a true dining destination.

By LEAH MENNIES

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Uni

370 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, 617-536-7200, unisashimibar.com.

EVERYONE RIGHTFULLY RAVES about Uni's late-night menu, with its house-made ramen and streetfood-inspired snacks like octopus tacos and puffed-rice-topped hot dogs. But you really need to visit Ken Oringer's sleek, subterranean sushi den during prime time, when sashimi chef Tony Messina's ambitious, risk-taking menu combines incongruous ingredients (fat slices of raw tuna with creamy burrata) and cross-cultural flourishes (Spanish lubina accented by North African charmoula and Italian gremolata) to astonishing effect. Sit at the sushi counter for the full experience-and if you time it just so, you can pad your stomach with an order of tako tacos on the way out.

Can't-miss dish: Spicy tuna tataki with foie gras, raspberry, goat cheese, and black walnut.

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#12 on our list.