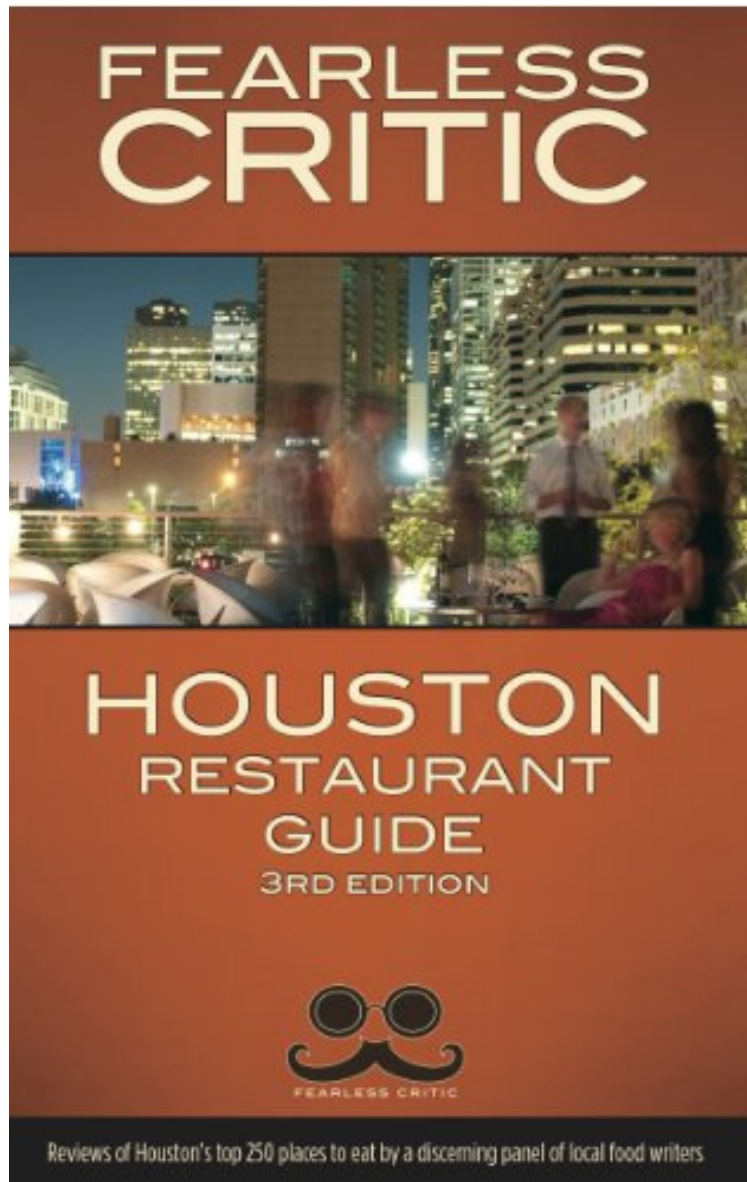


Fearless Critic Houston Restaurant Guide

Robin Goldstein

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Robin Goldstein : Fearless Critic Houston Restaurant Guide before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fearless Critic Houston Restaurant Guide:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. a drop in quality By Gary E. Miller I was looking forward to the third edition of this usually helpful volume on Houston restaurants. The reviews typically tell it like it is, no sacred cows. Some of the big name restaurants have been (justifiably) criticized for less than top quality meals and overpricing,

while some less well known or chain restaurants have been given excellent reviews. The third edition, however, does not seem as useful or comprehensive as the first two. First, some of the reviews are essentially word-for-word repeats of reviews in earlier editions. Second, some of the restaurants given excellent reviews in prior restaurants (e.g., Ruth's Chris vs all the other Houston steakhouses) are simply absent from this edition. And some very popular restaurants (e.g., GiGi's in the Houston Galleria) do not appear at all in the 3rd edition. Maybe the problem is limited space but, still, I find myself looking at the previous edition more than the newest one. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. 450 on the List. Well done. Thanks By Don I review restaurants and publish websites and email magazines based on those reviews. I bought Fearless Critic to see what my competition was saying about my local restaurants. The 2010 issue covers 450 food locations in 536 pages. Reviews are thoughtful and long enough to provide information and insight. Overall, a very professional job. The following year's edition covered only 250 locations and was bitchy, high handed and overly Asian. They rated one joint's food as 9.0 when all they serve is hamburgers while other restaurants with thoughtful complex menu offerings were rated in the 6.0 to 7.2 range because the reviewing staff didn't like every dish they offered. They over represented Asian and Chinese establishments, and neglected popular and well known Houston favorites. There were too many Asian reviewers and too many noodle shops and hole in the wall places. Many of the places they suggested were dingy strip mall family owned restaurants where 99% of Houston families would never go to eat. Most of the reviews were not actually helpful but unnecessarily bitchy and arrogant. Whoever wrote these reviews was young and immature without a sense of Houston or its people. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. more inclusive than Zagat By Viv. To be fair, Zagat is a great guide for the upper-scale but it practically ignores the precious hole-in-the-wall little joints that are absolutely unique. Houston has a lot of splendid ethnic food and I rely heavily on The Fearless Critic for accurate, unbiased reviews that cover all the main aspects of the place and food without *ever* being boring. They have a unique way to say things that will make you laugh when describing things, no matter what. I agree with reviewers who say that the previous editions were more complete though. Great restaurants such as Khyber, present in previous editions, are unexplainably absent. Yet, I haven't found this edition to be any less accurate (including the review for Kenny Ziggy's).

Fearless Critic restaurant guides offer brutally honest reviews from undercover chefs and food nerds dining incognito and are totally supported by user funding rather than paid advertisements. The Fearless Critic is utterly unique in its candor, its rigor, its irreverent lack of deference to the sacred cows, and its devotion to finding a city's best food, wherever it may lie. Each review is a full-page long and includes a food rating out of 10, a feel rating out of 10, and practical information about the restaurant. The handy reference section lists all restaurants by cuisine, neighborhood, and special features and offers a specific guide for vegetarians. More than just entertaining reads, these are essential references for anyone who eats out. Now back in its third edition, the Fearless Critic is revised and updated, with reviews and ratings of places to eat in the greater Houston area, including more coverage of the suburbs than ever before, from taquerias to power steakhouses, country BBQ to Chinatown dim sum.

About the Author Robin Goldstein is an author and a travel writer. He is the coauthor of The Beer Trials and The Wine Trials. He is a contributor to the New York Times' Freakonomics blog and has written for more than 30 Fodor's travel guides. He has a certificate in cooking from the French Culinary Institute in New York City and a Wine and Spirit Education Trust certificate for advanced wine and spirits study. He lives in Oakland, California.