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From The Boston Globe

Munch Madness: the winner

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Over the last month, we've seen agony and ecstasy, victory and defeat. I'm talking about Munch Madness, of course, our tournament of restaurants. Mirroring the NCAA's March Madness, but tastier than basketball, it pitted 64 establishments against one another to determine the fan favorite. The championship round closed yesterday.

And the winner is ... East Coast Grill.

The Cambridge restaurant celebrates its 25th year anniversary this year, and this victory shows why it's been so long lived. People love the place.

It beat competitor Hungry Mother by 182 votes out of 1,432. The final contest wasn't pretty. We assume the two Cambridge restaurants will be able to move forward in peace.

More than 167,000 votes were cast throughout the tournament. Each of the Final Four received the following number of votes over the course of Munch Madness:

East Coast Grill: 8,435

Hungry Mother: 7,905

Toro: 7,761

Orinoco: 6,482

During the tournament, top seeds Toro and Craigie on Main fell earlier than expected. Barbecue joint Redbones almost took down Barbara Lynch's No. 9 Park. And again and again, restaurants offering fun and value triumphed over the hallowed halls of fine dining.

Thanks to everyone for playing, and congratulations to East Coast Grill. You'll be receiving a lovely trophy in the coming weeks.