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## The Insider

# Avance and Blue Duck win Burger Brawl

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### About This Blog

Michael Klein, the editor/producer of [philly.com/Food](#), writes about the local restaurant scene in his Inquirer column "Table Talk." Have a question? [Email it!](#) See his Inquirer work [here](#). Reach Michael at [mklein@philly.com](mailto:mklein@philly.com).



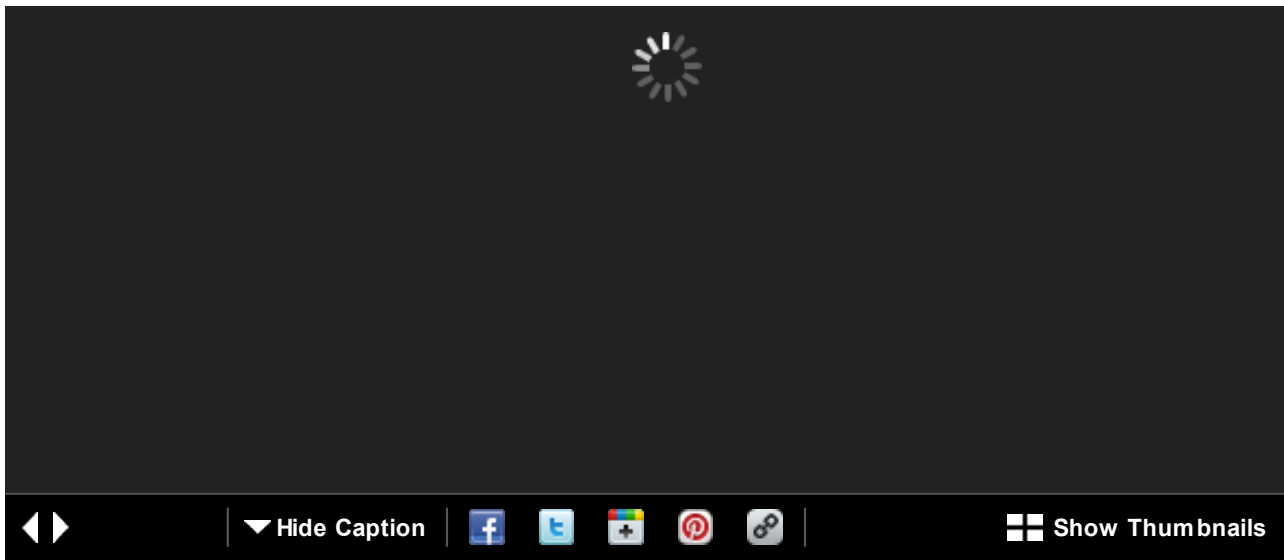
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Michael Klein, *Philly.com*

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Two yearling restaurants - one not yet open for business - won the 2014 Philly Burger Brawl, held amid blinding sunshine outside Xfinity Live in South Philadelphia on Sunday, June 8.

[The much-lauded lamb burger](#) from **Avance** - served at the bar at Justin Bogle's progressive-American restaurant at 1523 Walnut St. - was the judges' choice from the field of about 50 restaurants and chefs. **Twisted Tail** was second and **Parc** was third.

**Blue Duck Sandwich Co.** - which is now five to seven weeks from opening at 2859 Holme Ave. in Northeast Philadelphia - was the People's Choice winner. Kris Serviss and Joe

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Callahan opted for a blend of ground pork roll and chuck and topped their burger with fried quail egg, Cooper American and sriracha mayo. It was served on a potato roll. Serviss said the burger would be on Blue Duck's menu. The People's Choice runner-up was **Prime Stache**, followed by last year's winner, **Fat Jack's**.

Lines for water ice, beer, and food were long at the fourth annual [Burger Brawl](#), in its debut at Xfinity Live. Sponsors and the 2,500 people helped raise a stunning \$140,000 for Philadelphia schools, said creator/organizer Rob Wasserman, an owner of Rouge and 500 Degrees. (His restaurants provided burgers but did not compete.)

Marc Summers emceed. Judges included WMMR's Steve Morrison and Matt Cord, Phillies alum Gary "Sarge" Matthews, Fox29's Mike Jerrick, soccer star Heather Mitts, VisitPhilly's James Zale, Philadelphia Magazine's Ashley Primis, and me.

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Competitors ran the table of toppings, going from simple (Shake Shack) to outlandish (the Hawaiian burgers offered by the grass-skirted staff of Billy Burger & Bakery of West Chester).

Chef George Sabatino built his entry entirely from scratch - a



LaBan chats about food at 2 p.m. Tuesday

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beef burger with shaved raw mushrooms, red onion chili relish, [gribiche](#) aioli, and crumbled beef tendon; his house-made bun used a starter of malt barley syrup, durum and semolina flour. Sabatino is a few months from opening Aldine in [Rittenhouse](#) but insists he will not offer a burger there.

Bistrot La Minette's Peter Woolsey offered an incredible burger built on house-made brioche from his father-in-law's recipe. It contained beef, delice de Bourgogne cheese smear, cornichons, onion and bacon marmalade, red-wine reduction and corn shoots. It will be on the menu of La Peg, a future brasserie he is creating with FringeArts.

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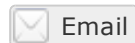
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**Rocco Lamagela** · a month ago

South Philly Tony Luke's neighborhood is not even as nice an area as the Holme Ave lo packed with row houses if any! Your argument is empty!

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**PHL Insight** · a month ago

Seems silly to me to have people create a burger that people cannot buy in a restaurant restaurants who serve burgers so people can then go and visit those restaurants.

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**TheHatersHater** → PHL Insight · a month ago

Seems silly to me, for someone who trolls on the internet, you must not read ve states when the Blue Duck opens, you will be able to take your troll face and go

7 ^ | ▾ · Share ›



**Prionogenic** → TheHatersHater · a month ago

Perhaps he was referring to this: "Chef George Sabatino built his entry e Sabatino is a few months from opening Aldine in Rittenhouse but insists there."

3 ^ | v · Share ›



**TheHatersHater** → Prionogenic · a month ago

FGS

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**hpesojc** → SLUGG0 · a month ago

I had no idea a neighborhood could be defined by whether or not Tony Luke's cc know eggs, cheese and mayo on a burger are high class ingredients but I think it. If not, maybe some classy people from Rhawn St can make the trip over to H

4 ^ | v · Share ›



**TheHatersHater** → SLUGG0 · a month ago

Tony Lukes not making it had nothing to do with class. The guys who created th neighborhood. Kris Serviss, one half of the Duck and master chef, has been coo Welsh and breaking records for food sales. I guess the people eating there, five bar, are more classy than those who would eat at the Blue Duck.

2 ^ | v · Share ›

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**TheHatersHater** → SLUGG0 · a month ago

Aren't you full of irrelevant tidbits about this neighborhood that do according to you

1 ^ | v · Share ›



**Philly's Best BYOBs** · a month ago

Love that Avance burger!

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