Austin is truly a city with heart and soul. It brims with both southern tradition and quirky eccentricity. The area is politically charged and culturally rich. A high-tech, big city meets a low-key, college town. A city far from ordinary, it’s the kind of place where you check your worries at the city limits sign, trade in fancy suits for something a bit more casual and prepare for experiences you’ll find only in Austin. Below is a listing of the most recent acknowledgments and accolades that Austin has received from official studies, public opinion polls, online news and print media at both state, national and even global levels.

**ECONOMY**

Based on its strong job market, high quality of life, great value and overall desirability, U.S. News ranks Austin second in the nation on their Best Places to Live list.  
(U.S. News, March 2016)  
realestate.usnews.com/places/rankings-best-places-to-live

According to Forbes, Austin is the most likely city in the country to prosper over the next 10 years. Their findings are based on the following metrics: percentage of children in the population, birth rate, net domestic migration, education, income growth, unemployment rate and population growth.  
(Forbes, January 2016)  
forbes.com/sites/joelkotkin/2016/01/14/americas-next-boom-towns/#628a6df7f0dd

Forbes has also ranked Austin #1 as the fastest-growing city in America. Austin has topped the list five of the last six years.  
(Forbes, March 2016)  
forbes.com/sites/erincarlyle/2016/03/08/americas-fastest-growing-cities-2016/#55ac2bee7056

CNBC ranks Austin #1 for America’s Best Places to Start a Business. Contributing factors include workforce strength, access to capital, tax climate and cost of living.  
(CNBC, August 2016)  

Weighing both the overall job market and the socio-economic environment, Austin is the third-best city in America to find a job.  
(WalletHub, January 2016)  
wallhub.com/edu/best-cities-for-jobs/2173

With the highest share of millennial movers in the nation, Austin is the #1 Best Purchase Market for Aspiring Millennial Homebuyers.  
(National Association of Realtors®, June 2016)  

Austin’s average cost of living is 6% below the national average, has an employment rate of 2.9% and the median household income is $63,603, making it America’s #1 Best City for Return on Salary.  
(CareerCast, July 2016)  
careercast.com/jobs-rated/10-best-cities-return-salary

The real estate market in Austin ranks #1 for large cities and #5 overall, scoring a 79.75 out of 100 possible points in a study done by WalletHub. Their analysis is based on 16 relevant metrics, including average number of days on the market, foreclosure rate, percentage of homes selling for a gain and housing affordability.  
(WalletHub, August 2016)  
wallhub.com/edu/best-real-estate-markets/14889/
EDUCATION

Austin and its metro surrounding area boasts eight school districts on the list of Best Overall Public School Districts in Texas. (Niche, 2017)
k12.niche.com/rankings/public-school-districts/best-overall/texas

Graded on criteria such as academics, teachers, college readiness, health and safety, facilities and administration, Eanes ISD is the #1 school district in Texas and #17 in the nation. (Niche, 2017)
k12.niche.com/d/eanes-independent-school-district-tx

The Liberal Arts and Science Academy in Austin ISD is ranked #1 of 1,557 for Best Public High Schools in Texas and #20 of 18,793 for Best Public High Schools in America. (Niche, 2017)
k12.niche.com/liberal-arts--and--science-academy-austin-tx

The University of Texas at Austin is the #1 Best College in Texas, according to BestColleges.com. Academic quality, affordability, student experience and graduation rate are some of the major factors taken into consideration. (BestColleges.com, 2016)
bestcolleges.com/features/best-colleges-in-texas

Based on educational attainment and quality of education, Austin is the sixth-most-educated city in America. (ValuePenguin, 2016)
valuepenguin.com/2016/most-educated-cities

FOOD/ENTERTAINMENT

People travel to Austin from all over the world to attend SXSW, which features four major festivals dedicated to interactive, film, music and comedy. According to Paste Magazine, SXSW was the second best music festival of 2016. (Paste Magazine, December 2016)
pastemagazine.com/articles/2016/12/the-best-music-festivals-of-2016.html

Zagat gives a nod to Austin’s taco scene, highlighting Joe’s Bakery, Torchy’s Tacos and Veracruz All Natural on their list of the 30 Best Tacos in America. (Zagat, May 2016)
zagat.com/b/the-30-best-tacos-in-america

After spending a year dining at 365 barbeque restaurants nationwide, Johnny Fugitt, author of “The 100 Best Barbecue Restaurants in America,” gives his #1 rating to Kerlin BBQ in Austin. (Business Insider, August, 2015)

Thrillist includes Austin in its 8 Best Coffee Cities in America. (Thrillist, August, 2015)
thrillist.com/drink/nation/best-coffee-cities-in-america

Over 100 new restaurants opened in Austin last year. (A Taste of Koko, December 2015)
atasteadokoko.com/over-100-new-restaurants-opening-in-austin-this-year

texasmonthly.com/food/five-greatest-burgers-texas

MovieMaker gives Austin the #3 spot on their Best Places to Live and Work as a Moviemaker list. The rankings are based on the city’s film community and culture, the year’s actual film production, access to equipment and facilities, tax incentives and cost of living. (MovieMaker, 2016)

LIFESTYLE/ENVIRONMENT

The only American city to make the global list, Austin ranks #5 on How I Travel’s list of the 9 Most Creative Cities of 2016. (How I Travel, 2016)
howitravel.com/most-creative-cities-2016

Austin is the #1 city for a young family, based on a study which takes into consideration the conditions for working parents, buying/renting a home, education and environment, the outdoors and safety/healthcare. (ValuePenguin, 2016)
valuepenguin.com/2016/best-cities-young-families

Zilker Park is a popular Austin leisure spot, and with a multitude of attractions and events, it was voted the #3 Best City Park in America by USA Today’s 10 Best. (USA Today 10 Best, 2016)
10best.com/awards/travel/best-city-park

The American Fitness Index indicates Austin is the 15th fittest city in the U.S. (ACSM American Fitness Index, 2016)
americanfitnessindex.org/city/austin-tx

Combining the convenience of living in a city with enjoying the wonders of nature, Austin is America’s #4 Green City for Nature Lovers. This is determined by a city’s percentage of park land, air quality, number of community garden plots, percentage of homes that have a garden or greenhouse, number of farmers markets and number of farm-to-table restaurants. (Realtor.com, June 2016)
realtor.com/news/trends/top-10-cities-for-urban-nature-lovers

According to Condé Nast Traveler, Austin is the #5 Friendliest City in the U.S. (Condé Nast Traveler, August, 2016)

Realtor.com ranks Austin the #6 Best American City for Dog Lovers, based on the per capita number of dog parks and trails, dog-friendly restaurants and bars (265 in Austin!), pet-specific services and dog walkers. (Realtor.com, June 2016)
realtor.com/news/trends/top-10-cities-for-dog-lovers

With its mild winters, active community and excellent access to healthcare, Austin is the second-largest city in America for seniors. (Senior Advice)
senioradvice.com/articles/top-ten-large-cities-in-america-for-seniors

Nearby San Marcos made the Forbes list for Best Places to Retire in 2016. (Forbes, April 2016)

Men’s Health ranks Austin #7 on its list of Best Cities for Men Who Want to Be Fit and Happy. (Men’s Health, January 2016)
men’shealth.com/health/best-and-worst-cities-for-men

Austin is the tenth most Mobile-Friendly U.S. City, based on a study conducted by NerdWallet. Contributing factors include overall mobile performance, customer service, mobile websites, taxes and crime risk. (NerdWallet, July 2016)
nerdwallet.com/blog/uses/cell-phones/top-mobile-friendly-cities-2016

The U.S. Clean Tech Leadership Index ranks Austin the #9 Metro Area in the country based on indicators within the following categories: Green Buildings, Advanced Transportation, Clean Electricity, Carbon Management and Clean Tech Investment, Innovation and Workforce. (Clean Edge, April 2016)
cleantechnicreport.com/reports/2016-US-Clean-Tech-Leadership-Index

With a plethora of “meetup” activities, including stand-up paddleboarding, after-work networking, volunteer opportunities and a thriving nightlife, Austin is the #1 Top Metro for Finding New Friends. (Realtor.com, August 2016)

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