



CHARLES MIXSON

★ **BEST SURFBOARD SHAPER**
NICK PALANDRANI

Based on the artisan's philosophy of "low volume, high quality," the man behind Source Surfboards and GP Surfboards is at the head of the lineup this year, with his carefully crafted, custom-made innovations. Coinciding with his 10-year anniversary as a shaper, Nick Palandrani's Best of Santa Cruz win pays homage to a career committed to diversification, in which he fashions high performance shortboards for the ripping jock surfer to artfully vintage longboards for the classic nose rider, and everything in between. "I never wanted to be a one-trick pony," says Palandrani, the humble 32-year-old who, before hearing about his win, joked with a friend about the impossibility of reigning as your top pick. "I figure I'll focus a lot of time on progressive retro shapes—alternative shapes like fishes—but supe them up. I build boards for people knowing that their surfing is going to get better. I don't want to limit a design." Everything is hand shaped. Palandrani eschews the use of machines to avoid becoming a production shaper. He operates alone, at his workshop on the Eastside, shaping one to three boards each day. The Source workforce is just him, and for GP he teams up with Bruce Gordon, who executes the fine woodworking, glues the blanks and builds the fins. Rich Sanders adds to the pushing of the envelope by designing the fins for Source, and all of the boards are handled by the best glassers in town on the Westside. Minus business cards or a website until recently, Palandrani exemplifies word-of-mouth success, with the likes of Adam Replogie, Cheyne Pearson and Source test-pilot Noi Kaulukukui adding his boards to their quivers. Clientele requests can span a performance quad to a retro fish to a classic longboard. And that's how Palandrani likes it: "Every day I'm doing something completely different from the day before," he says. "What's cool about it is that it's never boring. It's not like manual labor—it's creative." 345-8831, nick@sourcesurfboards.com, sourcesurfboards.com and gpsurfboards.com. | **Linda Koffman**

2009 **BEST** PROFESSIONALS

R
strologer nabs another
monumental astro-
logy, but aren't they all?
The Esoteric &
Studies & Research
center in Santa Cruz,
this column has graced
THE TIMES since, well, the
ancient way back when.
That, coupled with her
expertise, which boasts esto-
ticism in an ever-growing
city—
com—as well as the
she teaches to locals,
depth that appar-
ently to be appreciated.
| **Greg Archer**

Rob Brezney
P
PAPAS, CLOUDS
e downtown Santa Cruz
night-time bunch at
er now, bartending is,
tm so when you find a

spoiled. That Pappas has enough
charm, skill and testosterone to win
over the masses is well, the perfect
emotional cocktail. Cheers to that.
*Clouds Downtown, 100 Church St.,
Santa Cruz, 429-2000, cloudsdowntown.com. | Charlie Price*

★ **CARPENTER**
DAVID HANSON
Anyone that's ever remodeled or had
construction work done on their
home knows that it can be a real pain
in the rear. It can be messy, expensive
and may not even turn out how you
imagined. Unless that is, you con-
tracted with David Hanson
Construction. Since 1995, Hanson has
been on the Santa Cruz construction
scene, building homes, additions and
myriad other building projects, all
with his motto "creative beauty" in
mind. Additionally, Hanson strives to
build green whenever possible, mak-
ing his projects good for you, the envi-
ronment and your rear. 216 Story St.,
Santa Cruz, 345-7302, davidhanson-construction.com. | **Leslie Patrick**
RUNNER-UP: Aboveboard

★ **LANDSCAPER**
DREAMSCAPE
Clearly, Dreamscape is adventurous in
its undertakings. The full-service land-
scaping company is all about planting,
lighting, structures, hardscapes, irri-
gation, and more—all along with con-
sultation and design. Not bad.
Something that clearly stands out is
the expertise and great style. 1916
Encina Drive, Santa Cruz, 476-6800,
[visit dreamscape-clc.com](http://visit.dreamscape-clc.com). | **CP**
RUNNER-UP: Terranova

★ **MASSAGE THERAPIST**
DIVINE MESSAGE
Your votes gave Divine Massage a
good rub. Nice 411 we discovered:
DM provides bridal packages—a per-
fect wedding present, too? Check out
the massages for couples. 3233
Valencia Ave., Santa Cruz, | **CP**
RUNNER-UP: Unity Love