

Sorry, Publix: Wegmans 'really is the best supermarket in the U.S.'

May 14, 2015, 7:14am EDT



★ Save

📄 Order Reprints

🖨️ Print



Ashley Gurbal Kritzer

Tampa Bay Business Journal

Email | Twitter

As beloved as Publix Super Markets Inc. is in the Southeast, a Northern grocer "really is the best supermarket in the U.S.," at least according to *The Washington Post*.

After the news that Rochester, New York-based Wegmans Food Markets Inc. would open a Brooklyn store in 2017 lit up social media on Wednesday, the *Post* took a deep dive into the grocer and its cult-like following.

Wegmans, the *Post* writes, "really does seem to be a step ahead of, well, everyone else in the business."

See Also

- How Whole Foods' new millennial concept fits into Publix's backyard
- Publix rings up record \$30.6 billion in sales in 2014
- Publix goes upscale with new stores in St. Petersburg, Orlando area

The grocer is a family-owned chain that's much smaller than Publix, with fewer than 100 stores between Boston and Washington, D.C. Publix has more than 10 times the stores Wegmans does, in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and the Carolinas.



🔍 Enlarge Photo

Peter Van Allen

According to the Washington Post, Wegmans is the best supermarket in the U.S.

Wegmans stores are considerably larger than Publix stores. At 74,000 square feet, the Brooklyn store will be the company's smallest.

The reasons shoppers love Wegmans sound similar to why Publix is adored, such as fresh produce, high quality private-label products and customer service.

Publix is also striving to improve in one arena that Wegmans dominates: Prepared foods. Wegmans is known for an enormous selection of prepared foods, from pizza to Asian fare.

In some of its newer stores, Publix has been expanding the prepared foods section— and that's a major focus for most grocers today. Americans are spending more on food eaten away from home than ever before, meaning that grocers aren't just battling each other for market share. They're also competing with restaurants.

Have you been to Wegmans? What do you think — does it beat Publix as the nation's best grocery store? **Comment below or tweet at me @TBBJAshley.**

Ashley Gurbal Kritzer is a reporter for the Tampa Bay Business Journal.

Related list: Social media, Food
Industries: Retailing & Restaurants, Manufacturing

Business Pulse



Where do you buy groceries and why?

Take the Survey

Comments

If you are commenting using a Facebook account, your profile information may be displayed with your comment depending on your privacy settings. By leaving the 'Post to Facebook' box selected, your comment will be published to your Facebook profile in addition to the space below.



Add a comment...

Comment using... ▼



Wayne R Selk

Absolutely LOVE Wegman's. The article hit the nail on the head, best customer service, clean stores, freshest produce, and of course best prepared foods... Their selection of fine wines and cheeses is very hard to match. I would shop there over Publix even if the prices were higher... So, when can we expect one in Tampa Bay?

Reply · Like · 1 · 2 hours ago



Robert Gamache · Tampa, Florida

Wegman's is legendary...best grocery chain anywhere! Remember seeing Danny Wegman stroll through the aisles years ago, illustrating the care that the Wegman family has for it's stores and employees. Hope they make it to the south soon!

Reply · Like · 1 · 2 hours ago



Tom Karpowich

Publix is well-run consistent and solid grocery shopping experience. Wegman's is much more. Think of Wegman's as Publix plus Fresh Market and a mini-Mazzaro's under one roof - with a beer and wine shop and sushi bar to boot.

Reply · Like · 1 · 2 hours ago



Rachel Slowey · Technical Sales Consultant at TechSherpas

LOVE Wegmans! It's a grocery experience like no other... I am patiently waiting for them to make way down to FL (after all there are enough of us WNY'ers down here LOL). I've been disappointed w/Publix lately anyways & do 95% of my shopping at The Fresh Market, only going to Publix for my bottled water or something quick that I may have forgotten. They are no where near the Wegmans level, as you can see from W's "cult-like following." I like Tom's post below "Think of Wegmans as a Publix + Fresh Market + a mini Mazzaro's under one roof w/a beer & wine ship & sushi bar to boot."

Reply · Like · about an hour ago