

Wine Spectator

WineSpectator.com

WHERE TO DRINK WELL

OUR GUIDE TO 3,592
AWARD-WINNING
WINE LISTS
AROUND THE WORLD

Grand Award Winner
Grill 23 & Bar, Boston

FIVE NEW GRAND AWARD WINNERS
PORTUGAL: WHITE WINES STAR
NEW ZEALAND: GREAT PINOT NOIR
WASHINGTON: WHAT TO BUY NOW

THE 2017 RESTAURANT AWARDS

In the 80+ pages that follow, you'll find listings for all the restaurants that earned a *Wine Spectator* award for their wine program in 2017.

We hope you'll give them a try.

ABOUT THE AWARD LEVELS

To qualify for an award, a wine list must present complete, accurate information, including vintages and appellations for all selections. Complete producer names and correct spellings are mandatory, and the overall presentation of the list is also considered. Lists that meet these requirements are judged for one of our three awards.

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE **2,335 winners**

These wine lists, which typically offer at least 90 selections, feature a well-chosen assortment of quality producers along with a thematic match to the menu in both price and style. Whether compact or extensive, focused or diverse, these lists deliver sufficient choice to satisfy discerning wine lovers.

BEST OF AWARD OF EXCELLENCE **1,168 winners**

These wine lists display excellent breadth across multiple winegrowing regions and/or significant vertical depth of top producers, along with superior presentation. Typically offering 350 or more selections, these

restaurants are destinations for serious wine lovers, showing a deep commitment to wine both in the cellar and through their service team.

GRAND AWARD **89 winners**

Our highest award, given to restaurants that show an uncompromising, passionate devotion to the quality of their wine program. These wine lists typically feature 1,000 or more selections and deliver serious breadth of top producers, outstanding depth in mature vintages, a selection of large-format bottles, excellent harmony with the menu and superior presentation. These restaurants offer the highest level of wine service. Grand Award winners are denoted by **red** type in the listings.

HOW TO READ THE GUIDE

In the following pages, abbreviated listings comprising location and basic contact information are given for Award of Excellence winners; listings for Best of Award of Excellence and Grand Award winners include more detailed information, such as the restaurant's wine strengths and type of cuisine. Below are explanations of the different categories of information given.

WINE DIRECTOR/SOMMELIER: This information, provided by the restaurant, indicates the people responsible for managing the wine list and assisting diners with their wine selections.

WINE STRENGTHS: Determined by our judges, this indicates the emphasis of the list, not all the regions from which wines are offered. Wine strengths are listed in descending order of prominence.

WINE SELECTIONS: This indicates the number of selections on the list at the time the award was conferred. For Grand Award winners, this is followed by the total number of bottles in the restaurant's inventory.

WINE PRICES: Determined by our judges, this describes the overall pricing of the wine list, taking into account both the general markup of wines offered and the number of wines at high and low price points. Inexpensive lists offer many bottles for less than \$50, while also exhibiting a below-normal markup (generally considered to be two- to two-and-a-half times the wholesale bottle price). These lists offer uncommon value, and the restaurants are indicated in **green**. Moderate lists employ the industry norm for markup, with a range of less expensive and expensive bottles. Expensive

lists offer wines priced with a greater-than-normal markup, along with many selections for more than \$100 a bottle. Pricing is not a judging criterion, it is merely provided as a guide for the reader.

CORKAGE: Provided by the restaurant, this reflects the corkage fee charged per bottle to customers. Corkage fees are typically charged per 750ml bottle; expect to pay more if you bring a magnum. Some restaurants do not permit diners to bring their own wine; others are prohibited by state or local regulations. Some readers report discrepancies between our listings and actual practices at the restaurants. If you plan to bring wine to a restaurant, always call ahead to confirm the corkage policy.

CUISINE TYPE AND MENU PRICING: Cuisine type is provided by the restaurant, indicating the style of food served. Menu pricing is determined by our judges. The pricing categories are based on what a typical guest would pay at dinner for a two-course meal. Price does not factor in tip or beverage costs. The categories are defined as follows: Inexpensive is less than \$40; moderate is \$40-\$65; and expensive is \$66 or more. For restaurants that offer only a prix fixe menu, the specific price is indicated, based on information provided by the restaurant.

NOTE: Our awards program evaluates wine lists, not restaurants as a whole. Although we assume that the level of food and service will be commensurate with the quality of the wine list, this unfortunately is not always true. We cannot visit every award-winning restaurant (although all Grand Award winners and many others are inspected by *Wine Spectator*), so we encourage you to alert us to disparities or disappointments. If you have comments regarding your experience at one of our award-winning restaurants, contact us at restaurantawards@mshanken.com.

RESTAURANTS.WINESPECTATOR.COM

Have you seen our Restaurant Awards site? Our free online Restaurant Search, including maps, lets you easily find the 2017 award winners nearest you. Or look for the perfect dining spot in any part of the world according to wine strengths, cuisine type, pricing and more. Plus, find all our great dining articles in one convenient location: restaurant guides, sommelier and chef interviews, news and our tributes to the 2017 Grand Award winners. Visit restaurants.winespectator.com.

NORTH CAROLINA

continued

BIN 54 STEAK & CELLAR
1201-M Raleigh Road, Chapel Hill; (919) 969-1155

THE BISTRO AT TOPSAIL
602-B Roland Ave., Surf City; (910) 328-2000

BLT STEAK
The Ritz-Carlton, Charlotte, 110 N. College St., Charlotte; (704) 972-4380



SEBASTIAN EMERY
WINE DIRECTOR

THE BLUE POINT
1240 Duck Road, Duck; (252) 261-8090



SIMON KAUFMANN
WINE DIRECTOR

CAFE RULE
242 N.E. 11th Ave., Hickory; (828) 324-2005
Wine director Dawn Abels **Wine strengths** California, France **Wine selections** 480 **Wine prices** Moderate **Corkage** \$15 **Cuisine** American/Regional **Menu prices** Moderate

THE CAPITAL GRILLE
201 N. Tryon St., Charlotte; (704) 348-1400

▶ **THE CAPITAL GRILLE**
4242 Six Forks Road, Raleigh; (919) 787-3901

▶ **CHESTNUT**
48 Biltmore Ave., Asheville; (828) 575-2667

CHIMA BRAZILIAN STEAKHOUSE
139 S. Tryon St., Charlotte; (704) 601-4141

CROSSROADS CHAPEL HILL
The Carolina Inn, 211 Pittsboro St., Chapel Hill; (919) 918-2777

CYPRUS INTERNATIONAL CUISINE
332 Main St., Highlands; (828) 526-4429

DEL FRISCO'S DOUBLE EAGLE STEAK HOUSE
4725 Piedmont Row Drive, Charlotte; (704) 552-5502 **Wine director** Jeffrey Sigala **Wine strengths** California, Italy, Bordeaux, Burgundy, Rhône, Spain **Wine selections** 1,160 **Wine prices** Expensive **Corkage** \$25 **Cuisine** Steak house **Menu prices** Expensive

THE DINING ROOM
Inn on Biltmore Estate, 1 Antler Hill Road, Asheville; (828) 225-1699

ELAINE'S ON FRANKLIN
454 W. Franklin St., Chapel Hill; (919) 960-2770

ELEMENTS
2110 Environ Way, Chapel Hill; (919) 537-8780

FAIRVIEW DINING ROOM
Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club, 3001 Cameron Blvd., Durham; (919) 493-6699

THE FERRINGTON HOUSE RESTAURANT
The Ferrington House Inn, 2000 Ferrington Village Center, Pittsboro; (919) 542-2121 **Wine director** Paula De Pano **Wine strengths** Bordeaux, California, Burgundy, Italy, Rhône **Wine selections** 1,450 **Wine prices** Expensive **Corkage** \$50 **Cuisine** American **Menu prices** Prix fixe \$95-\$150



PAULA DE PANO
WINE DIRECTOR

THE FIG TREE RESTAURANT
1601 E. Seventh St., Charlotte; (704) 332-3322 **Wine director** Greg Zanitsch **Wine strengths** California, Burgundy, Bordeaux, Rhône **Wine selections** 990 **Wine prices** Moderate **Corkage** \$20 **Cuisine** European/Seasonal **Menu prices** Moderate

FLEMING'S PRIME STEAKHOUSE & WINE BAR
210 E. Trade St., Charlotte; (704) 333-4266

FLEMING'S PRIME STEAKHOUSE & WINE BAR
3342 W. Friendly Ave., Greensboro; (336) 294-7790

FLEMING'S PRIME STEAKHOUSE & WINE BAR
4325 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh; (919) 571-6200

THE FLYING MELON
181 Back Road, Ocracoke; (252) 921-0273

42ND ST. OYSTER BAR & SEAFOOD GRILL
508 W. Jones St., Raleigh; (919) 831-2811

GALLERY RESTAURANT
The Ballantyne Hotel & Lodge, 10000 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, Charlotte; (704) 248-4000
Wine director Stephen Toth **Wine strengths** California, Oregon, Italy **Wine selections** 755 **Wine prices** Moderate **Corkage** \$15 **Cuisine** American/Regional **Menu prices** Moderate



STEPHEN TOTH
WINE DIRECTOR

▶ **GAMEKEEPER**
3005 Shulls Mill Road, Boone; (828) 963-7400

GREEN VALLEY GRILL
The O. Henry Hotel, 324 W. Wendover Ave., Greensboro; (336) 854-2015 **Wine director** Martin Hunt **Wine strengths** California, France, Italy **Wine selections** 520 **Wine prices** Moderate **Corkage** \$15 **Cuisine** European **Menu prices** Moderate

HERONS
The Umstead Hotel & Spa, 100 Woodland Pond Drive, Cary; (919) 447-4200
Sommeliers Casey Gamblin, Scott Robinson **Wine strengths** California, Burgundy, Italy, Rhône, Bordeaux, Austria, Champagne **Wine selections** 1,545 **Wine prices** Moderate **Corkage** \$25 **Cuisine** American/Regional **Menu prices** Prix fixe \$85-\$140

▲ **JAIME'S CREOLE BRASSERIE**
44 E. Main St., Brevard; (828) 883-3388 **Wine strengths** California, France, Italy, Oregon, Spain **Wine selections** 450 **Wine prices** Moderate **Corkage** \$25 **Cuisine** Creole **Menu prices** Moderate

RIISING STAR

JAIME'S CREOLE BRASSERIE

In the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, Jaime's Creole Brasserie serves Louisiana-style cuisine alongside a 450-selection list emphasizing California, France, Italy, Oregon and Spain.

JIMMY V'S STEAKHOUSE & TAVERN
107 Edinburgh Drive S., Cary; (919) 380-8210

KIMBALL'S KITCHEN
Sanderling Resort, 1461 Duck Road, Duck; (252) 261-8419



DOUGLAS WATKINS
WINE DIRECTOR

LARKIN'S ON THE LAKE
1020 Memorial Highway, Lake Lure; (828) 625-4075

LIFE SAVING STATION
Sanderling Resort, 1461 Duck Road, Duck; (252) 449-6654

LOUISIANA PURCHASE FOOD & SPIRITS
397 Shawneehaw Ave., Banner Elk; (828) 898-5656 **Wine director** Laurie Bagbey **Wine strengths** California, France, Italy **Wine selections** 590 **Wine prices** Moderate **Cuisine** Creole/French **Menu prices** Moderate

MADISON'S RESTAURANT & WINE GARDEN
Old Edwards Inn and Spa, 445 Main St., Highlands; (828) 787-2525 **Wine director** Michael Searles **Wine strengths** California, Bordeaux, France **Wine selections** 585 **Wine prices** Moderate **Corkage** \$30 **Cuisine** Farm to table **Menu prices** Moderate

MAMA RICOTTA'S
601 S. Kings Drive, Charlotte; (704) 343-0148

MANDOLIN
2519 Fairview Road, Raleigh; (919) 322-0365

MCNINCH HOUSE RESTAURANT
511 N. Church St., Charlotte; (704) 332-6159

MORTON'S, THE STEAKHOUSE
227 W. Trade St., Charlotte; (704) 333-2602

MOUNTAIN FRESH
521 E. Main St., Highlands; (828) 526-2400

▶ **NAZARA INDIAN BISTRO**
1945 High House Road, Cary; (919) 694-5353

NOBLE'S GRILLE
380 Knollwood St., Winston-Salem; (336) 777-8477

▶ **OAKLEAF**
480 Hillsboro St., No. 500, Pittsboro; (919) 533-6303



BENJAMIN WEATHERSBY
SOMMELIER

ON THE SQUARE
115 E. Saint James St., Tarboro; (252) 823-8268 **Wine director** Inez Ribustello **Wine strengths** California, France, Italy, Germany **Wine selections** 500 **Wine prices** Moderate **Corkage** \$10 **Cuisine** American **Menu prices** Moderate

OUTWEST STEAKHOUSE & SADDLEROOM
1185 S. Highway 66, Kernersville; (336) 993-2222

THE PALM
6705-B Phillips Place Court, Charlotte; (704) 552-7256

PIEDMONT RESTAURANT
401 Foster St., Durham; (919) 683-1213 **Wine director** Crawford Leavoy **Wine strengths** California, Burgundy, France, Italy **Wine selections** 760 **Wine prices** Moderate **Corkage** \$25 **Cuisine** American/Regional **Menu prices** Moderate



CRAWFORD LEAVOY
WINE DIRECTOR

POSANA
1 Biltmore Ave., Asheville; (828) 505-3969

PRINT WORKS BISTRO
The Proximity Hotel, 702 Green Valley Road, Greensboro; (336) 379-0699

RISTORANTE PAOLETTI
440 Main St., Highlands; (828) 526-4906
Wine director Arthur Paoletti **Wine strengths** Tuscany, Piedmont, California, Bordeaux, Burgundy **Wine selections** 750 **Wine prices** Expensive **Corkage** No charge **Cuisine** Italian/Seafood **Menu prices** Moderate

ROWLAND'S
Westglow Resort & Spa, 224 Westglow Circle, Blowing Rock; (828) 295-5141



GARY BROWN
WINE DIRECTOR

RUE CLER
401 E. Chapel Hill St., Durham; (919) 682-8844

▲ **RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE**
26 All Souls Crescent, Asheville; (828) 398-6200 **Wine director** Kenneth Pace **Wine strengths** California, France, Italy **Wine selections** 455 **Wine prices** Moderate **Corkage** \$25 **Cuisine** Steak house **Menu prices** Expensive

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE
2010 Renaissance Park Place, Cary; (919) 677-0033

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE
6000 Fairview Road, Charlotte; (704) 556-1115

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE
222 S. Tryon St., Charlotte; (704) 338-9444
Wine director Woody French **Wine strengths** California, France **Wine selections** 540 **Wine prices** Moderate **Corkage** No charge **Cuisine** American/Steak house **Menu prices** Expensive

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE
Harrah's Cherokee Casino and Hotel, 777 Casino Drive, Cherokee; (828) 497-8577

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE
Hilton Garden Inn Southpoint, Renaissance Center at Southpoint, 7007 Fayetteville Road, Durham; (919) 361-0123

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE
800 Green Valley Road, Greensboro; (336) 574-1515

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE
4381 Lassiter Mill Road, North Hills Town Center, Raleigh; (919) 791-1103

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE
Hilton Wilmington Riverside, 301 N. Water St., Wilmington; (910) 343-1818

RYAN'S RESTAURANT
719 Coliseum Drive, Winston-Salem; (336) 724-6132

SEASON'S AT HIGHLAND LAKE
Highland Lake Inn & Resort, 86 Lily Pad Lane, Flat Rock; (828) 696-9094

STEAK STREET
3915 Sedgebrook St., High Point; (336) 841-0222

THE STRING BEAN
106 N. Main St., Belmont; (704) 825-3636
Wine director Bryant Helton **Wine strengths** California **Wine selections** 705 **Corkage** \$25 **Cuisine** American **Menu prices** Moderate

SULLIVAN'S STEAKHOUSE
1928 South Blvd., Charlotte; (704) 335-8228
Wine director Adam Arlen **Wine strengths** California, Italy, France **Wine selections** 560 **Wine prices** Moderate **Corkage** \$25 **Cuisine** Steak house **Menu prices** Expensive