

RESTAURANTS

Snapshots of Wine Spectator's 100 Grand Award Winners

These destination restaurants around the world hold *Wine Spectator's* top honor for extraordinary wine programs



Owner and wine director Søren Ledet serves one of Geranium's 3,400-plus selections. (Martin Dyrlov Madsen)

By Julie Harans

■ Jun 25, 2020

Since 1981, *Wine Spectator* has been honoring restaurants with extraordinary wine programs. The top honor is the Grand Award, granted to those that show extraordinary commitment to wine service. In 2020, due to the coronavirus pandemic, our Restaurant Awards team was unable to conduct in-person inspections for a new Grand Award class. But while there are no new Grand Award winners this year, 100 restaurants earned the title once again, representing 17 countries and 14 states. Profiled here alphabetically, these comprise a dining bucket list for wine lovers to dream about and plan for as restrictions on restaurants and travel gradually lift. Congratulations to all our Grand Award winners!

The Stonehouse • Santa Barbara, Calif. • 2014

When devastating mudslides hit Santa Barbara in January 2018, San Ysidro Ranch suffered serious damage—and so did the treasured wine cellar of its restaurant. The reopened Stonehouse managed to rebuild a Grand Award-winning cellar that, while still a work in progress, reflects an unwavering commitment to wine.

Studio • Laguna Beach, Calif. • 2014

Laguna Beach may have a laid-back reputation, but Montage Resort & Spa's signature restaurant is serious about wine. Studio's 2,000-label list includes a superior selection of half-bottles and wines by the glass to pair with the California-influenced French fare, all served with expansive views of the Pacific Ocean.

Topper's at the Wauwinet • Nantucket, Mass. • 1996

The Wauwinet is a homey Victorian inn that first opened in 1875. Its Grand Award-winning restaurant has turned Nantucket into a wine destination with a list deep in mature vintages from prominent producers.

Tour d'Argent • Paris • 1986

Tour d'Argent is a French monument, for its history, its ambience and its wine list, the largest of any *Wine Spectator* award winner in Europe. More than a century in the making, the wine program delivers on both quality and quantity. All the bottles are French, except for a strong section of Ports.

Tribeca Grill • New York • 2002

This lower Manhattan hot spot is backed by acclaimed restaurateur Drew Nieporent, co-owner Robert De Niro and wine director David Gordon, who has managed the wine program since the restaurant opened in 1990. The list highlights wines from that inaugural year, alongside an array of California Cabernets and labels from top French regions, with particular strength in the Rhône Valley.

'21' Club • New York • 2003

Originally a speakeasy, '21' Club morphed into a Midtown staple that continues to delight with its rough-yet-refined ambience and classic American fare. It still sports a Prohibition-era cellar, where 20,000 bottles are hidden behind a moving wall, including bottles stored for celebrity patrons.