

Diners Club Winelist Award winners selected

Sixty-five restaurants in the Western Cape have been awarded the Diners Club Winelist Award, which recognises eateries that take great care in their wine selection and pairing of food with wine.

This year, a variety of restaurants vied for top honours, including brasseries and bistros, cafés, chain restaurants, destination and fining-dining eateries.

Twenty-five restaurants achieved Diamond status, the highest accolade with a total score of 91% or higher, while 24 restaurants were awarded Platinum, Gold winners tallied to 13, and Silver, three.



Diners Club Winelist Awards not only attract restaurants eager to gain recognition for their class and style, they also attract an ever-growing number of patrons who understand that the perfect meal is greatly enhanced by a matching fine wine.

This year a panel of judges led by by veteran wine critic and author Dave Hughes assessed hundreds of restaurant menus that had been submitted by licensed local restaurants that met the entry criteria.

Commenting on the quality of the entries, head judge Dave Hughes said: "Each year it becomes increasingly difficult to select the best restaurants that offer outstanding wine lists. However, the cream always rises to the top and this year has

been no different. The winning restaurants are tenacious, almost pedantic, in ensuring that their offering continues to excite the palates of their customers."

The Diners Club Winelist Awards acknowledge excellence in participating restaurants in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, the Western Cape, and the Eastern Cape.

Selection criteria

Restaurant wine lists are evaluated according to four criteria:

- **Content:** Content includes the number of wines on the list, number of wines served by the glass, original and innovative choices, and cultivars sourced from appropriate regions;
- **Balance:** Balance relates to the relationship between modestly and expensively priced wines, overall value, presence of local and imported varieties, and balance between established and new labels;
- **Suitability:** Suitability measures the suitability of the wine list with the cuisine, as well as the fit with the image of the restaurant; and
- **Presentation:** Presentation is judged according to vintages, regions, accurate information, correct spelling and a clear design that is easy to read and navigate.

Diamond Winners

Pierneef a La Motte
Karibu Restaurant
One and Only Cape Town - Reuben's
Birkenhead House
Grande Roche Hotel
Aubergine Restaurant
Grootbos Private Nature Reserve
The Square Restaurant - Vineyard Hotel
Greek Fisherman
Meloncino
City Grill Steakhouse
The Mount Nelson Hotel
Bombay Brasserie
Kitima at The Kronendal
Bientang's Cave
Bushman's Kloof Wilderness Reserve
Azure Restaurant
B's Steakhouse
Indochine Restaurant, Delaire Graff Estate
Den Anker Restaurant
Ellerman House
The Marine Hotel
Signal at The Cape Grace Hotel
Karoo Art Hotel
The Raj Camps Bay

Platinum Winners

One and Only Cape Town - Nobu
The George Restaurant, Romney Park
Pigalle Greenpoint

Pastis

The Andros Deluxe Boutique Hotel

Hussar Grill - Green Point

Hussar Grill - Steenberg

Hussar Grill - Somerset West

Hussar Grill - Rondebosch

Hussar - Grill - Paarl

Hussar Grill - Camps Bay

Hussar Grill - Willowbridge

Hussar Grill - Stellenbosch

Planet Bar at The Mount Nelson

Mint

Blowfish Restaurant

La Pentola - Hermanus

Abalone House & Spa

The Garden Lounge at the Vineyard Hotel

French Connection Bistro

The Greenhouse Restaurant

The Wild Fig Restaurant

Table Bay Hotel

Lanzerac Hotel & Spa

Gold Winners

The Rusty Oak Bistro

Col'Cacchio pizzeria - Blouberg

Col'Cacchio pizzeria - Camps Bay

Col'Cacchio pizzeria - Canal Walk

Col'Cacchio pizzeria - Cape Town

Col'Cacchio pizzeria - Cavendish

Col'Cacchio pizzeria - Franschhoek

Col'Cacchio pizzeria - Hermanus

Col'Cacchio pizzeria - Stellenbosch

Col'Cacchio pizzeria - Westlake

Col'Cacchio pizzeria - Willowbridge

Equus

Mezepoli Meze & Wine Bar

Silver Winners

Lagoon Beach Hotel

The Piano Bar

Quayside Cabin

www.dinerclub.co.za