

THE 16TH ANNUAL

BEST OF

2008

NAPA & SONOMA VALLEYS

PLUS INSIDE
WINERY MAPS
DINING
FOOD & WINE
SHOPPING

brought to you by



FEATURED INSIDE
LAURIE HOOK
WINEMAKER
BERINGER VINEYARDS



TEMPTING TASTES

Epicurean Touch

What happens when you take a famous wine region and combine it with some of the most respected and celebrated chefs in the world? You get the ultimate culinary dream and a choice of the most amazing gastronomic experiences that one could ever imagine! In Wine Country, we let our palates be our guides as the flavors and array of delicious specialties are created by these epicurean experts, demonstrating their talents in Napa and Sonoma Valleys. In short, we love to eat out and enjoy great food. Too many chefs, too many restaurants? I don't think so! Every year we eagerly await any new openings as we fight for reservations...carefully taste, check out the wine list, examine the decor and evaluate the service with our friends and family!

Speaking of the Latest "Tastes and Trends" in Wine Country

This year in downtown Napa, the first contemporary Creole Restaurant – **Bleaux Magnolia** opened with plenty of accolades from diners about the delicious Cajun dishes such as the famous crayfish étouffée, seafood gumbo, and duck jambalaya. Music makes every dining experience more fun and Chef Matt Mermod adds a little of that New Orleans style as he entertains guests with a Jazz Brunch every Sunday. Executive Chef Brandon Sharp heads up the new hot spot up-valley...**Solbar** is the exciting, stylish and inviting bistro located inside the chic Solage Resort. Highlighting his new popular menu that the chef describes as "sol food" side-by-side with "down home" comfort food, this spot has become the place to go. As the sun sets Solbar becomes a hip Calistoga restaurant where guests can enjoy a glass of wine, sip a mojito and share some "first bites" of the fine cuisine.





BEST OF 2008 WINNERS

BEST NEW RESTAURANT IN 2007

*Napa
BLEAUX MAGNOLIA
 1408 Clay St.
 252.2230
 bleauxmagnolia.com

Upvalley
SOLBAR AT SOLAGE
 755 Silverado Trail,
 Calistoga
 226.0800
 solagecalistoga.com

BEST LOCAL CHEF

*Napa
GREG COLE - COLE'S CHOP HOUSE | CELADON
 1122 Main St.
 224.6328
 500 Main St., Ste. G
 254.9690
 coleschophouse.com
 celadonnapa.com

Upvalley
THOMAS KELLER - FRENCH LAUNDRY BOUCHON
 6640 Washington St.,
 Yountville 944.2380
 6534 Washington St.,
 Yountville 944.8037
 frenchlaundry.com
 bouchonbistro.com

Sonoma
RYAN FANCHER - EL DORADO KITCHEN
 405 First St. West
 996.3030
 eldoradosonoma.com

area code (707)



Local Chefs

Hottest Chefs at the Helm of World Class Restaurants! The chefs that are worth their (sea) salt are making a name in Wine Country! Never let it be said that celebrity chefs are only a passing trend there. Take the famous areas of Napa and Sonoma Valley's. They have long been a prime location for top chefs and "their place" to showcase award winning food and wine!

The regions top chefs have an appreciative clientele, A-list restaurants, an abundance of ingredients and world famous wines (for pairing) at their fingertips. And, locals and visitors keep flocking to their tables to sample their latest groundbreaking recipe or cuisine.

This year locals agree that these well-known favorites are tops – **Thomas Keller** of the French Laundry, Ad Hoc and Bouchon; **Gregg Cole** of Cole's Chop House and Celadon; and in Sonoma, **Ryan Fancher** of El Dorado Kitchen.

Outdoor Dining

A wonderful brick patio warmed by a fireplace on a chilly evening and inviting on a starlit warm and breezy night. These dining outside features with an array of fantastic dishes, are what friends, family and visitors love about **Celedon**. The creation of Chef/owner Greg Cole, this cozy and peaceful restaurant located near the Napa River, deserves their top awards for being one of Napa Valley's #1 dining spots. Wine Country is a haven for those who love to dine outside with most days and evenings weather perfect for enjoying the fresh air and ambiance of the valleys. In St. Helena, **Auberge du Soleil** combines their gorgeous resort with sumptuous food and amazing views. Reserving a table on the terrace is a sought after experience to enjoy a glass of fine wine while taking in the majestic vistas of olive groves, vineyards and a Napa Valley sunset. Those looking to dine outside under the skies of the Sonoma Valley should be the guest of the **El Dorado Kitchen** on First Street West in downtown Sonoma. A beautiful stone courtyard with a private cabana and their famous sprawling fig tree sets the tone for the delicious and sophisticated cuisine of Chef Ryan Fancher.

BEST OF 2008 WINNERS

BEST OUTDOOR DINING

*Napa
CELADON
500 Main St., Ste. G
254.9690
celadonna.com

Upvalley
AUBERGE DU SOLEIL
180 Rutherford Hill Rd., Rutherford
967.3111
aubergedusoleil.com

Sonoma
EL DORADO KITCHEN
405 First St. West
996.3030
eldoradosonoma.com

BEST BREAKFAST PLACE

*Napa
GILLWOODS CAFÉ
1320 Napa Town Ctr.
1313 Main St.,
St. Helena
253.0409
963.1788
gillwoodscafe.com

Upvalley
GORDON'S CAFÉ & WINE BAR
6770 Washington St.,
Yountville
944.8246

Sonoma
SHELLVILLE GRILL
22900 Broadway
996.5151

area code (707)