

Four Denver-area restaurants honored by Wine Spectator



By [Ariel Smith](#) – Reporter, Denver Business Journal
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Denver restaurants on Monday won recognition for the quality of their wine selections, appearing in the 2024 Restaurant Awards from the publication Wine Spectator.

Four local winners were chosen to be among the 3,700-plus restaurants highlighted based on demonstrated excellence in their wine programs – their service, the extent of their wine lists, and their wine cellars, a Wine Spectator press release said.

The Denver restaurants received an award of excellence from the publication. Restaurants receiving the award offer a minimum of 90 selections to choose from on a well-curated wine list from quality producers, a list well matched in theme to the food menu for both price and style, and deliver sufficient choice to discerning wine lovers, Wine Spectator's announcement said.

The four winning restaurants are:

- [Le Bilboquet](#), 299 Saint Paul St. in Denver's Cherry Creek North neighborhood. Le Bilboquet's owners have said they seek "to bring a slice of Paris to the Rocky Mountains." In the last 6 years the restaurant has offered curated wines, cocktails and classic French cooking in their dining room and on lush outdoor patios for those hoping to dine al fresco.
- [Nocturne](#), a modern take on mid-20th century jazz and supper clubs in Denver's River North Art District. Wine Spectator noted its former warehouse location is "artfully restored" and the restaurant provides "a singular, unforgettable hospitality experience."

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- [Noble Riot](#), a wine bar at 1336 27th St., also in Denver's RiNo art district, was noted for being run by a team of sommeliers and offering a notable selection of wines from small winemakers "who produce wines with character and honesty." Wine Spectator noted Noble Riot's many tastings and classes meant to intrigue wine aficionados and novices alike.
- [The Fort](#), more than 60 years old and at 19192 Colorado Highway 8 in the foothills southwest of Denver near Red Rocks Amphitheater. The restaurant is famous for its building – a full-scale adobe replica of Bent's Fort, a fur-trading fort in Southeastern Colorado and listed on the National Register of Historic Places – and its menu inspired by the Old West. The restaurant's extensive wine list pairs with selections that feature game meat, especially buffalo steaks.

For serious Denver wine lovers seeking a destination trip, Wine Spectator's honors also included C Lazy U Ranch, 3640 Colorado Highway 125, in Granby.

The mountain ranch guest resort has an onsite sommelier and was included in the publication's Best of Award of Excellence. Recipients have wine lists often in excess of 350 selections, superior presentation and breadth of regions and producers, the Wine Spectator press release said.

C Lazy U Ranch [ranked ninth amongst Colorado's best hotels in a U.S. News & World Report's ranking](#), according to previous DBJ reporting.