

Which wines shine brightest in Michelin-starred restaurants?

TEXT: Wine Services

Starred restaurants and iconic labels: a deep dive into the wine selections of the world's finest culinary destinations.

Michelin-starred restaurants are temples of gastronomy where every detail matters – starting with the wine selection. These lists are not only mirrors of market trends and the tastes of the most discerning sommeliers, but also the embodiment of the pursuit of excellence that drives these iconic venues.

Based on an unprecedented analysis of 1,539 wine lists from Michelin-starred restaurants – covering 62% of all starred establishments across 22 countries and 575 cities – we've identified the most emblematic labels, while highlighting regional and ranking-specific distinctions.

Recording more than 165,000 wine references, this study offers a unique overview of the producers and cuvées most frequently showcased by the world's top chefs. Which wines shine brightest under the Michelin stars? Our analysis reveals the answer.

Champagne, the undisputed star

Champagne houses clearly dominate wine selections. Dom Pérignon Vintage features on 820 menus (53% of all lists), followed by Krug Grande Cuvée (780) and Cristal by Louis Roederer (633).

Their supremacy is driven by their versatility, whether for aperitifs or food pairings; their luxurious global image, perfectly aligned with the Michelin-starred experience; and their impressive distribution power, with advanced by-the-glass and brand activation strategies.

Bordeaux and Italy, titans of prestige

Bordeaux continues to dominate the ranking of still wines, upheld by legendary names such as Yquem (603 listings), Mouton Rothschild (551), Margaux (511) and Haut-Brion (481). Yet Italy is gaining ground, with Sassicaia (584) making a remarkable breakthrough and rising to second place – a testament to its growing international prestige.



Britannia Hotel Trondheim ©speilsalen

Taking a country-by-country perspective, Italy's momentum becomes even more striking: Sassicaia leads the way among Italian producers, ahead of Ornellaia (432), Tignanello (416) and Gaja Barbaresco (383) – with Gaja wines featured in up to 606 restaurants worldwide. A remarkable quartet now firmly anchored in the world's most prestigious wine lists.

Other iconic terroirs are also gaining ground, with three standout names particularly favoured by top sommeliers: Vega Sicilia, Unico (393 listings) confirms Spain's continued presence at the top of global selections; Didier Dagueneau, Silex (377) represents the Loire's finest expression of precision and purity; and Beaucastel (302) carries the Rhône's banner with remarkable consistency across fine dining establishments.

Our analysis further highlights the ascent of emblematic producers from other historic regions. Burgundy, while often under-represented at the level of a single cuvée due to the rarity of allocations, maintains strong visibility when viewed by estate. Leading names such as Domaine Leflaive (442), Domaine de la Romanée-Conti (433) – whose most-listed wine is Romanée-Saint-Vivant, featured in 291 starred restaurants – Comtes Lafon (350) and Armand Rousseau (317) continue to shine on top-tier wine lists.

California asserts its position in the ultra-premium segment of the New World, especially in high-end dining establishments. Wines such as Opus One (298), Ridge Monte Bello (featured in up to 218 restaurants), Dominus (145) and Harlan Estate (121) are now fixtures in highly selective portfolios.



Schwarzer Adler Restaurant ©schwarzeradlerrestaurant

These figures confirm the dominance of a select group of global icons whose presence reflects both historical pedigree and the evolving dynamics of prestige and influence across markets.

Exceptional wine lists

Some establishments stand out not only for their quality, but also for the exceptional breadth of their selection. These champions of diversity offer menus with more than 400 references, covering every major wine region around the world. Leading the pack is Georges Blanc - Alpes in Vonnas, France, which has three Michelin stars and offers 616 wines. It is followed by Speilsalen in Norway (585 wines), Dinner by Heston Blumenthal in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (559), Alain Ducasse at The Dorchester (520) and the Ritz Restaurant (516) both in the United Kingdom.

On a similar note, restaurants are also expanding their lists of wine offered by the glass. Elevating food and wine pairings while making iconic cuvées more accessible, this approach enhances the experiential and personalized dimension of a Michelin-starred meal. Of the restaurants we

surveyed, George Restaurant in Naples, Italy, tops the list, offering 74 wines by the glass, followed by Prism in Berlin, Germany (63 wines), and Hélène Darroze at The Connaught in London, UK (46).

Terroirs in the spotlight

Some Michelin-starred restaurants build their wine lists around a deep connection to a specific region. This depth reflects a cultural, historical or strategic link with some of the world's greatest wine terroirs. Bordeaux wines, for example, are featured at La Table de Pavie in Saint-Émilion which offers 218 references, followed by Schwarzer Adler in Germany (178 references). International venues like Les Amis in Singapore and Dinner by Heston Blumenthal in Dubai confirm Bordeaux's global prestige.

When it comes to Champagne, Georges Blanc leads with 146 references, ahead of L'Ecrin in Paris and Piazzetta Milù in Italy. And Burgundy is a must-have for elite sommeliers at Georges Blanc (191 references), Osier in Tokyo (166) and Søllerød Kro in Copenhagen (165).



Dinner by Heston Blumenthal Dubai ©dinnerbyhdbdubai

California wines dominate Lazy Bear in San Francisco (98 references) and abroad at Gary Danko, Saison, Geranium in Copenhagen and L'Atelier de Joël Robuchon in Hong Kong. Italian wines lead the list at Convivio Troiani in Rome (235 references) followed by Otto e Mezzo Bombana in Hong Kong (224), demonstrating the global appeal of Italy's great classics.

Despite all these figures, the wine lists of Michelin-starred restaurants are far more than inventories; they tell a story, shape an experience and reflect a vision.

Behind each selection lies a commitment to excellence, prestige, gastronomic harmony and connection to terroir. The overwhelming presence of certain regions and producers highlights a deeply-rooted European wine heritage, while also welcoming the rise of new world-class origins.



Wine Services

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