

OLD SCHOOL MADE COOL
 WINE LISTS WITH HISTORY...



GILT
 New York, NY
 giltnyc.com

For Patrick Cappiello, wine director at this lavish 52-seat Michelin two-star restaurant, memories of the 1961 Pétrus he tasted years ago still linger. "It was truly one of the most magical wine experiences in my career," he says, and of all the bottles on his list this is the one he would open. Yet the strength of GILT's cellar lies beyond the rare single bottles in its remarkable verticals, which include Château Margaux vintages dating from 1900, and 30 wines from Rioja's CVNE dating from 1946, "purchased directly from the estate," Cappiello maintains, "so we know the wines have not only been impeccably stored, but have also been resting comfortably." Yet the most difficult vertical to obtain was not the most expensive, it was Chablis from François Raveneau, going back to 1978. "which have become so heavily sought-after that even one or two bottles is a celebratory find," Cappiello reveals.

Destination Bottles:
 Vertical back to 1978 of François Raveneau Valmur (Chablis Grand Cru)
 Vertical back to 1900 of Château Margaux
 Vertical back to 1946 of CVNE Imperial Reserva (Rioja)

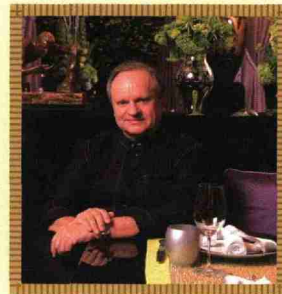
Pappas Bros. Steakhouse
 Houston, TX
 pappasbros.com



Since Wine Director Drew Hendricks feels red Burgundy is the ideal enhancement to the restaurant's celebrated dry-aged steaks, his expansive cellar contains vintages of La Tâche from Domaine de la Romanée-Conti. "Of course," he emphasizes, "we never forsake California. Our wine list offers more than 15 pages of acclaimed California Cabernet Sauvignons including a 27 vintage vertical of Heitz Martha's Vineyard starting with the 1967."

Destination Bottles:
 Château Mouton-Rothschild 1945 Pauillac
 Domaine de la Romanée-Conti 1957 La Tâche
 A vertical of Heitz Martha's Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley) back to 1967

L'Atelier de Joël Robuchon and Joël Robuchon
 Las Vegas, NV
 mgmgrand.com



"I have the opportunity to taste some of the best wines on earth," admits Wine Director Harley Carbery, who says that if he could open any bottle in his 1,900-label cellar it would be the 1947 Château Cheval Blanc. The cellar holds an eight-year vertical of Screaming Eagle dating from 1994, and a six-year vertical of Château Musar from Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, dating from 1966. That '47 vintage "is known to some as 'the best wine ever made,'" he notes, "and we received it directly from the chateau."

Destination Bottles:
 Château Cheval Blanc 1947 (St-Émilion)
 Eight-year vertical of Screaming Eagle Cabernet Sauvignon (Oakville)
 Six-year vertical of Château Musar Red Wine (Bekaa Valley)

Charlie Trotter's
 Chicago, IL
 charlietrotters.com

Beyond the 1865 Lafite, the 1900 Margaux and Château d'Yquem from 1845 and 1857, the Trotter cellar has collected verticals such as Château Mouton-Rothschild from 1945 to 2003, and uncommon large formats like an Imperial of 1990 Penfolds Grange. Many of these releases are accessible to Chef Trotter because of his friends in the wine world, observes Wine Director Ryan Stetins. Jason Lett of Eyrie Vineyards offered a Pinot Noir vertical going back to the early 1970's, he reveals, and the cellar received its large-format bottles of single-vineyard Barolos directly from Piedmontese winemaker Angelo Gaja. Purchasing wines like these on the open market can be problematic, Stetins says, "not simply because of scarcity, but for confidence that the wine has been shipped, stored and cellared to our standards." At Trotter's, all wines on the 1,500-label list are housed in temperature-and humidity-controlled redwood cellars.

Destination Bottles:
 Château Margaux 1900 Margaux
 Vietti 1998 Brunate (Barolo)
 Eyrie 1976 South Block Reserve Pinot Noir (Willamette Valley)

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