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O'Doul's Wins Wine Spectator Award

ROBSON STREET - Along with 190 of the best restaurants across Canada, O'Doul's Restaurant & Bar has been awarded Wine Spectator Magazine's "Award of Excellence". It is the 8th consecutive year that O'Doul's has received this prestigious award.

James Molesworth of Wine Spectator captures the significance of this award most succinctly, "Our 24th annual Wine Spectator Restaurant Award list provides a guide to restaurants that take wine as seriously as you do." The Award of Excellence recognizes a restaurant's commitment to a fine wine list, with a strong selection of high quality producers along with a thematic match to the menu in both price and style. Award of Excellence lists typically offer at least 80 selections.

The requirements of the award are rigorous. Wine lists must provide vintages and appellations for all selections, including wines by-the-glass. Overall presentation and appearance of the list is taken into consideration and yes, spelling counts! The submitted wine list must be an exact copy of what is currently in use in the restaurant. Lists entered for judging must accurately reflect what the restaurant's customers have access to.

"Receiving an Award of Excellence from Wine Spectator magazine is an annual goal of our management team," states Calvin DesChene, O'Doul's Sommelier and Assistant Manager of the hotel and restaurant operation. "It also helps us justify the hundreds of hours we commit to our wine program." O'Doul's staff attend food and wine tastings every week of the year at pre-shift meetings. The emphasis is on regional wine and food pairings and on, as DesChene states enthusiastically, "Having fun!"

O'Doul's offers over 350 selections and boasts a cellar of almost 5000 bottle. The restaurant's goal is to offer premium quality, exceptionally priced wines to accompany every guest's meal. Motivated by the belief that regional ingredients and recipes are best paired with regional beverages, O'Doul's offers a proportionally large selection of wines from British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest.

The O'Doul's wine list is designed to be user-friendly. The list is presented in the order most guests proceed through their dining experience: wines by-the-glass, sparkling wines and half bottles for cocktails or to accompany appetizers and then red or white table wines, by the bottle or magnum, to accompany main courses. Dessert wines are presented and listed on our separate dessert menu.

On each page, wines are listed by varietal, in a general sense, from lightest-bodied to fullest-bodied, to assist in food and wine pairing. "If you balance the wine with the food by choosing one that will seem about the same weight as the food, you raise the odds dramatically that the match will succeed." asserts Harvey Steiman of Wine Spectator Magazine. O'Doul's also denotes wines with sweetness by marking them with an asterisk.

O'Doul's Restaurant & Bar has been a tradition on the Vancouver dining scene for over 30 years and in the words of Mia Stainsby, restaurant critic for the Vancouver Sun "...it's never been better." In its most recent incarnation the focus is on West Coast cuisine, an extensive and user-friendly wine list and on presenting the best of the vibrant local jazz scene, 7 nights a week!

O'Doul's Restaurant & Bar is located in The Listel Hotel, recently dubbed "A cultural tourist's dream*". The Listel Hotel boasts a perfect location on the city's most eclectic shopping and dining street and has a reputation for creative partnerships with some of the city's most significant cultural organizations, including the Buschlen Mowatt Gallery and the Museum of Anthropology.

For additional information on O'Doul's Restaurant & Bar please view the website at www.odoulsrestaurant.com. For reservations or consumer information please call 604.661.1400.

MEDIA OUTLETS

For additional information, please contact
Lise Magee, Director of Public Relations
The Listel Hotel and O'Doul's Restaurant & Bar
1300 Robson Street (@Jervis)
Vancouver, BC V6E 1C5
t.604.690.1852 f. 604.684.7092 e. lise@thelistelhotel.com
www.odoulsrestaurant.com and www.thelistelhotel.com

* Georgia Straight's "Best of Vancouver" issue, September 2002.
To view O'Doul's Restaurant & Bar's wine list, go to www.odoulsrestaurant.com/wine_list.htm
For information on the Wine Spectator Awards go to www.winespectator.com