

you had me at merlot

FROM PINOT TO BORDEAUX, RAISE A GLASS TO THE CITY'S MOST DECADENT WINE BARS.

BY XICHELLE MONTES

Alizé

Inspired by the French Caribbean Islands, André Rochat's Alizé is a whimsical dining adventure with breathtaking views and some of Vegas's best wines. With more than 7,500 selections in its inventory, Alizé's two-story wine cellar is a dream. **Palms Casino Resort, 702-951-7000; alizev.com**

Aureole

Experience Las Vegas theatrics and world-class cuisine at Charlie Palmer's Aureole, where the architecture is as alluring as the food. A four-story, temperature-controlled, glass-and-steel tower holds 10,000 of Palmer's selections navigated by aerialist wine angels who fetch your chosen bottle. **Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino, 702-632-7401; charliepalmer.com**

D.O.C.G. Enoteca

Named after the highest level of Italian wine, Denominazione di Origine Controllata e Garantita, the casual, rustic D.O.C.G. features a wide selection of wines, pizzas, and steaks that provides a hearty taste of Italy right here at home. **The Cosmopolitan, 702-698-7920; cosmopolitanlasvegas.com**

d.vino

d.vino invites guests to indulge in the savory flavors of Italy (think wood-fired pizzas and a formaggio and salami bar) and sample

rare wines from a state-of-the-art Enomatic wine-serving system in 1 oz., 2 oz., or 5 oz. pours. **Monte Carlo Resort & Casino, 702-730-7966; montecarlo.com**

Ferraro's Italian Restaurant & Wine Bar

Ferraro's boasts a wine list that has been recognized by *Wine Spectator* with a "Best of" Award of Excellence. The restaurant stocks an extensive collection of Italian vino, but also quality domestics, like a 2003 bottle of Colgin from Napa Valley (\$550), and a rare Château Lafite Rothschild (\$2,400). **4480 Paradise Road, 702-364-5300; ferraroslasvegas.com**

Marché Bacchus

This romantic French bistro and wine market gem is in beautiful Desert Shores in northern Summerlin. Cozy up to the patio fireplace and enjoy Marché Bacchus's impressive wines and fresh, authentic European dishes, which make for a charming dinner *à deux*. **2620 Regatta Drive, 702-804-8008; marchebackchus.com**

Onda Ristorante & Wine Lounge

A marriage of classic rustic Italian cuisine and American innovation makes Onda Ristorante an instant crowd pleaser. Choose the formal dining room or grab a table in the lounge, which offers wine by

the glass, tasting flights, and artisanal cheese and meats. **The Mirage Hotel & Casino, 866-339-4566; mirage.com/restaurants**

Picasso

Using regional French and Spanish cuisines as its muses, Picasso provides a dining experience as enthralling as the master's art. The wine selection features nearly 1,500 selections from only the finest European vineyards. The stunning works of Pablo Picasso help set the romantic mood. **Bellagio, 702-693-8865; bellagio.com/restaurants**

Sinatra

Raise your glass at Sinatra, a handsome restaurant that embodies the charisma and cool of Ol' Blue Eyes himself. This culinary spectacle features a selection of more than 500 wines, including a rare 2000 Château Pétrus, the ultimate Merlot. **Encore, 702-770-3463; wynnlasvegas.com/dining**

Valentino

With a wine selection of more than 2,400 bottles, the world-renowned Valentino is a paradise for both connoisseurs and novices. Headed by James Beard Award-winning executive Italian chef Luciano Pellegrini, this unforgettable gem offers tasting menus and decadent desserts. **The Venetian, 702-414-3000; venetian.com** **V**



Onda
Ristorante &
Wine Lounge

WINE AND DINE

Co-proprietor Jeff Wyatt gives us a taste of Marché Bacchus.



What's the hottest wine for this Valentine's Day?

Brachetto d'Acqui is a red wine from southern Piedmont in Italy that is slightly-to-medium sweet and slightly sparkling. The aromas of dark raspberry and dark cherry appeal to almost everyone.

Any rare finds? Our selections are a little more esoteric than our competitors'. We have hard-to-locate cult wines as well as a 955 Chateau Petrus and several vintages of Domaine de la Romanée Conti stored at an offsite location. Those are rare to see indeed!

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF MARCHÉ BACCHUS (SIDE BAR)



Marché
Bacchus's
romantic patio
overlooking
Lake Jacqueline