

VIRGINIA WINE ★ THE KENTUCKY BOURBON TRAIL ★ SOUTHERN SODA ★ RYE WHISKEY

imbibe

LIQUID CULTURE



THE 100 BEST PLACES TO DRINK IN THE SOUTH



PLUS Homemade Pickled Okra ★ Iced Tea Cocktails ★
The 5 Best Mint Juleps ★ Southern Brews We Love ★
John T. Edge on Eating and Drinking in the South ★



★
FIG co-owner Adam Nemirow in Charleston.

BEST WINE LISTS ★

CITY GROCERY

The more formal site to sister restaurant Snackbar (see "Best Contemporary Cocktails"), City Grocery has become an Oxford institution for its fusion of classic French cuisine with traditional southern flavors. Wash down dishes like fried pimento cheese salad, Creole-spiced mahi or Cabernet-braised oxtail with wines from their 140-plus bottle list,

including a tasty mix of Old World gems and New World favorites.

152 Courthouse Square,
Oxford, MS; 662-232-8080;
citygroceryonline.com

ELIZABETH ON 37TH

Though the 250-plus wine list seems more than adequate on many accounts, it's only a sampling of the James Beard award-winning restaurant's

staggering 10,000-plus bottle cellar. And come Mint Julep season, you won't want to miss Elizabeth's version of the venerable classic.

105 E. 37th St., Savannah,
GA; 912-236-5547;
elizabethon37th.net

FIG

Featuring 100 wines all under \$100, FIG has taken care to seek out inexpensive wines that taste like they're worth much more. And the bar keeps imbibers of other persuasions satisfied with a small but

impressive selection of international beers and a creative cocktail menu that includes mix-and-match Manhattans where you choose your own bourbon, bitters and vermouth.

232 Meeting St., Charleston,
SC; 843-805-5900; eatatfig.com

HIGHLANDS BAR AND GRILL

With a wine list that covers 20 pages and four continents, you'd be hard-pressed not to find a bottle to pair with dishes like stone-ground grits, fresh Gulf shrimp and fried Georgia quail at Highlands in Birmingham.

2011 11th Ave. S., Birmingham,
AL; 205-939-1400;
highlandsbarandgrill.com

JULEP'S

The unrivaled collection of Virginia wines, tasting flights and winemaker dinners earn Julep's a spot on our list—the wine-savvy staff, worldly selection and value-minded options are icing on the cake.

1719 E. Franklin St.,
Richmond, VA; 804-377-3968;
juleps.net

LANTERN RESTAURANT

Asian food and white wine is an undeniably delicious pairing, yet it can be hard to find an Asian restaurant whose wine program is on par with the quality of food. But the wine list at Lantern is light years beyond many restaurants, not just those dedicated to Asian cuisine, with discerning attention paid to small European estates and boutique importers.

423 W. Franklin St., Chapel
Hill, NC; 919-969-8846;
lanternrestaurant.com



MILLER UNION

With one of the lowest wine-list markups in the city, more than two-dozen by-the-glass options and an exceptional bottle menu peppered with options from both Virginia and Georgia, it's hard not to find something to pair with Miller Union's ever-changing entrées like pan-seared duck breast and braised pork shank. The cocktails are equally tempting. *999 Brady Ave., Atlanta, GA; 678-733-8550; millerunion.com*

MUSS & TURNER'S

The folks at Muss & Turner's describe their wine menu as "overly simplified yet purposefully unique," and that's exactly why we appreciate it. There are more than 25 well-priced wines by the glass, organized by categories like "Light, Beau-

tiful & Sexy" or "A Beast but So Good." The bottle list is equally well-chosen, with a solid mix of domestic and international labels. And if you're in the mood for beer, M&T's has a fantastic selection with everything from a bottled Terrapin rye to Ommegang Hennepin on draught.

1675 Cumberland Pkwy SE, Smyrna, GA; 770-434-1114; mussandturners.com

RESTAURANT EVE

The wine list at Restaurant Eve reads more like a novel dedicated to every great wine bottled over the past three decades, including some that are difficult to find anywhere else in the entire country, let alone the South.

110 S. Pitt St., Alexandria, VA; 703-706-0450; restauranteve.com



★
Ice buckets ready for wine and Manhattans ready for drinking at FIG.

ST. JOHN'S RESTAURANT

Housed in a former hotel and brothel, St. John's Restaurant achieves all sorts of deliciousness with its farm-fresh dishes and internationally eclectic wine list that includes multi-vintage verticals, lesser-known varietals and even a Sauvignon Blanc from Israel. Plus, nearly a quarter of the 250-plus bottles are priced under \$50.

1278 Market St., Chattanooga, TN; 423-266-4400; stjohnsrestaurant.com

TRUMMER'S ON MAIN

Originally built as a hotel in 1869, this restaurant boasts an impressive wine collection that's housed in their

8,000-bottle-capacity cellar and includes more than two-dozen local Virginia offerings.

7134 Main St., Clifton, VA; 703-266-1623; trummersonmain.com

WATERMARK RESTAURANT

Since opening in 2005, Watermark has left an indelible mark on Nashville's food and drinks scene, boasting what's arguably the largest wine list in the city, which means wine lovers of every stripe will find something that suits their tastes.

507 12th Ave. S., Nashville, TN; 615-254-2000; watermark-restaurant.com