

Brennan's®

Wine Spectacle

The Wine Room at Brennan's reflects the glory of 200 years, 15,000 bottles, and a 16' slab of cypress

The historic 1795 structure that has housed Brennan's since 1956 boasts a series of glamorous dining rooms, each resplendent with distinctive character, opulence, and whimsy. And in the cool of the cellar, the Wine Room is a destination all its own.

Brennan's Wine Room reveals that the headquarters of one of the most celebrated wine programs in town is also a stunning place to gather, drink, dine, and celebrate in an atmosphere of rugged sophistication. Located in the original carriage house and stable of the property, the two-story space has served as a cellar for decades, but has recently been extensively overhauled to optimize both storage conditions and organization. Authentic charm remains in abundance, in walls and archways of centuries-old brick, and rough-hewn beams supporting a ceiling through which hay was once tossed. Large vintage photographs of the cellar's early days and a prominent antique compass plaque add historic gravity to the relatively informal setting. Anchoring the space is a massive table fashioned from a single 16-foot log of sinker cypress from a bayou in Mississippi, flanked by sixteen red leather chairs backed in bold red-and-white gingham.

Brennan's prepares nouvelle-Creole cuisine that is adapted to the classic French tableside service. Guests dine amidst the bins and barrels of the fully functioning cellar, and indulge in a multi-course tasting menu with wine pairings, a parade of courses, each prepared on a cart tableside, that might feature *Duck Egg Caesar Salad*, *Steak Diane*, a whole roasted fish plated *in situ*, and Brennan's signature *Bananas Foster*, flambéed before your eyes atop the gueridon.

The new Brennan's team made a significant investment in rebuilding the wine list, increasing its total selections by 50%, with special attention to boutique producers, varietals, and other formats. As a "Grande Dame" of New Orleans Creole cuisine, the Brennan's cellar has one foot in the past, honoring classic regions and producers; the other foot steps boldly forward, into up-and-coming territory. A list of Champagnes nears one hundred offerings.

The Wine Room is the domain of Beverage Director and Sommelier, Braithe Tidwell, who upholds the restaurant's commitment to the highest quality wine service with an emphasis on ongoing professional training for the staff: her service team is comprised of all women who are certified by the Court of Master Sommeliers. Representing the Brennan family's fourth generation of restaurateurs to serve at its flagship namesake, Kathryn Brennan was the first member to have passed the first level of the CMS course, on her way to certification.

All the effort pays off. From the expertise of the service to the softly lit ambiance, and from the sumptuous menu to the depth of the wine list, dining in the cellar has never been such a thrill.

For more information:

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