

## The Damariscotta River Grill Wins the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence for the Fourth Year in a Row

(Damariscotta, Maine) August 26, 2011 - Wine Spectator's Restaurant Wine List Awards recognize restaurants whose wine lists offer interesting selections, are appropriate to their cuisine and appeal to a wide range of wine lovers. These annual awards by Wine Spectator, one of the world's leading wine appreciation publications, recognize the restaurants offering a well-chosen selection of at least 100 wines by a number of quality producers that match the menu in both price and style.

"Receiving the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence is a happy and confirming event for me," said Sharon Hobston, the Damariscotta River Grill's Wine Director. "We have been consciously moving our wine list toward wines that best compliment our menu and our clientele. I'm proud that ¼ of our 121 bottle list is now under \$20 and that we've increased the global and grape varietal diversity of the list. I believe that being the steward of this list and the rich wine programming at the Damariscotta River Grill is one of the most interesting, gratifying, and enjoyable jobs in Maine."

The Damariscotta River Grill takes wine seriously. Staff training and tastings are conducted at least weekly. This year, the restaurant's six-year-old wine club nearly doubled in size with members enjoying entertaining programs as Introducing Greek Wines and Paso Robles Wines. Focused wine flights are offered daily. Every Wednesday is Winey Wednesday with special wine programming such as vino101 where less common grape varietals such as Godello and Schiava are offered by the ounce.

### **About the Damariscotta River Grill:**

Since its successful launch in late 2003, the Damariscotta River Grill has firmly established itself as a welcome addition to the coastal Maine dining scene. Owned and operated by husband-and-wife team Rick Hirsch (Executive Chef) and Jean Kerrigan (General Manager), the popular restaurant's creative menu features fresh local shellfish, produce and meals, and a Wine Spectator award-winning wine list and a favorite of locals and visitors alike. Chef/Owner Richard Hirsch was awarded the 2010 Maine Restaurant Association Chef of the Year. For more information please visit <http://www.damariscottarivergrill.com/>.

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