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## **DAMARISCOTTA RIVER GRILL EARNS NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION'S STATE "RESTAURANT NEIGHBOR AWARD"**

**Damariscotta, ME** – Damariscotta River Grill ([www.damariscottarivergrill.com](http://www.damariscottarivergrill.com)), the popular midcoast restaurant known for its locally sourced food and award-winning wine selection, has been selected as a state winner of the National Restaurant Association's (NRA) distinguished "Restaurant Neighbor Award." Owned and operated by husband-and-wife team Chef Rick Hirsch and General Manager Jean Kerrigan, Damariscotta River Grill is now a finalist for the NRA's national Restaurant Neighbor Award, to be announced September 23rd at the NRA 2008 Annual Public Affairs Conference in Washington, DC.

In its tenth year of presenting the annual "Restaurant Neighbor" awards, the NRA continues to recognize restaurants around the nation (two in each state) whose teams consistently dedicate their time, resources and commitment to the betterment of the communities around them. Celebrated for its regional New England upscale comfort food and wine varieties, Damariscotta River Grill received the award due to its consistent efforts in working with and raising awareness of local charitable events and fundraisers throughout their Maine community.

"It has always been so important for us to give back to our community," Kerrigan said. "So many locals have supported us through the years; the least we can do is give back when we can through special projects and community efforts."

Since the restaurant's launch in 2003, the team at Damariscotta River Grill has been actively involved in helping host and organize a wide variety of special community outreach events. The local Big Brothers/Big Sisters Wreath Auction, held during the holiday season at the restaurant, last year alone raised nearly \$7,000 for the local organization. The restaurant team also regularly donates time and resources to numerous community fundraisers and events, including Healthy Kids!, The Child Abuse and Neglect Council of Lincoln County in Maine, the Focus on Agriculture in Rural Maine Schools (F.A.R.M.S) project, and several local Skidompha Library events.

The Grill also is known also for hosting an ongoing "Art at the Grill" series, which features the work of local area artists in Maine. Designed to support local artists and display the creations of mid-coast artists, the series, which changes every six weeks, has featured over 40 artists since it began two years ago.

"We're so grateful to be a part of such an active, supportive community here in mid-coast Maine," said Chef Hirsch. "The NRA's Restaurant Neighbor Award just goes to show how lucky we all are to live in a place that really values people helping people."



***Chef Rick Hirsch of Maine's  
popular Damariscotta River  
Grill***

## **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 has been a favorite of locals, summer visitors and vacationing celebrities alike.

The Damariscotta River Grill is equally regarded for its impressive wine list, which features a generous selection of both Old- and New-World varietals. The restaurant team's longtime involvement and interest in the "wine world" led them to form their popular Damariscotta River Grill Wine Club in February of 2006. The restaurant's owners have hosted a variety of established vintners from the U.S. and abroad during the Wine Club's monthly food and wine "classes," and the wine club's membership continues to grow.

Damariscotta River Grill  
155 Main Street  
Damariscotta, ME 04543

*For additional information or reservations, phone the Damariscotta River Grill at 207/563-2992, or visit [www.damariscottarivergrill.com](http://www.damariscottarivergrill.com).*

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