

Biltmore
CORAL GABLES ~ MIAMI

PRESS ROOM

THE BILTMORE'S PALME D'OR NAMED BEST RESTAURANT IN SOUTH FLORIDA

Against Strong Competition, Resort's Signature Dining Experience Also Wins for Best Wine Program

CORAL GABLES --- From posh Palm Beach to colorful, fast-paced Miami to the Florida Keys, the densely populated cosmopolitan region of South Florida is a diner's paradise. Thousands of restaurants representing virtually every culinary tradition and national heritage, many led by internationally acclaimed celebrity chefs, vie for the attention and praise of a sophisticated clientele.

In this highly charged world of fine dining, even to be nominated as Best Restaurant in South Florida would be an accomplishment. This makes the Biltmore's recent stunning success in the 2006 South Florida Dining Awards all the more remarkable. Not only was the resort's signature restaurant, Palme d'Or, voted "Number One in South Florida" but the restaurant also won for "Superior Wine Program." Presented by the Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association and produced by New Times newspapers, the winners in the competition are chosen by food critics representing the broadest and most diverse culinary interests from New Times and other prestigious media across the region.

"We are thrilled that Palme d'Or has been so honored by the people who know food and wine best," said Dennis Doucette, The Biltmore's general manager. "South Florida is one of America's liveliest and most competitive dining scenes.

To go up against the best in Miami, Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale and elsewhere, and win, is an extraordinary accomplishment. Our goal at The Biltmore has been to create South Florida's most sophisticated, innovative and enjoyable dining experience and this is a very welcoming confirmation that we are delivering on target with that expectation."

Under the imaginative direction of the young, personable French-born chef, Philippe Ruiz, with a dining room staff ably led by Maitre D' Sebastien Verrier, Palme d'Or features a unique tasting menu showcasing innovative interpretations of classic Continental cuisine, with much of the exceptional ingredients flown in directly from Paris and elsewhere. Dynamic wine pairings, of premium vintages or outstanding discoveries by Verrier, play a vital role in creating a memorable, one-of-a-kind dining experience. Guests may make their own selections – including some 100 wines by the glass – or put their trust in the hands of the restaurant's well-informed young staff.

Palme d'Or is one of four restaurants at The Biltmore, each with its own personality. For a casually elegant, Mediterranean inspired dining experience there is 1200 Courtyard Grill, named after the resort's address, 1200 Anastasia Avenue in Coral Gables. Indoors the atmosphere is created by a gleaming, bustling open kitchen and a cool and soothing décor of marble, copper and earth tones. Elaborate buffets such as the luncheon tapas menu and the famous Sunday Brunch add flashes of color. Beyond floor to ceiling glass doorways is the tropical calm of the courtyard with its tables circling a large splashing fountain, shaded by palms and other rich foliage. Indoors or out, 1200 serves elegantly simple dishes reflecting the traditions of Tuscany and Spain, and uses the freshest of Florida's seafood and the finest of produce.

The Biltmore's newest restaurant is a re-conceptualized, poolside dining experience. Once little more than a snack bar, Cascade has reopened for all day and evening dining al fresco at the edge of the resort's famous swimming pool, the largest of any hotel in America, and overlooking the finishing hole of the Biltmore Golf Course. In addition to such favorites as Florida stone crab and lobster, Cascade offers a selection of healthy spa cuisine dishes, many prepared from organic ingredients.

Finally, the Biltmore offers the 19th Hole Sports Bar and Grill at the golf course's clubhouse. Catering to golfers and tennis players as well as hotel guests, the restaurant offers a very casual ambiance, with outdoor seating and an indoor sports bar environment complete with televisions showing only sports programming.