

MARKET INTELLIGENCE ON WINE, SPIRITS AND BEER

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MARKET WATCH

Summer Waves

BROTHER JIMMY'S ON THE RISE • CRAFT BEER'S TIPPING POINT • MIXOLOGY: VODKA



Historic Boston Building Becomes A Classic Tavern

Situated in a building that dates back to the 1800s, Russell House Tavern recognizes its historic roots while also offering a modern experience. The restaurant opened in April in Harvard Square in the Boston suburb of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Emphasizing local ingredients, the tavern offers a seasonal menu of classic New England dishes updated with modern touches, as well as a lengthy list of craft beers, wines and specialty drinks. Signature dishes include a chilled lobster pot served with crushed potato and chorizo aioli,



Beer reigns at Boston's Russell House Tavern, which offers roughly 50 brews to pair with a variety of classic New England fare that's been tweaked with modern touches.

tavern pizzas, a slow-cooked lamb shank and the Ozark Heritage Pork Trio (entrées are \$10 to \$28). Russell House offers 12 draft beers, a few cask ales, roughly 30 bottled brews and several canned selections (beers range from \$4 to \$26), all listed with their place of origin and alcohol-by-volume percentage. In addition, the restaurant has more than 50 wines (\$5 to \$16 a glass; \$20 to \$79 a 750-ml. bottle), all from the United States, including a red and white made in nearby Westport, Massachusetts. Cocktails (\$8 to \$12) are separated into classic and modern drinks, and are prepared with fresh juices and house-made infusions. The tavern, which is The Grafton Group's fifth restaurant in greater-Boston, spans two floors and is separated into several different rooms.

PHOTOS BY (LEFT) CONNIE MILLER; (RIGHT) SAMMY DRESS

Florida Restaurant Offers Italian Fare By The Sea

The Italian grill Via Luna opened in March in The Ritz-Carlton Fort Lauderdale hotel, offering classic Italian cuisine and beautiful ocean views. The restaurant is equal parts casual and elegant, with marble floors and floor-to-ceiling windows. Dinner entrées



Via Luna serves traditional Italian food, wine and cocktails in an oceanfront setting.

range from meat and fish to traditional spaghetti and meatballs made using the chef's grandmother's recipe (entrées are \$15 to \$38). Via Luna has a broad wine list of global selections highlighting Italy, France and the United States, and each wine is listed with tasting notes (wines are \$12 to \$26 a glass; \$45 to \$4,000 a 750-ml. bottle). Several ocean- and moon-themed specialty drinks (\$14) are available as well. Via Luna also houses a private wine room, an outdoor patio and the Via Luna Bar, which displays a large mural of King Neptune, the Greek god of the sea. **mw**

—Laura Pelner

Puck Opens Asian Eatery....Microbrewer Offers Upscale Fare....Fusion Goes Fast Casual....

❖ Wolfgang Puck debuted the upscale Asian eatery WP24 in April in the new Ritz-Carlton Los Angeles. Located on the hotel's 24th floor, the restaurant serves modern Asian fare, such as small plates and sushi. Several sakes and more than 400 wines, including some from the Far East, are also available.

❖ All things beer come together at Social Kitchen & Brewery, a chic microbrewery and restaurant that opened in April in San Francisco. The beer-centric space spans three levels and offers myriad house-made brews. In addition, the menu of upscale fare is designed to pair with beer, and several items incorporate beer in their recipes.

❖ Boasting a menu that's rooted in India, Thailand, Japan, China and Vietnam, Bistro Babusan opened in April in the Dallas suburb Fairview. The fast-casual Asian fusion concept has a varied food menu and serves a few Asian beers, wines and specialty drinks. Additional units are in the works.

❖ The Northern Italy-inspired Quattro Gastronomia Italiana opened in April in the Trump Soho Hotel in New York City. The venue specializes in classic Italian fare, serving an array of pastas, seafood and prime meats. In addition, Italian cocktails are available, as are 150 wines, including several half-bottles. **mw**

—L.P.