

MORE THAN 1,400 WINES RATED

# Wine Spectator

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## How UP FRONT

### Taste A Step-1 Guide

#### New Jersey's Answer To the Wine Tower



While Aureole Vegas is best known for turning the wine cellar into a glittering display, its glass tower now has company in New Jersey horse country.

The Pluckemin Inn, which opened in Bedminster in April, has a three-story showcase cellar that literally makes wine the centerpiece of a meal. The tower runs up through the warm, intimate dining rooms, putting many

of the 15,000 bottles on view.

Drawing on the passion and deep pockets of owners Carl and Gloria LaGrassa, sommelier Brian Hider has assembled a list of 1,060 wines. One hundred are set apart as special values. There isn't great depth yet, but the offerings cover a broad range of producers in Europe, the United States and Australia. The LaGrassas landed some of Doris Duke's cellar at a 2004 auction, so you can try rarities such as 1929 Château d'Yquem, for \$10,930.

—Owen Dugan

#### **Pluckemin Inn**

359 Route 202/206 and

Pluckemin Way, Bedminster

Telephone (908) 658-9292

Web site [www.pluckemininn.com](http://www.pluckemininn.com)

Open Dinner, Monday to Saturday

Cost Entrées \$24–\$50

### Tasting Report Brunello Super Tu

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