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WHIFF OF CHANGE
Cat Silirie notices a new clientele for wine.

JUST A TASTE

Women Who Give the Orders

When it comes to wine, ladies are doing the selecting and sniffing.

Waiters used to go straight to the man at the table to deliver the wine list and the selected bottle for sampling. But that's changing as some Boston restaurants have noticed that women are becoming more active wine lovers, buyers, and students (there is even a blossoming group of professional women in Boston, Divas Uncorked, whose mission is to educate women about wine). Geoffrey Fallon, sommelier at Les Zygomates Wine Bar & Bistro in Boston, says he's seeing more women ordering wine for the whole table. "We don't assume to bring the bottle to the man anymore. We always bring the wine [for tasting] to whoever ordered it," he says. Cat Silirie, the wine director at Boston's No. 9 Park, says her servers place the wine list on the table, rather than presenting it to a particular party member. Her customers ask a lot of questions about wine, and those questions, rather than bias or presumption, inform servers' suggestions. "Every day," she says, "I meet 10 people who want to learn more about wine — men and women of all ages." — *Julia Tolliver Maranan*



SECOND BITE

The Pick of the Vine

This North End gem sells winning wine.

Where do the experts buy wine? Cat Silirie, wine director at Boston's No. 9 Park, raises her glass to The Wine Bottega in the North End for its "wonderful tasting notes," handwritten cards next to each bottle with details ranging from producer history to suggested food pairings. With limited floor space, the shop is picky about which potables it purveys, and Silirie praises the diverse selection. "There's nothing run-of-the-mill — there's a reason why things are in

GREAT GRAPES The Wine Bottega is worth a visit.

there and why things aren't," she explains. "Less is sometimes more." (341 Hanover Street, Boston, 617-227-6607) — *J.T.M.*