

Wine Spectator

Posted: May 6, 2010



Courtesy of Basil

Brooklyn's finest temple of wine.

- Unfiltered traveled to Kingston Avenue in Brooklyn this past weekend to attend the opening of Basil, the first all-kosher wine bar in New York. Breakfast and coffee bar by morning and full-fledged wine bar and restaurant by night, Basil serves only kosher wines and only kosher food. But don't expect to find any gefilte fish or Manischewitz. The wine bar features Weinstock, Goose Bay and Baron Herzog by the glass and high-end bottles such as The Cave and Bartenura Ovadia Estates Barolo. Dishes draw from a Mediterranean, mostly Italian, influence. Highlights include Parmigiano and white asparagus with paprika on a wood-fired pizza, crisp, charred sardine tarts and fluke Milanese. As for the vibe, it's low-key and casual, a trendy but not intimidating neighborhood spot, according to owner Danny Branover. "I want a place where people can come together for good food and good drink," he said. The guest of honor was Brooklyn borough president **Marty Markowitz** who, by semi-official proclamation, declared Basil the "only exclusively kosher wine bar in the New York area, if not the entire U.S."

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