



inflight dining

SOMMELIER DAVID GORDON

Wine expert David Gordon is one of two celebrity sommeliers for Continental Airlines. He is also the wine director at the famous Tribeca Grill and is credited with making the restaurant a popular wine destination. With 1,800 handpicked selections, Tribeca is one of only five New York City restaurants to win *Wine Spectator's* coveted 2007 Grand Award. Gordon began his tenure when fellow Cornell University graduate Drew Nieporent and actor Robert De Niro opened the eatery in 1990. In addition to Tribeca Grill, Myriad Restaurant Group owns several eclectic restaurants, including Nobu, Rubicon, Centrico, Proof on Main, and the newly opened Mai House, which combines Vietnamese flavors with other Asian influences.

Gordon created the sake and wine list at Mai House, carefully pairing spicy wines with Mai's unique roster of dishes.

Gordon is also a frequent participant on the *New York Times* wine panel, which publishes a biweekly column rating new wines. He has been featured in many industry publications, including *Wine & Spirits* and *Santé*. Recently, the wine expert joined James Molesworth, senior editor at *Wine Spectator*, to film a food and wine pairing video for winespectator.com. Gordon paired Rhone wines with signature dishes pre-

pared by Tribeca Grill's executive chef, Stephen Lewandowski. Additionally, Gordon regularly shares his wine knowledge at sea as a guest lecturer for Crystal Cruise Lines.

For 17 consecutive years, Gordon has been a guest sommelier for *Wine Spectator's* Wine Experience. He and 20 other specially chosen guest sommeliers from around the country pretaste and decant several thousand bottles before they are served to more than a thousand wine lovers at various sit-down seminars throughout the event. The sommeliers provide a valuable service by detecting tainted bottles of wine before they are served.

Earlier this year, Gordon organized the sommelier service for La Paulée, a by-invitation wine tasting and dinner in which producers from the Burgundy region of France showcased their rarest and most prized wines for the participating guests. The Burgundian harvest celebration is held every year, and this year's guest chefs included the world-famous French stars Daniel Boulud and Michel Troisgros.

Each year Gordon flies to Napa Valley to visit various wineries. He is pictured here with his daughter, Ginger, on a recent trip he took with his family to the coast of Carmel, Calif. — T.B.

