

A GREAT BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AT PICHOLINE RESTAURANT

Sometimes in life, you get lucky; lucky to have a great family, a great staff and great friends. Last week I was also lucky to celebrate my birthday with all the above and at one of New York's great restaurants, [Picholine](#). Overseen and deftly orchestrated by my friend, [Terrance Brennan](#), who is Picholine's proprietor, chef and all around maestro. We began the meal with a magnum of [Erpacrife](#), 2004, which Terrance masterly paired with *Tuna "Napoleon" with Olive Oil Ice Cream, Sea Urchin Panna Cotta and Caviar and Lardo Epides Douces* – absolutely heavenly starters to an amazing experience.

For the next course we had a special treat, a 1958 Barolo [Marchese Di Barolo](#). This vintage which just happens to coincide with the year in which I was born, is certainly one of the best in the last century. It's amazing how well this wine presented. Complimenting the wine was a fantastic *Celery Root-Apple Agnolotti*. Kudos to Terrance who understands wine, as well as to his Wine Director, John Tarleton, who decanted all the wines we enjoyed with the rest of our meal including [Scarzello Barolo](#) 1984, 1985, 1997, 1995 and Scarzello 2000 Barolo Vigna Merenda. These wines were a terrific accompaniment to the next few dishes which included *Sea Bass 42, Skate Wing Pastrami, Millbrook Venison Loin and the Elysian Fields Farm Lamb*.

We continued to enjoy the wine with Picholine's well-known and highly regarded cheese selection, followed by a few tastings of perfectly prepared desserts. And to finish the meal, my wife's favorites, Picholine's delectable petit fours.

Many thanks to my great friend Terrance and to John Tarleton and staff for a truly memorable evening. Joining me for the festivities were my dear friend Federico Scarzello, [Scarzello's](#) wine maker, my wife, Linda Tantawi, Aaron Von Rock from [Lincoln Restaurant](#), Carolina from [Becco Restaurant](#), Gilda Galiano, Vignaioli's Director of Operations and Warner Strejan, Vignaioli Sales Rep.

Dino Tantawi









