

uncorked by Jessica Luck | Staff Writer

Cork restaurant hosts pairings



Christina Landry, Lisa Nisenson, Diana Michel, Debbie Marr and Lisa Morris



Anthony Bell owner of Bell Wine Cellars, with Betty and Tom Alpaugh

Cork Restaurant on St. Armands Circle has started something new. Every month, the restaurant plans to host a wine dinner, pairing wines from a featured vineyard with the restaurant's food, prepared especially for its accompanying wine.

The restaurant's seven-course wine dinner, held April 27, was well received by attendees. Everyone gave rapt attention to Anthony Bell, owner of Bell Wine Cellars in California, who informed the 20 diners about the history of his operation before the first course was served. Bell offers 29 vintages of wines and produces 15,000 cases a season.

Courses such as heirloom tomato salad, sablefish "gribiche" and lamb "two ways" were accompanied by Bell's 2005 Sauvignon Blanc, 2005 Chardonnay, 2003 Cabernet Sauvignon and 2003 Claret.

"I'm not sure we're so much in the wine business as the happiness business," Bell told the group as he explained his passion for making wine.