

# A TOAST TO TOAST

## RAISE A GLASS TO TOAST'S NEW MENU

by KELLY MCKAY photography by JON DONES

Toast, nestled in the heart of Downtown Birmingham, is a metro Detroit gem that has not gone unnoticed. What started as a breakfast and lunch diner in Ferndale has expanded and opened a second location with the versatility to please any crowd. Toast celebrated its one-year anniversary in October and introduced a new executive chef, Jeff Rose. With a new dinner menu, live entertainment, delicious cocktails, and affordable prices, it's safe to say Toast isn't just for breakfast anymore.

Rose, who started in the food service industry at 14 as a dish washer, has created

a menu with his French-inspired style of cooking that is sure to have something for everyone. While his culinary background includes impressive establishments such as Tribute, Sweet Lorraine's, Big Rock Chop House and Michael Symon's Roast, what he is doing at Toast is different and refreshing. His fine dining background, combined with the casual, laid-back atmosphere of Toast, gives way for creative and fun-yet-still-refined gourmet dishes.

The eclectic vintage décor melds well with the cozy atmosphere and delectable entrees. The innovative menu offers

everything from Duck Confit to Macaroni and Cheese made with creamy goat cheese and smoked Gouda. The Crispy Shrimp appetizer is a must. The incredibly delicious shrimp are wrapped in philo and drizzled with a tangy ginger tomato sauce. They're light, they're crispy, and the surprise pop of ginger is a fun indulgence for discerning taste buds. Be sure to visit often, though — the menu changes seasonally, which keeps Toast from becoming stale.

Regardless of what a customer orders, the dish will be prepared with only the freshest local and natural ingredients available. "There's not a single company we work with without Michigan roots," says General Manager Kevin Mazziccia. "We don't want to reach out for foods more than we need to. It's about the people, the staff, and the neighborhood. Taking something simple and doing it really well."

Toast's wine selection is nothing less than impressive, and oenophiles are guaranteed to find the perfect pairing for their entrees. With more than 30 wines by the glass and up to 50 wines by the bottle, there is surely something for everyone. Every wine available has a unique story and can't be found just anywhere. Whether it's a boutique wine (made in limited quantities) or wine made by female-owned vineyards, there is something unique to tantalize every palate.

Try the Vina Robles 2008 WHITE4, which is made of the original four old-world grapes, or stop in and wind down on Wine Down Wednesdays, when select wines are half off. For those looking for something a little stronger, try the Blueberry Margarita, made with muddled blueberries, Sauza Gold, Patron Citronge and sparkling wine. This one is dangerously smooth with the perfect mix of sweet and tart.

Toast is the kind of place where diners can come as they are without having to sacrifice excellent service, impressive dishes and fine cocktails. So stop on in, raise a glass and share a toast. Cheers!

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[www.toastbirmingham.com](http://www.toastbirmingham.com)

Black Truffle Risotto with ratatouille, frisée salad and Kalamata olives

