



BEST BITES

Kybecca's Wine Bar

For three years, Kybecca has established itself as the destination for fine wine in the Fredericksburg region. With a vast array of reds and white, cheeses and other wine accessories, it's no wonder people equate Kybecca with quality service and top-quality wine. Since 2005, owners Kyle and Rebecca Snyder have worked hard to make their business several wine glasses above the local fare. They're at it again with their most recent addition: a mesmerizing wine bar in historic downtown Fredericksburg.

I had heard a lot about their newest edition, and I was excited to experience the ambiance and culture in person. The tapas (appetizers only) bar is located in a post-civil war building that once served as Fredericksburg's general store. One look at the interior and you can tell the owners were adamant about making the place supremely elegant. There are original tin ceilings, wood floors, sophisticated lighting, bountiful space and other old and new architectural details. For an added touch, beautiful Christopher A. Rok photographs adorn the earth-tone colored walls.

My first thought when I entered the popular bar: This is the future of Fredericksburg dining-- a classic colonial setting with a hint of up-scale decor. As their elaborate Web site can attest, Kybecca's wine bar is a natural evolution from their popular wine shops (they have one other

location off of Plank Road.) In fact, nearly every aspect of the wine bar was crafted by hand. From the comfortable furniture and open kitchen to the massive concrete bar, it's evident the owners wanted to infuse their own look and feel to the place.

If that wasn't enough to set the place apart from other local wine bars, Kybecca also offers self-service wine stations called Enomatics (they're the only place in the region to offer such an innovative approach to wine tasting). Enomatics are wine-dispensing machines that allow customers to have fun when tasting a wide variety of wines. Customers simply put a certain amount of money on a card, and then they get to test out the diverse array of wines at their leisure.

I was impressed with the aesthetics of the place, but I was even more impressed with their food and wine offerings. Their menu and wine list was robust, and it was tough choosing from such a wide variety of reasonably priced, delicious-sounding dishes. I ordered the lobster mint salad, eager to experience the culinary coupling of superb seafood and crisp greens. Accompanying the meal was a bottle of Shiraz; specifically, a 2006 Strong Arm from Australia. It was a delicious red with a little spice-- a perfect complement to the food to come. Preceding my elaborate appetizer was a generous bowl of green and black olives, bathed in

a pool of garlic sauce. Delicious. I split my time indulging in my olive enthusiasm and partaking in some bread delivered fresh from the oven. By the time my salad arrived, I was in a state of culinary bliss.

The prices were decent (you could dine with a date for less than \$50) and the service was above and beyond my expectations. In fact, at one point, Kyle himself came out to see how we were doing. What's more, he voluntarily re-cooked my date's meal, as she preferred her lamb chops a little less rare. The staff went out of their way to ensure we were in good hands, and we most certainly were.

Before leaving, we took one last moment to soak in the ambiance of the place. There was a terrifically comfortable feeling in the wine bar, and it's setting offered a graceful combination of big-city chic and small-town elegance-- the perfect combination for a night out in historic downtown Fredericksburg. If you have yet to experience this new tapas joint, you're in for a treat of delicious proportions. Just remember to bring your appetite, as their food selection is as diverse and dazzling as their wine.

— Nicholas Addison Thomas

To get a virtual tour of Kybecca's new wine bar, or for a full menu of their food and wine offerings, visit www.kybecca.com

400 William Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
540-373-3338

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Hours of operation
Stores:
Monday - Saturday: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Wine Bar:
Tuesday - Thursday: 5 p.m. - 11 p.m.
Friday and Saturday: 3 p.m. - 12 a.m.