



Monterey County Excels in the MICHELIN Guide California: Chez Noir Garners Coveted One Star, Aubergine’s Lead Sommelier Awarded and Maligne Earns Esteemed Bib Gourmand Status
Cementing Monterey County as a world-class culinary destination, Chez Noir, Aubergine and Maligne are MICHELIN’s only Central Coast recognitions of 2023

Monterey, Calif., July 19, 2023 – MICHELIN Guide announced the recipients of starred restaurants last night, awarding one star to [Chez Noir](#) (Carmel-by-the-Sea) helmed by Chef Jonny Black and Monique Black and appointing the MICHELIN Sommelier Award to John Haffey, Lead Sommelier of [Aubergine](#) (Carmel-by-the-Sea). These esteemed recognitions come on the heels of [Maligne](#) (Seaside) being named a Bib Gourmand. MICHELIN awarded Monterey County with the sole recognitions on the Central Coast this year with Chez Noir being one of only six California additions.

"Monterey County is reaching new heights as a world-class culinary destination and the prestigious MICHELIN star awarded to Chez Noir is another step in that direction," said Rob O'Keefe, president and CEO of Monterey County CVB. "MICHELIN is a beacon for travelers interested in culinary experiences and with our wide range of lush vineyards, a wealth of seafood and bountiful agriculture, our destination offers an unparalleled collection of epicurean adventure."

Chez Noir is an elevated seafood-centric restaurant that showcases pristine local Monterey Peninsula ingredients sourced directly from farmers and fisheries, serving as a love letter to the region. Hailing from Quince, Atelier Crenn and Per Se, Chef Jonny and Monique Black have reconceived the notion of fine dining with Chez Noir, offering a heightened dining experience in an approachable yet chic and modern setting. The beverage program, central to the restaurant’s success, is run by General Manager and Wine Director Nate Cohen, and Assistant General Manager and Bar Manager Ashley Havens, who mirror the ethos of Chef Black’s menu, highlighting the bounty of ingredients found in Monterey County. Chez Noir opened its doors in October 2022.

"We always envisioned our restaurant – while steeped in fine-dining techniques with a reverence for the best local ingredients – to feel like a lively dinner party at our home. We are honored to be recognized by the MICHELIN Guide for the work we’re doing in this community that we love so much," expressed Chef Johnny Black. "At the end of the day, we wanted to create a restaurant that could only exist here in Carmel. So many people from all over the world come to this area because it is their happy place, a sanctuary away from the rest of the world," adds Monique Black.

Aubergine’s Lead Sommelier, John Haffey, is celebrated as the Sommelier Award winner of 2023 for his expertly curated 1,800-selection wine list that complements Chef Just Cogley’s lauded tasting menu. Haffey joined Aubergine in 2018 after polishing his palate at local wineries throughout Carmel Valley, including Folktale Winery, and is a Certified Sommelier and French Wine Scholar. Aubergine has retained its one-star status designated in 2019 during the inaugural MICHELIN Guide California.

In the run-up to last night's award ceremony, the eponymous restaurant guide released Bib Gourmand, a list of restaurants offering high-quality, three-course meals at approachable prices, adding Maligne to the ranks. Chef and Owner Klaus Georis has curated a contemporary European and American menu fused with hyperlocal ingredients, serving as an everyday luxury in Seaside with his refined and rustic menu and interior design.

Chez Noir joins Aubergine as Monterey County's MICHELIN-starred restaurants, with Maligne and Yafa holding Bib Gourmand status, and an additional 16 recommended restaurants across Seaside, Monterey, Pebble Beach, Big Sur and Carmel.

Downloadable images can be found in our [media gallery here](#), and additional images can be requested to Media@SeeMonterey.com.

###

ABOUT MONTEREY COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

The Monterey County Convention & Visitors Bureau (Monterey County CVB) is a 501c6 non-profit organization that drives tourism for Monterey County. Tourism is the largest industry on the Monterey Peninsula and the second largest in the County. The MCCVB is a partnership of the hospitality community and local governments that aims to generate community prosperity and enrich economic vitality for Monterey County through the responsible promotion and growth of the tourism economy. Travel spending in Monterey County was nearly \$3 billion in 2022, supporting 25,370 jobs and generating \$307 million in state and local tax revenue that directly benefited the community. For more information, visit www.SeeMonterey.com and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

Media Contact

Emily Evans

Emily@SeeMonterey.com

831-657-6434