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## Coral Gables chamber gives out awards

By Sabrina Rodriguez  
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DANIEL BOCK / FOR THE MIAMI HERALD

Patrick Salerno, city manager of Coral Gables, left, congratulates Salvatore Catania, general manager of Cibo Wine Bar, middle, and Elie Iskandar, chief engineer of the construction of the bar, the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce City Beautiful Award Ceremony at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, Thursday, Aug. 16, 2012. Cibo Wine Bar won the Outstanding Restaurant Dining Room Award.

After almost 25 years in Coral Gables, the Actors' Playhouse was awarded the Outstanding Historic Preservation Award at the Sixth Annual City Beautiful Awards.

Sponsored by the city of Coral Gables and the city's Chamber of Commerce, the City Beautiful Awards recognize businesses for their commitment to aesthetic beauty and architectural achievements in the community.

"It's a combination of aspects that our judges look at," said Mark Trowbridge, President and CEO of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce. "We try to look overall at how local businesses contribute to our city."

This year, awards went to the Alhambra Towers and The Building on Ponce for Outstanding Interior and Exterior, respectively.

In recognition of the most outstanding retail showroom/ restaurant dining room, Cibo Wine Bar at 45 Miracle Mile was selected.

Cibo Wine Bar opened less than a year ago.

Designed by Nadia Di Donato and built by Alex Mendoza, CEO of Rompu Construction, Cibo Wine Bar offers the largest wine cellar in all of Coral Gables.

"Our restaurant definitely has one of the most dramatic interiors at the Mile," said Mendoza. "The style and feel shifts from room to room."

The restaurant was built with Chicago bricks and features an acrobatic "wine angel" who serves the wine at each customer's table.

Salvatore Catania, general manager of Cibo, mentions how the city has always welcomed creative new businesses on the Mile.

"Through the city's continuous efforts to recognize businesses in the community, more and more

people will get to enjoy a rich cultural experience,” said Barbara Stein, the executive producing director of the Actors’ Playhouse.

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