

## French gastronomy strikes back over restaurant rankings

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France struck back at foreign “world’s best restaurants” listings that ignore French restaurants with a list of its own in which five of the 10 top chefs are French.

“La Liste” ranks the world’s top 1,000 restaurants by aggregating scores of about 4,000 establishments in more than 200 international guidebooks and Web sites, including France’s Gault-Milau and Michelin, but also newspaper rankings, food blogs and customer-review-based sites such as Tripadvisor.

The list is an initiative from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ tourism council and is to be presented by French Minister of Foreign Affairs Laurent Fabius on Thursday.

“What is missing is an objective ranking of global gastronomy,” said Philippe Faure, a French diplomat in charge of tourism promotion and head of the Tables of Five Continents association that publishes La Liste.

The top restaurant in the list is Lausanne, Switzerland-based Le Restaurant de l’Hotel de Ville, run by French-born chef Benoit Violier.

Guy Savoy in Paris is ranked fourth, Maison Troisgros in Roanne eighth, l’Auberge du Vieux Puits in Fontjouce ninth and in 10th spot is the Tokyo-based restaurant of French chef Joel Robuchon.

Leading British reviewer “The World’s 50 Best Restaurants” only includes five French restaurants, with the first — the Mirazur in Menton — in 11th place.

Its top restaurant, El Celler de Can Roca in Girona, Spain, only comes in at sixth on the French list.

“The international rankings are not always transparent or objective and we observe that they have a bias towards playing down French gastronomy,” said Florian Escudie, a ministry tourism adviser.

La Liste includes 127 Japanese, 116 French, 97 American and 73 Chinese restaurants, as well as more than 50 Spanish and German establishments.

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