

EDITOR'S LETTER

What I Endorse



IT'S AN INTERESTING EXERCISE. Ask yourself, What do I endorse? Not just which political candidates or positions or parties, but what things in your life—people or practices or works of the imagination—do you think should be valued and are worthy of your endorsement? In this issue, we're putting ourselves on the line by endorsing a candidate in *every* race for statewide and national office during this month's historic election (page 140). But we've decided to go further and endorse many other ideas, products, and people we like and think matter. In fact, just about everything in this issue is an endorsement of some kind.

Several weeks ago, I asked Esquire's writers and editors to send me their endorsements of two things they think everyone should know about. They are scattered throughout this issue. But since I run the place, I decided to start with a few of my own.

I'll start small.

Lime. Not only is it the best *and* the most underrated form of citrus, but it improves everything that a citrus fruit can improve. Lemon? Come on. Grapefruit? Limited. Orange? Boring. But lime—heaven.

In honor of our annual Grooming Awards (page 66), I endorse **Old Spice Classic (Fresh)** deodorant, a product that I've used most of my life. But what makes it worthy of endorsement is that when the women I live with (my wife and two daughters) give me a hug hello or goodbye, they often dreamily remark that I smell good. There are more modern products, yes, but on some things a man has to take a stand.

In honor of our annual Best New Restaurants section in this issue (page 83), I endorse **Blue Hill at Stone Barns**, a restaurant in Pocantico Hills, New York. In the past, I have had bones to pick with this restaurant, mostly because it was the most recent epicenter for the religious fervor surrounding the "farm to table" movement. Come on—it's food. Cook it. Which is what chef Dan Barber and his crew are currently doing. Some of the novelty of having a farm outside your kitchen door and other farms lining up to grow food just for you has worn off since the place opened in 2004. Now the food is the star, not the fact of its proximity. And, having visited Stone Barns six or seven times in the last year, I have to say that it is one of the great dining experiences available in the United States.

In honor of the incredible effort **Tim Heffernan** and **Mark Warren** have put into our epic package of political endorsements this year, I also endorse their Herculean work ethic and precisely balanced judgment. It's staggeringly ambitious (quixotic?) to consider more than nine hundred candidates in nearly five hundred races and then to deftly summarize each of their merits. The end product is an act of faith on our part in the simplest and most profound civic act available to us as Americans.

—DAVID GRANGER

Esquire

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On everything. The greatest of all condiments, it turns any meal into candy.

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BEING A REGULAR

Bar, restaurant, deli, whatever. Same time every day. A rapport is built, the world seems smaller.