



Credit: Ryan Tanaka

Steve Oliva at [The Grill on the Alley](#)

Oliva has seen a lot happen in his 33 years of white-jacket service at one of the entertainment industry's biggest power-player spots in Beverly Hills. Not only has he worked here since 1986, he's a second-generation server, having joined his father 18 months after the restaurant opened. "Every night is a puzzle, and you put the pieces together as best you can, to make everybody happy. You bring together the pieces of the kitchen, the guest, the food and the staff. That's what I love," Oliva says. His memories are a who's who of Hollywood, from serving Johnny Carson huge portions of ham and eggs to watching Dustin Hoffman and Jennifer Garner work on a script in a booth. "That's just The Grill, being The Grill, being The Grill, and I love it," Oliva quips.