



Pineapple filled with coconut rice & topped with shrimp & bacon-wrapped scallop skewers

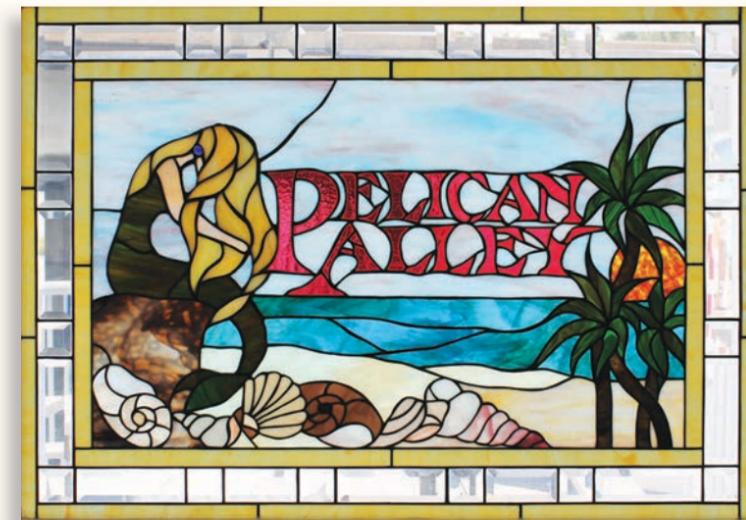
Back Alley baked grouper topped with lobster, shrimp, mushrooms, asparagus, and lobster



Lobster mac-n-cheese topped with Ritz cracker crumb crust

Homemade key lime pie

Blue crab stuffed pretzel with side of lobster sauce



A Tale of Dockside Dining

ARTICLE PROVIDED BY PELICAN ALLEY
VENICE GULF COAST LIVING MAGAZINE

Tucked away under the Albee Bridge is Pelican Alley, a unique dining establishment that has been dubbed many names over the last 40 years. Among the titles it's received, this waterfront treasure has been called "Nokomis's Best Kept Secret," has been recognized as one of the oldest restaurants in Sarasota County, and has gained renown as a documented Haunted Restaurant (to find out more, look up Pelican Alley Ghost on YouTube).

Owners Tommy and Renee Adorna share, "We'd like to add a new name to this list: Pelican Alley, Saving the Planet, One Reef at a Time. We partnered up with algae scientist and educator Garrett Stuart, who is better known as Captain Planet, to place artificial reefs under our dock to help with the red tide situation that continues to influence our community. We thank our chef, Eric Johns, who got in contact with the Captain and helped to get this project under way. Now, people are reaching out from all over the world to see how they can get involved. We came up with a beautiful bumper sticker and Gemini Apparel helped us with the printing. Available at Pelican Alley, you can receive one with as little as a \$5 donation and every \$300 raised goes to purchase another reef. We can all make a difference if we just do our part."

Speaking of Chef Eric, whose creativity in the kitchen made him a favorite with customers for eight years, Renee says, "We're thrilled to say that he is back! He rejoined the team at the tail end of season and runs the team in the kitchen along with Executive Chef Mark Petty. Eric's specials are making a huge splash, from his pineapple creations that are showcased every Friday night, to his new appetizer special, the blue crab stuffed pretzel with lobster sauce, and his award-winning Lobster Mac and Cheese served every Wednesday."

Tommy and Renee are at Pelican Alley daily, running the business along with Tommy's sister and General Manager, Jami Mattern. Renee operates a cute little gift shop that's chock-full



of everything anyone could want, and Tommy handles the day-to-day operations. In addition to appearing with The Gas House Gorillas rock band, the couple still performs every Friday night as Take 2 in the courtyard, entertaining thousands of people every year and earning recognition as Best Entertainers on Friday nights. Making it fun for all ages and families, Pelican Alley runs theme nights all year long. "We sell out every Friday," says Tommy, "so you need to make reservations early."

"In December, we are celebrating 40 years, so be on the watch for specials all month long," shares Renee. "This milestone is a huge accomplishment, especially in light of the challenges over the last few years including Hurricane Irma, red tide, and now covid. We have weathered all these storms and have come through even better than before." Come in and see the beautifully remodeled dining room including a glass floor to watch the fish in the Intracoastal, one-of-a-kind bar with the map of Intracoastal handmade by local artist Dustin Nichols, and brand-new state-of-the-art kitchen.

Pelican Alley will be hosting a fundraiser Art Auction on November 16 to help recoup funds lost due to the unprecedented circumstances over the last few years. The event will be open to the public, as will be the bar, but the restaurant will be closed on that date. The preview will begin at 4 p.m. and the auction will start at 5 p.m. Renee says, "Watch for the promo we'll be posting on our Facebook page closer to that date for more information about this exciting event!"

For more information about this advertorial, call 941.786.3616 or log on to Pelican-Alley.com. Located at 1009 W. Albee Rd. in Nokomis, Pelican Alley is open from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wed. through Mon. Reservations are taken and recommended.

Top and bottom row photos on opp. page and photos on this page by Kelli Tindall.
Center photo on opp. page provided by Pelican Alley.