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Summer 2019	256		\$336,111,368		\$1,312,935		107	
Summer 2020	554	116% ▲	\$852,578,798	154% ▲	\$1,538,951	17% ▲	126	18% ▲
Summer 2021	375	32% ▼	\$740,027,747	13% ▼	\$1,973,407	28% ▲	24	81% ▼

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	NUMBER OF SALES		DOLLAR VOLUME		AVERAGE SALE PRICE		DAYS ON MARKET	
Summer 2019	274		\$197,853,736		\$722,094		103	
Summer 2020	344	26% ▲	\$310,982,487	57% ▲	\$904,019	25% ▲	102	1% ▼
Summer 2021	320	7% ▼	\$385,763,214	24% ▲	\$1,205,510	33% ▲	35	66% ▼

PANAMA CITY BEACH

	NUMBER OF SALES		DOLLAR VOLUME		AVERAGE SALE PRICE		DAYS ON MARKET	
Summer 2019	317		\$125,827,381		\$396,932		64	
Summer 2020	374	18% ▲	\$164,934,115	31% ▲	\$441,000	11% ▲	73	14% ▲
Summer 2021	349	7% ▼	\$213,767,232	30% ▲	\$612,514	39% ▲	33	55% ▼

FORGOTTEN COAST BEACHES

	NUMBER OF SALES		DOLLAR VOLUME		AVERAGE SALE PRICE		DAYS ON MARKET	
Summer 2019	75		\$39,473,881		\$526,318		76	
Summer 2020	154	105% ▲	\$96,393,006	144% ▲	\$625,929	19% ▲	131	72% ▲
Summer 2021	131	15% ▼	\$121,353,861	26% ▲	\$926,365	48% ▲	37	72% ▼



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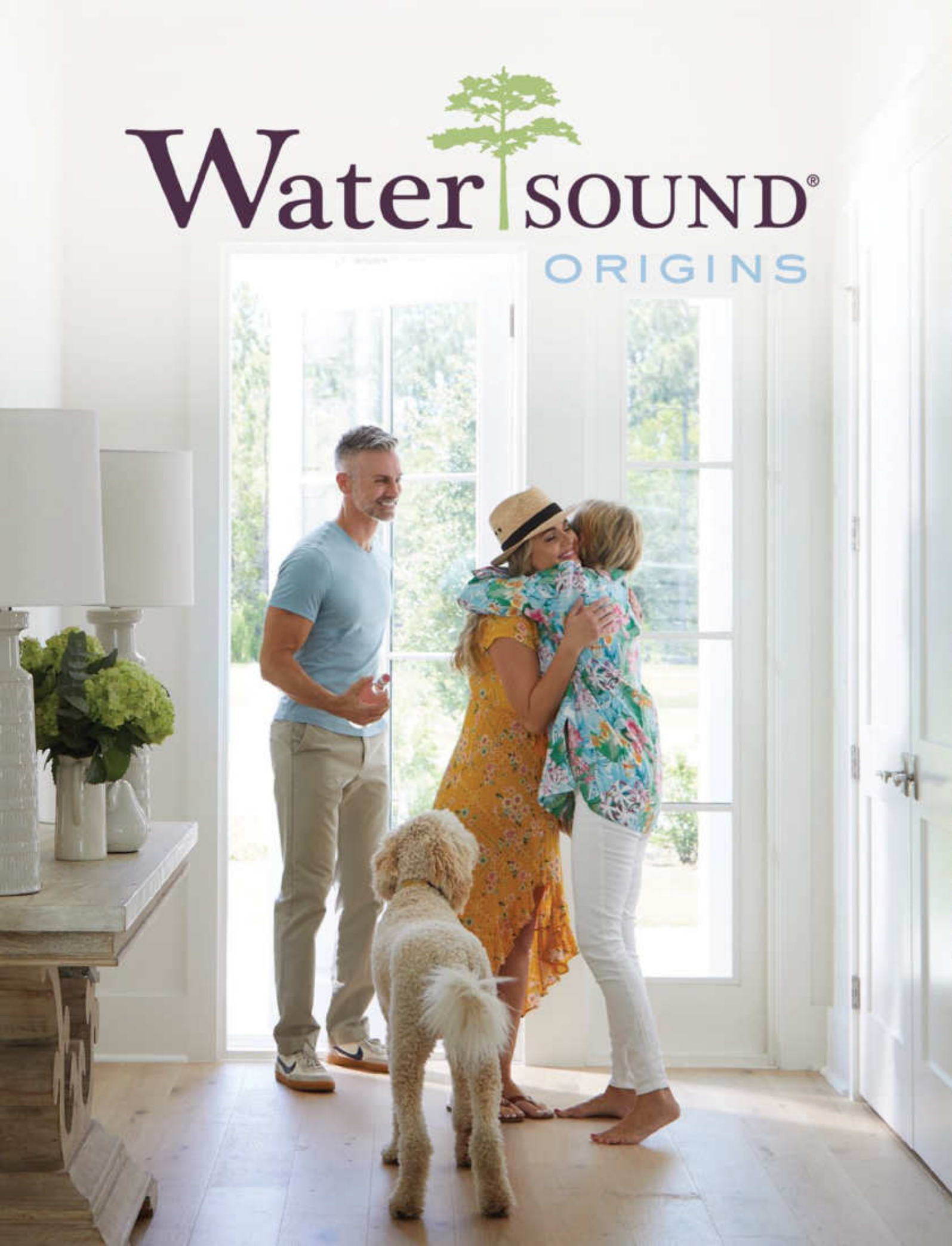
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Cheers from *The 30A Guy*

It was early July; peak summer season here at the beach. And it had been dumping rain for a solid two weeks. Our local streets were flooded, and double red warning flags had ushered families out of the rambunctious and dangerous Gulf.

I was at the gas station, filling "Truman" (my trusty and mildly rusty steed) with fossil fuel. The rain continued to fall, with no end in sight. A white SUV pulled up next to me containing what appeared to be a dad, his wife, and three kids. The SUV had a Texas tag.

"I like your Defender," the man said to me, nodding to my old British Land Rover 90.

"Thanks," I said. "He loves muddy days like this."

"Yeah, I bet." The man smiled, looking up toward the overcast sky.

"Where are you guys from?" I asked, already half-knowing the answer.

"Dallas," he smiled. "We've been here for a week, but unfortunately we have to head home today."

"Aw, man. I'm so sorry you guys have had all this rain," I said. Living at the beach, I've seen this sad story play out countless times. A man busts his ass at work all year long, finally saving up just enough money and vacation days to take his family to the beach... only to have a stalled tropical storm ruin it all. I felt bad for him, knowing it might be a long time before he could save up enough to return under sunnier conditions.

"Hey man, we've had an absolute blast," he insisted. "As long as there's a good beach bar nearby, I'm happy."

For a moment, I thought he was feigning optimism out of politeness, or perhaps he was just trying to stay in good spirits for the long car ride ahead. But the more we spoke, the more I realized he was genuinely happy. Despite the daily deluge, this man and his family had enjoyed a great vacation, playing family board games at night and hanging out at their favorite local beach bar all dreary-day long.

I thought back to some of my own drenched vacays. Even when it rained, I was never unhappy, not even for a moment. Like this family, we simply embraced whatever weather cards we were dealt. "Just point us to the nearest beach bar, and we'll be fine, rain or shine." That was always our attitude.

There's something innately happy about a great beach bar. A beach bar can instantly turn a gloomy day into a gleeful one. So I hope you enjoy this issue, in which we celebrate iconic beach bars, coastal cocktails and that "beach happy" feeling you inevitably get when you saddle up to any bar with sandy (or wet) feet. After all, if your glass is half full, perhaps all you need is a little rain to fill it up.

Beach Happy, my friends!

Mike Ragsdale

Mike Ragsdale
Founder, The 30A Company



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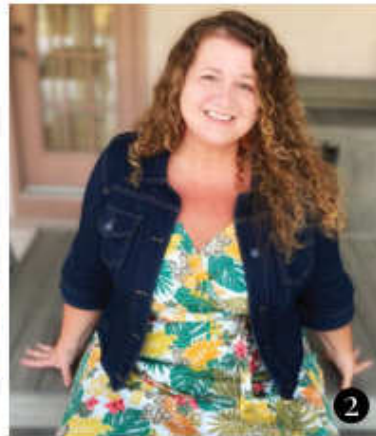


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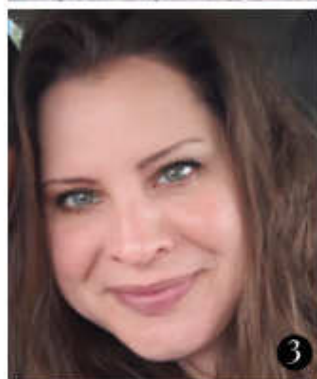
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2. CARRIE HONAKER

is a Florida-based freelance writer who is not sure where she will land next, but it will involve messy eating, a spicy Tempranillo and finding the local dive bar. Her work has been featured in Wine Enthusiast, Bon Appetit, and others. You can find her on Twitter and Instagram (@writeonhonaker).



3

3. SHANNON SERPETTE

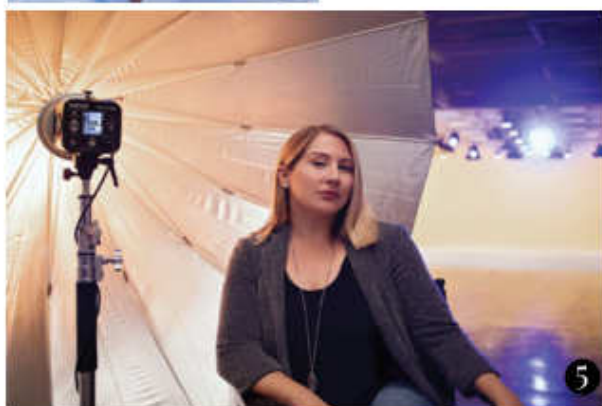
is an award-winning journalist, having received 10 Illinois Press Association writing awards across a wide variety of categories. An avid metal detectorist, Shannon spends most of her vacations at the beach searching for buried treasure. Follow her daily adventures on Twitter (@shannonserpette).



4

4. MARTIN LIPTROT

is British but has lived along Scenic Highway 30A since 2004. After a global career in advertising, he made NorthWest Florida his home and runs local PR and Marketing Agency (98RepublicPR.com). Martin's passions include soccer, cricket, rugby, Formula One and horse racing. He is a fan of craft beers and fine wines and enjoys good company and long, lazy lunches in any of the spectacular restaurants along 30A.



5

5. LAUREN ATHALIA

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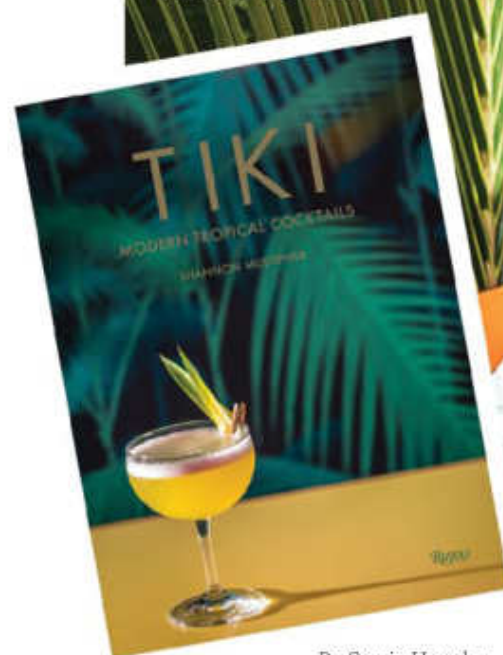


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GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE RUM

AUTHOR AND
MIXOLOGIST
**SHANNON
MUSTIPHER**
ADDS A FRESH
TWIST TO TIKI



By Carrie Honaker
Photos: Noah Fecks
Doron Gild

Tiki: Modern Tropical Cocktails is a stunning homage to the tiki genre that honors Shannon Mustipher's love of history mixed with transportive tropical recipes sprung from her creative endeavors with quality spirits and fresh ingredients.

But Mustipher is more than her IACP Best Book in Beer, Wine and Spirits award or her 2020 Pioneer Award from Tales of the Cocktail Dame Hall of Fame. She is a force with a deep knowledge of spirits, a curious explorer willing to experiment with flavor profiles, and a generous soul changing the industry through her work with Women Who Tiki, a community of women bartenders she brought together, who share her passion for tropical drinks.

And her musical taste is as fresh as her drinks.

Your book puts forth a blueprint for modern tiki cocktails. How do you see the genre as a whole evolving?

Mustipher: What I've noticed over the last four years is the emergence of tropical beach bars. Those programs may have tiki drinks on the menu, but maybe focus on a nautical theme or yacht rock. I think people like the escapism of tiki. It happens to be packaged in the form of a romantic Polynesian idea from the 1930s.

As Prohibition wound down, Don the Beachcomber (considered the founding father of tiki who claimed to have invented the Mai Tai, Zombie, and Navy Grog) was looking for something exciting and cool to serve people. He traveled the Caribbean and fell in love. And society was thirsty for escapism because we were going through the Depression. Tiki offered that.

I think it's important to realize escapism back then meant Polynesia, but as we become more globalized, tiki is more about a relaxed tropical vibe—it's not tethered to one place. It's Mexico or maybe it's Monaco or maybe it's Miami. It's a more global vibe about relaxing, chilling, and hanging out.

In your intro to *Modern Tiki*, you mention your mission is for rum to be seen as an exemplary mixing spirit. What do you love so much about it?

I love the diversity—there's a rum for everybody. You can produce it in over 90 countries, and there are cultural variations depending on your part of the world.

I love how wine is diverse, and I think rum can be the same in a way other categories can't because most are

confined to very specific geographic regions. Mezcal, for the most part, are from Oaxaca. When you experience Mezcal, you experience Mexico, but with rum, you travel the world.

Tell me about "Women Who Tiki."

We just relaunched in Brooklyn. It was such a fantastic event. Women Who Tiki started as an idea to promote my book, but it became an opportunity to highlight talented women bartenders whom I admire and respect.

For the first event, we had five guest bartenders each introduce a recipe, and it was such a good pop-up. The atmosphere at the event was joyful. When the book came out, I had eight or ten events in various U.S. locations. We took a break for COVID, but this week, we came back.

I've seen so much hard work on the part of the bartenders, and I'm proud of what they're doing. Brands are into it, and consumers love it. I want to continue to offer that opportunity to people. Give the people what they want, as long as you want to keep doing it, is the motto.

Then the big question, how do we make an impact? So far, Women Who Tiki has been more about networking events, but I want to cover charitable causes and focus on mentorship and professional development for women in the bar industry. It's not just about cocktails. It's a whole culture, and any cause helping people and welcoming people aligns with the essence of tiki.

The Mai Tai is my favorite tiki cocktail, and you have two recipes in your book: one for the classic and one for the S.O.S. What makes it special?

THE S.O.S.
MAI TAI

||

WHEN YOU EXPERIENCE MEZCAL,
YOU EXPERIENCE MEXICO,
BUT WITH RUM,
YOU TRAVEL THE WORLD.

||

NO WOMAN
NO CRY

It was the first drink I put on the menu at Glady's Caribbean in Brooklyn, New York, where I was the beverage director; it was also the bar I first developed tiki cocktails for. I had a copy of *Potions of the Caribbean* by Jeff Beachbum Berry, and it has a history of how rum-based drinks developed. It felt relevant to what I was doing at Glady's, because I wanted a program that highlighted the category and showed what was good about it.

I had this obsession with the Jamaican pot still rum Rhum Agricole, and I love Guyana rums as well. So when I saw recipes in the book calling for a split between those two, I jumped on the challenge. I wanted the Mai Tai on the menu because I wanted Agricole in front of people. It's a wonderful category that doesn't get enough love.

Can you tell me about your new ready-to-drink (RTD) cocktail?

It's called Holy Tyger. It's a tropical riff on a whiskey sour adapted from the Tigershark cocktail in my book. It was a creative collaboration where Aaron Polsky and the team at Livewire were very receptive about incorporating my thoughts on everything from recipe to art, and their rendition is delicious. Spoiler alert: we're going to do merch that rocks, like satin silk bombers with the graphic on back.

I've seen bartender playlists, and I love that you included music in the book. What song inspires your mixology?

Oh, wow. How about I give you two polarities? One would be a Billie Holiday song, or somebody moody when I'm making something like martinis. And on the other end, there's this DJ Duo from the Bronx, Kenny Gonzalez and Louie Vega, called Masters at Work.

It's not well-known except in house circles, but in 1997, they produced an incredible compilation album called *Nu Yorican Soul*. It sounds so fresh. They wanted to capture the eclecticism and diversity of sound in Upper



New York's Puerto Rican and Dominican community. It's got India, Tito Puente, and DJ Jazzy Jeff, and it's endured for over 20 years.

Finally, what's your favorite cocktail from the book?

Oh man, I love all my children. I love the Kill Devyl Reef. It encapsulates my objective when I'm making a drink. It's a big hit in all my pop-ups, the name is fun, and when people see all the rums, they're like, "Oh I'm going to try this!" It's delicious, not polarizing

in any way, shape, or form, but it still has enough je ne sais quoi. I like quasi-boring drinks with a dash of something that makes you say, "Oh, wow, I like this!" The Kill Devyl Reef is like a pumped-up Navy Grog or Rum Punch—so good, so fun and strong.

To learn more about Shannon Mustipher, her book *Tiki: Modern Tropical Cocktails*, and her pop-ups for *Women Who Tiki*, follow her on Instagram @shannonmustipher or @womenwhotiki. Get her RTD cocktail Holy Tyger at www.livewiredrinks.com. @





Drinking in the Afternoon



A Global Tour of Hemingway-Inspired Bars

By Martin Liptrot

"Don't bother with churches, government buildings, or city squares. If you want to know about a culture, spend a night in its bars," said bon viveur and author Ernest Hemingway.

Hemingway was well-qualified to make such a pronouncement, not just because his work took him from Venice and Pamplona to Paris, Key West, and Havana, but because he spent most of his free-time rabble-rousing in the bars and hostelryes of his many host cities.

If, like me, you are a fan of the man nicknamed "Papa," his writings, and the colorful life he lived, then you will enjoy reading about some of the world's best watering holes that were visited, or inspired, by one of America's greatest authors.



The Ritz, Paris

Nowhere is as synonymous with Hemingway as this corner of the Ritz, Paris. The bar is even named for him, though there is no formal sign.

There is no shortage of stories about Hemingway's relationship with the Ritz, Paris. The most oft-repeated is the entirely fictional account of Hemingway leading the liberation of Paris in 1944 and fighting off German officers in the Ritz. What is more likely to be true is the account from Charles Ritz, the eponymous owner, who recalls Hemingway bursting into the bar with U.S. officers and reporters and proceeding to order and consume 51 dry martinis.

Today, a trip to Hemingway's bar at the Ritz is a must-do for visitors to the City of Light. The bar opens at 6 pm and a line starts forming an hour earlier with many of the aficionados clutching their copy of *The Sun Also Rises*, Hemingway's novel that features the hotel.

Sloppy Joe's, Key West

After his exploits in Europe, Hemingway returned to the U.S. and declared Key West his home. Visitors to this South Florida town can visit his home, see descendants of his legendary six-toed cat, and imbibe a drink or three at Papa's favorite dive bar.

Sloppy Joe's formally opened in 1933, the day prohibition was repealed, and offered "a pour of whiskey" for 15 cents, though it is suspected it had been a speakeasy for many years prior. Hemingway was at his most prolific during his 12 years in Key West. Not only did he pen more than half his manuscripts, books, and short stories there, but he was a prodigious consumer of booze too.

The relationship between this Duval Street bar and the iconic writer runs deep. It is thought to be the inspiration for Freddy's in Hemingway's masterpiece *To Have and Have Not*, and he is celebrated with an annual "Ernest Hemingway Look-Alike" competition, when gaggles of safari shirt-wearing, white-haired hirsute men saddle up at its bar to start drinking at first light.



Sloppy Joe's, Havana

As with nearly everything to do with Hemingway, fact and fiction freely merge. While bars in Key West wrangle over which is the original Sloppy Joe's, there is an alternative school that claims the "original, original" was, in fact, down a dusty side street in Havana, Cuba.

Spanish waiter José Abeal y Otero opened his unnamed dive bar on the corner of Agramonte and Animas streets in 1918 and quickly became a hot-spot for the huge number of Americans seeking to escape prohibition and indulge in Havana's legendary nightlife. Regulars, including boxer Joe Lewis and singer Frank Sinatra, were unable or unwilling to call the owner by his Spanish name and christened him Joe. Hemingway and his close friend Joe Russell were frequent visitors. It is suggested Russell "borrowed" the name for his Key West hostelry upon his return to the U.S.

Following the Cuban Revolution, Sloppy Joe's lost its American clientele and, years later, was destroyed in a fire. But thankfully, as Cuba opened to visitors from around the world, the legendary watering hole – complete with the original mahogany bar – also threw open its doors again in 2013. Perhaps it's not as raucous as during Papa's days, but it's certainly worth a visit next time you're in Cuba.

El Floridita, Havana

This is perhaps the quintessential warm-weather Hemingway bar and restaurant.

Not only has a bust of the author been on display since 2003, but a life-sized bronze statue of the writer also sits in the spot Hemingway occupied for decades. Originally opened as The Silver Pineapple in 1817, the bar adopted its new name at the bequest of its American clientele a hundred years later. About that time, a Catalan émigré Constantino Ribalaigua Vert became the owner, and much to Ernest Hemingway's delight, he created the Daiquiri, still served today by El Floridita's red-jacketed bar staff.

The rum-based, sugary, frozen drink was an instant hit, but Hemingway wanted some modifications. Legend has it, while on one of his trips to Cuba, he told Constantino, "That's good, but I prefer it without the sugar... and with double the rum."

And that's how the Papa Doble was born.

Hemingway remained loyal to El Floridita but, wisely, didn't want to alienate himself from other bar owners in the town, especially a favorite, which made his mid-morning mojitos: "My mojito in the Bodeguita, and my daiquiri in the Floridita," he diplomatically declared.

The original signed version of this motto still hangs behind the bar at El Floridita.

The Havana Bar at The Pearl Hotel, Rosemary Beach, Florida

Hemingway's prodigious thirst and reputation for marathon drinking sessions has led to many bars worldwide adopting his name. There are "Hemingway's" in Ireland, Curaçao, and Thailand, with no obvious links to the author.

But one of our favorite spots inspired by El Floridita and Hemingway's love of a daytime tippie is right here in our own backyard on Northwest Florida's Scenic Highway 30A – The Havana Beach Bar at The Pearl.

Raised above street level, complete with a long mahogany bar, windows open to a cooling coastal breeze, the floor-to-ceiling back bar is stocked with an extensive and eclectic range of rums and other spirits while the restaurant offers a selection of delicious dishes.

With a cold muddled drink in one hand, a fork laden with fresh seafood in the other, El Papa would have approved. Cuba Libre! 🍹



5 Fun Facts (or myths) About Hemingway

1. He liberated Paris.

Some say he was at General LeClerc's side; others have him cavorting with Elena, a Spanish gypsy woman in a bar outside Versailles at the time. He did later liberate the Paris Ritz of its plentiful supply of champagne, however.

2. He got drunk and slept with a bear.

Hemingway told *The New Yorker* he "got along well with animals." He said that in Montana, once, he lived with a bear, and the bear slept with him, got drunk with him, and was a close friend.

3. He reassured F. Scott Fitzgerald about his manhood.

Fitzgerald told Hemingway he was being ridiculed by his wife. During a visit to the restroom at the Ritz, Hemingway peered down and reassured his fellow author, advising him "to visit the Louvre and study the statues."

4. He was a Russian spy.

The Guardian revealed documents in 2009 that claimed Hemingway was recruited by the Stalin-era KGB to be an agent under the code name Argo, but that he produced no valuable information.

5. He rewrote the ending of A Farewell to Arms 39 times.

Journalist George Plimton asked Hemingway about his editing style. He replied he had written the ending 39 times before he was happy. Plimton asked what the problem had been, to which Hemingway replied, "Getting the words right."



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long goodbyes

By Sean Dietrich

A beach bar. My wife and I are with our cousins, James and Jessica. We are eating pizza. Somebody got a little crazy and even ordered oysters.

You know what my favorite part of any family gathering is? Not oysters or pizza. The part at the end. It takes place in the parking lot, before everyone parts ways. It's called the Goodbye Ceremony.

In this part of the world, the simple act of saying goodbye can last for three hours. Sometimes longer if it's football season.

James and Jessica are cool cousins. I once rode out a hurricane with James. I'll never forget it. Hurricane Ivan was tearing through Brewton, Alabama. The rest of the family was downstairs, listening to the radio by candlelight.

James and I were upstairs, the ultimate thrill-seekers, watching the storm. But we couldn't see anything because it was too dark.

So our entire conversation basically went like this:

"Did you hear that?"

"Yeah."

"What about that?"

"Yep."

When the storm hit, we heard creaking and groaning. It sounded like the core of the planet was getting ripped from the soil and hurling through outer space somewhere above the casino in Atmore.

The next morning, the town had lost so many trees you couldn't drive down Belleville Avenue. The power was out. It was tragic.

But Brewton's families banded together. You could see people on porches, cooking food on gas grills, drinking beer at noon.

Because that's what family does.

Family is important to me. It becomes even more important the older I get. I didn't grow up with much. And at this age, I have to sort of create my own, which isn't easy because I have no kids.

This is tough sometimes because I really like kids. I like them so much that every child I meet—I know this is going to seem odd—I call "cousin." I figure, why not?

Last week, for instance, I worked in the nursery at a Methodist church. They let me hold as many babies as I wanted. I spent most of the service bouncing a baby named Cousin Tray.

I couldn't let him go. Cousin Tray had the fattest little hands I've ever seen.

Before I gave Cousin Tray back to his mother, I told him to call me if he ever needed anything, since, you know, we're family.

Cousin Tray agreed. Then he gave me a high five to seal the deal.

Speaking of cousins, this past Fourth of July I found new biological cousins from my father's side. I had never met them before—at least I don't remember meeting them. You might have thought we would have acted like strangers, but no.

When we said goodbye, we all stood by the door for nearly an hour conducting a proper Goodbye Ceremony according to protocol. It was the best part of the evening.

There is something about standing by the front door and getting ready to leave that inspires the storyteller in everyone.

Goodbyes with my sister's family can last well through the night until Live with Kelly and Ryan finally comes on TV and various roosters start crowing in the distance.

My sister has two babies. I can never seem to let them go. I could hold them all day. I call them "Cousin Lily" and "Cousin Lucy."

At the door, I like to fix their hair and kiss their fat cheeks and pinch their noses. I remind Cousin Lucy not to forget about me. I make a raspberry on Cousin Lily's bare white tummy.

But most of all, I like to stand in the entryway, talking. To the untrained eye, it looks as though we're saying goodbye. But we aren't. Family doesn't say goodbye. Not ever. In fact, we are telling each other the opposite.

We are saying: "Even though we'll be apart, nothing can keep us apart for long. Because we're family."

Right now, my wife and cousins are leaving the beach bar. We have finally finished our pizza and oysters. We tip our waitress, we walk outside. The stars are out by the billions tonight. James and I are hugging in the parking lot. Jessica is hugging my wife.

Initializing official Goodbye Ceremony in five, four, three, two...

"We're so glad we got to see you tonight."

"Us too, we'll have to do this again."

"We really do."

"It was fun."

"It really was."

"That pizza sucked."

"Mine was actually okay."

"Hey, remember that time when Hurricane Ivan came through Brewton?"

"Do I?"

"What a night, huh?"

"How many years ago was that?"

"Fourteen, fifteen."

"At least fifteen."

"God, has it been that long?"

"I think so."

"Fifteen years ago, are we getting old?"

"No, it's just you. You're getting old."

"Gimme one more hug."

"One more."

"See y'all."

"Y'all too."

"Drive safe, now."

"Same to you."

"You sure it was fifteen years ago?"

"Pretty sure."

"Hey, is that gray in your beard?"

"No, it's parmesan."

"Fifteen years?"

"I gotta get up early tomorrow."

"Okay, for real this time, bye y'all."

"Bye guys."

"Drive safe."

"We will."

"Let's do this again."

"For sure."

"Night guys."

"Night."

"Love you."

Forever and a day, and then some more.

Look me up one day, Cousin Tray.

Sean Dietrich, nicknamed Sean of the South, chronicles life in the American South. Find him online at seandietrich.com.



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10 SIGNS

You've Found A
Great Beach Bar

Delpi Rock Lounge at
Suluban Beach, Bali, Indonesia

For some of us, it's not a great beach unless there's a great beach bar associated with it. Waves too rough to fish or surf? I'll just hang out at the bar. It's gonna be pouring down rain all day? You know where to find me.

**But what makes a
GREAT beach bar?**

Here are 10 signs you've found
the most idyllic sandy spot.



Baboo Bar at Khai Nok Island,
Phang Nga, Thailand

1. It's actually on the beach.

This might seem obvious, but it's not quite as dumb as it sounds. After all, there are "beach bars" in Manhattan, including Jimmy Buffett's brand-new Margaritaville resort in Times Square. And almost every beach town has cool bars that aren't on (or even near) the actual waterfront. To be a truly great beach bar, you at least need an unobstructed view of the water. It doesn't even have to be a view of the ocean or gulf. A great beach bar can be perched on a bay, lake, or canal. But you score big beach bonus points if guests track in sand when they walk through the door (if there even is a door).

2. Feel the breeze.

Speaking of which, it's certainly possible to have a great beach bar without a fresh ocean breeze flowing through the space. But it really begins to feel authentic when the only thing keeping pesky flies off your beer bottle is a lime wedge and a steady coastal breeze. Bonus points for huge wicker ceiling fans that perpetually keep that salt air breezin' by.

Zanzibar, Tanzania





3. No shirt? No shoes? No problem.

A true beach bar has embarrassingly low standards when it comes to dress codes. Every legit beach bar should welcome flip-flops and even outright bare feet. Throw in some ripped shirtless surfer dudes and a few pretty women in bikinis, and now you're looking pretty darn beachy.



Vilanova i la Geltrú,
Barcelona, Spain

4. Dunes with tunes.

Live music can pump life into any dead space, but especially when it comes to beach bars. Whether they're spinning outlaw country, Marley reggae, classic rock, or a swanky sunset ultra-lounge mix, music is an essential part of the best beach bar experiences. But hey, it doesn't have to be live music, and you don't even need a killer sound system. Sometimes a D-battery-powered boombox with the right "greatest hits" cassette can be just what the doctor (or bartender) ordered. Bonus points for a free jukebox that hasn't changed its playlist in 30 or more years.

5. Good spirits.

Hey, I love an ice-cold beer as much as the next person. But after a couple of cold brews, I'm usually ready for a real drink. You know, a pina colada or a frozen strawberry daiquiri. Okay, okay. I know. Those aren't "real drinks." I'm normally a neat bourbon or straight-up martini kinda guy. But, just between us, let's admit it: nothing gets you in a beachier mood than a colorful cocktail punch with a big ol' pineapple wedge stuck on the lip. Dirty Banana, anyone? Make up your own jokes.

The Sharky Bar, Pak Weep Beach, Khao Lak, Southern Thailand





6. Playin' the game.

Beach volleyball. Shuffleboard. Cornhole. Hook and ring. Ladder toss. When you finally find your ideal beach bar, you're gonna wanna hang out for a while. The best beach bars provide you with an excuse to hang out all day and all night. Not that you needed an excuse, but you feel (and look) like less of an alcoholic when you have something to pass the time besides just dangling your sandy toes off the barstool.

Chiringo, Grayton Beach, Florida

7. Crappy service.

No, we're not talking about the bartender or wait staff. We're talking about Wi-Fi and mobile phone service. In an era where most of us are addicted to an assortment of digital screens, it's nice when a beach bar forces us to live in a precious real-world moment rather than in a virtual universe full of endless bad news and negative energy. Let's admit it: it's hard to put the phone down, especially when you're eager to "check-in" to your newly discovered tropical paradise. So kudos to those disconnected beach bars that don't give us any choice but to live in the moment.

San Andrés Island,
Colombia





Kuta Beach, Bali,
Indonesia

8. The green flash.

Not all beach bars are blessed enough to face due west. Setting such a sky-high standard would seem particularly unfair to all the geographically-challenged beach bars along any eastern shore. But let's admit it, a bar definitely scores big if it boasts an epic sunset vista. Bonus points if the bar has a special ritual commemorating the daily moment when another sun slips down into the sea. (But subtract points if that ritual spoils the serene moment with something like a deafening cannon blast.)

9. Boat drinks.

Most bars can only be accessed by car or foot. A good beach bar can also be accessed by boat. A GREAT beach bar can ONLY be accessed by boat. Whether it's a rickety old dock or a high-tide hull slide, it's always better to beach bar by boat when possible.

Mauritius Island



10. Swingers welcome.

Okay, this is wishlisting just a little. This one's more "beach bar bonus point" material than an absolutely essential requirement. But if the bar offers an old rope hammock swaying somewhere under the palms, just begging for a late-afternoon siesta, that's gotta be worth a little something.





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Holiday Gift Guide for Ocean Lovers

Are you on Santa's Nice List this year? If you've dodged naughty status once again, it's time to treat yourself. Or, if the people in your life have been good all year long, perhaps it's time to splurge on something unexpected for them. Either way, we've got something on our holiday gift guide that can fit into every budget.



2. 30A's "Protect Our Beaches" Shirt

Give the gift of a healthier planet this holiday season. 30A's recycled shirts are super-soft, and best of all, they're made from plastic bottles. In fact, every 30A t-shirt is made from about eight plastic bottles that would otherwise be headed to a landfill or drifting in the ocean. There are tons of styles, designs, and colors to choose from, making 30A recycled apparel a perfect gift for everyone on your shopping list.

30AGEAR.COM
(\$39)

3. Beach Flag Bracelets

These colorful wristbands make a perfect stocking stuffer, and they also have the potential to save lives. They were conceptualized by Renee Wesoloski, who self-funded and created Beach Flags USA. This wristband brand educates visitors about beach warning flags and what each color means. Simply put them on your child's wrist to help them remember today's current flag status. Each wristband costs \$1, but the price goes down if you order large quantities. You can order by contacting BeachFlagsUSA@gmail.com or by calling 850-499-5563.

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1. Flite Fliteboard

If you want to give a truly epic gift to the special surfer or water enthusiast in your life, check out the Flite Fliteboard. This motorized surfboard makes you feel like you're flying over the water, whether it's across lakes, rivers or the sea. Fliteboards take the surf experience to the next level, and will truly make an unforgettable gift this holiday season.

FLITEBOARD.COM
(\$12,495)



4. Ocean Habitats Mini Reef System

Ocean Habitats is a cool startup that's working to improve aquatic environments. The company's mini reef system won't fit in a Christmas stocking, but it's a gift that will keep giving all year long. The mini reefs, which can be installed under any dock, provide a hospitable habitat that invites hundreds of crabs and native fish to thrive in a safe environment. It filters water, which helps ramp up the health of the marine environment. A mini reef can house over 300 fish per year, and no one will even know it's there because it floats out of sight under your dock. Want to attract even more fish? The Mini Reef Plus can support more than 1,000 fish, crabs, or shrimp per year. With the increase in fish near the mini reef, you may notice extra bigger fish, dolphins, or birds near your dock. To start on a smaller scale, you can opt for the micro reef. While the reefs are used in saltwater or brackish water, the company does have a similar product called a fish crib that works in lakes and ponds.

OCEANHABITATSINC.COM
(\$187)



6. Padi Gear's Gili Eco-Friendly Tote Bag

Made out of repurposed vinyl, this made-in-the-USA waterproof and stain-proof beach bag will quickly become one of your favorites. Since it is handmade from recycled products, no two bags are identical – you'll always have a one-of-a-kind. After a long day at the beach, the Gili won't trap the sand. And unlike some other bags, this one isn't just suitable for the beach. It can handle a lot of weight, so it's great for holiday shopping trips too.

PADIGEAR.COM
(\$30)



5. Trenchrover 110 Underwater Robot Drone

More powerful underwater drones are on the market, but the Trenchrover makes a great introduction for amateurs eager to explore the seas. The battery life of 120 minutes should be enough to whet the appetite of those who want to check out what's going on beneath the waves. The Trenchrover has a diving depth of 100 feet, and it has good cameras and can record video. Plus, it features a mechanical claw that can grab items and bring them to the surface for closer inspection. This is the perfect gift for the would-be ocean explorer and treasure hunter.

THOR-ROBOTICS-SHOP.COM
(\$998)

7. Aqua Lily Pad's Bullfrog Lily Pad

Buying for a boater? Then you might want to pick up a Bullfrog Lily Pad. It can ride along on the boat, all rolled up until you're ready to drop anchor. Then you unroll the pad, put it on the water, hop on, and it floats along without sinking. Catch some rays, and hang out on the water with your friends. That's what it's all about.

AQUALILYPAD.COM
(\$619 AND UP)





the dreaded day after

Is There a True Hangover Cure?

By Martin Liptrot

According to New York satirist Dorothy Parker, “A hangover is the wrath of grapes.”

Anyone who has over-indulged in a bottle of this, a pint of that, or a tippie of the other will gingerly nod their head in agreement as they recall the aching muscles, delicate stomach, cold sweats, and thumping headaches resulting from the night before.

Hangovers—a collective package of awfulness—are the body’s reaction to alcohol toxic shock. The digestive system, the liver, and the brain all react poorly to being soaked in alcohol. But not only

does the reveler’s constitution pay the price for such excess, alcohol-related absenteeism and loss of productivity in the workplace are estimated to cost the U.S. economy more than \$60 billion annually.

So, unsurprisingly, as alcohol is the world’s most popular and abused drug, over-indulgers have wondered, is there a cure?

No doubt Big Pharma has laboratories full of scientists searching for a profitable remedy, but so far, a miracle cure remains elusive.

Instead, there are potions, rituals,

“
**Korean scientists
recently announced they
had discovered
the hangover
wonder food...**

”

and folklore that drinkers swear by, not just to cure the hangover but to reach that holiest of grails: to prevent it from happening in the first place.

In almost every recommended remedy, water features highly.

Many swear by the *one for one* rule, which implores the battle-hardened drinker to alternate an alcoholic drink with a glass of water. Alcohol’s key ingredient is ethanol, a diuretic, which has you making ever more frequent trips to the bathroom.

There is some rationale to this, as dehydration is a major cause of hangovers and contributes to its symptoms: thirst, headaches, “the spins” and fatigue. Drinking large quantities of water will also limit the total amount you can consume, as the stomach and liver can only handle so much liquid.

The other popular remedy everyone will have been advised to follow at some time in their drinking career is “having something to eat.”

There are those who swear by the tactic of lining the stomach before setting out for a night on the devil-drink to help fend off the worst of the hangover.

But what to eat—and when—is a hot topic for debate.

Those who favor the pre-drink meal talk of carb-loading with things like toast, pasta, rice, or a big bowl of cereal. The idea being that the stodgy carbs lying in the belly will help soak up the booze.

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism agrees, advising drinkers to eat before a night out.

“Having food in the stomach while drinking results in a slow trickle of alcohol into the bloodstream versus a rapid rise when one drinks on an empty stomach,” a senior researcher sensibly suggested.

In fact, researchers have investigated which foods are best at preventing hangovers. However, their findings may leave Western drinkers a little uninspired. Korean scientists recently announced they had discovered the hangover wonder food, and it is asparagus. Research found the vegetable boosts levels of enzymes that break down alcohol. Their study says eating asparagus the next day can help tame hangovers, too.

And in reply to Asian scientists declaring the humble Western vegetable as the miracle cure, Western researchers responded in kind. Scientists working at Tulane University,

“
**Alcohol-related absenteeism
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\$60 billion
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”



situated in the Boozy Big Easy of New Orleans, chose the Prickly Pear as their wonder food. The cactus fruit possesses mega anti-inflammatory agents to help offset the damage done by alcohol. Researchers discovered that drinkers who took prickly pear cactus extract five hours before drinking had 50% fewer hangover symptoms compared to drinkers who went without the extract.

And of course, there are those who believe more of what ails you is the answer.

The so-called “hair of the dog” solution inspires those with a hangover to have a drink the next morning to soften the blow. There is some science to this too—hangovers are widely accepted to be at their most brutal when blood alcohol levels are at zero, but adding more booze, sensible voices claim, is just prolonging the agony.

Fried breakfasts, fizzy sodas, pediatric enzyme drinks, cold Gatorade, and bananas are all remedies many swear by. Maybe they work, maybe they don’t. A brisk walk, fresh air, and snoozing on the sofa are other widely-tested solutions.

But, sadly, there is only one solution health campaigners, medics, drinks manufacturers, and government agencies agree will prevent or reduce the thump of your hangovers: drink less. ☞



A Waffle House Love Story

By Will Estell
Photos: Brandon Babineaux

Gulf Coast singer-songwriter Casey Kearney is no doubt more "country" than the majority of so-called "country artists" on today's airwaves and playlists. She and her family of five live on a farm in the most rural part of Walton County, Florida (think four miles of red dirt road to get there). She somehow manages to maintain a pretty normal life of homeschooling three teens, keeping up a farm, and traveling weekends to compete in rodeo competitions across the country – not to mention her many live concert performances.

Like many songwriters, much of Casey's lyrical content comes from real-life stories of the people she encounters as a traveling musician. This is especially true of her new hit song "Waffle House," written after coastal transplants Kelli and Rob Smithmier shared their story with Casey following one of her shows.

"We got married in 1984 on New Year's Day," Kelli told Casey. They brought along two carloads of family members, including their parents and siblings. "We didn't have a fancy wedding or reception, so on the way home, we all pulled into a Waffle House. We dropped some change in the jukebox and had our wedding dance right there. Here we are 38 years later, still dancing."

Casey soon put their story to song.

She emailed her recording to the restaurant chain's Atlanta-based headquarters, but nothing really transpired until Waffle House execs saw viral videos of Casey performing the national anthem at an Atlanta Braves game this summer.

"The whole thing happened fast after that," said Casey. Before she knew it, a few emails and phone calls led to Casey's song being added to the jukeboxes in all 1,200 Waffle House locations across the country. Within a month of that first call, Casey was getting texts and videos from people all over the country, playing her song in their favorite Waffle House location.

"It's surreal, and it's just such an honor to be included among all of the really big-name artists I admire in those same jukeboxes," said Casey.

As for the couple who inspired Casey's new hit, Kelli and Rob went on to co-star (and dance) in the song's official video, and they say they hope their Waffle House romance will inspire others to share their own stories.

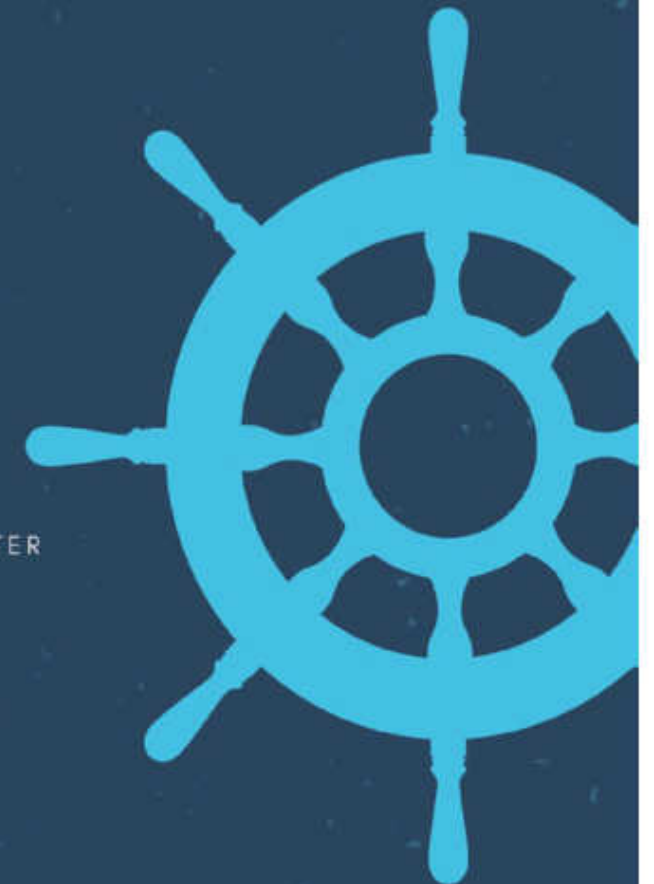
Who knows, it might just become a song one day.

To see the Waffle House video, follow Casey Kearney on Facebook @CaseyKearneyMusic.



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- SIR FRANCIS CHICHESTER



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6 Ways to Beach-Up Your Home Bar

By Shannon Serpette

Want to keep rolling with that vacation vibe when you get home from your next beach trip? Those feelings of relaxation and freedom never have to end, even if there is no water in sight. Simply create your own home beach bar.

When you're ready to get your beach happy hour on, a few well-placed items can be enough to give your space a tropical feel. Or, if you're the type to dive right in, you can jump into deeper waters by setting up a full-fledged tiki bar in your basement, garage, or shed. If you need some inspiration, here are some beach-themed items to get you started.



2.

30A Wine Glasses

When you're sitting on a stool at your outdoor home bar and sipping on the wine of your choice, that ocean breeze can impolitely place all kinds of litter in your drink. If you don't want Mother Nature dropping debris and bugs in your drink, our 30A wine glasses come to the rescue with their protective lids. And if your bar is located indoors, the bright, beachy colors of the wine glasses will fit right in with your tropical décor.

30AGEAR.COM
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If you're a fan of Jimmy Buffett, or if you're someone who appreciates a well-blended frozen concoction that helps you hang on, this unit doesn't disappoint. You can change your attitude without traveling a mile with a Margaritaville drink maker in your home bar. With different models to choose from, there's an ideal one for each drinker, whether you're more of a party-of-one type or the organizer of epic block parties. Any frozen drink aficionado knows the perfect concoction is all about the ice. With this one, you'll get shaved ice rather than crushed ice that blocks your straw. When you're done partying, you can put all the parts in the dishwasher to avoid wasting away your clean-up time.

MARGARITAVILLECARGO.COM
\$245 AND UP

4.

Island Jay Beach Coasters

Drink coasters can protect the surfaces of your furniture and add a burst of color or a humorous vibe to your home beach bar. You can even place beach-focused coasters throughout your house to carry the same theme. Island Jay has an assortment of funny and inspiring coasters to choose from, including one that reads "Salt water heals everything," while another reads "My birthstone is a seashell." Since they're affordable, you won't have to worry about spending much to replace them if your tipsy guests "misplace" them. This is also a fun and inexpensive gift to brighten any beach fan's day. Great stocking stuffer too!

ISLANDJAY.COM
\$2.95 AND UP



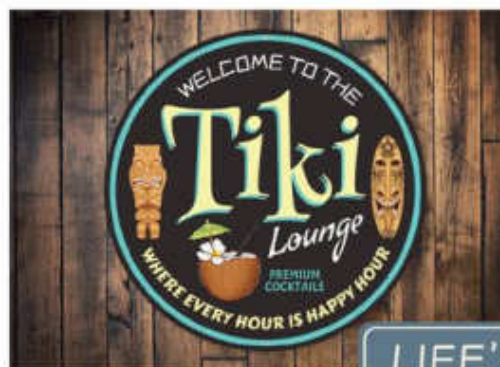
3.



Lightshare Lighted Palm Tree

There's just something relaxing about palm trees – when you see one, it's a reminder to slow down and be in the moment. Now you can enjoy that feeling in the middle of winter, no matter where you live, with this Lightshare lighted tree. If you don't have tropical weather in your backyard, it's a fun and kitschy substitute to beach-up any bar. It also serves as another source of mood lighting in your basement, backyard, garage, or shed. It comes in two heights: seven feet and five feet, and both sizes come with a 16-foot cord.

AMAZON.COM
\$79 AND UP



LIFE'S A BEACH
Enjoy the waves

5.

Lizton Sign Shop Bar Sign

Signs are a quick and effortless way to introduce any emotion you want into your home beach bar. You can hit people in the feels with a well-placed sign that makes them reflect upon their life or choices, or you can make people chuckle with something humorous. Remind your guests and yourself to drink-up with this colorful sign that urges, "Swim like a mermaid, drink like a fish." This sign can work in a basement or withstand the elements if you're placing it outside for a patio or poolside home bar. Those who like to support US-based businesses will be happy to know this company's shop is located in Indiana. If this sign's color scheme doesn't work with your décor, the company has other beach-inspired signs.

WAYFAIR.COM
\$24.95

6.

Caron's Beach House Coastal Glassware

The surrounding décor is just one of the key elements of creating a beach bar, but finding the right glassware is essential, too. Caron's Beach House has several motifs to choose from in an assortment of martini, rocks, old-fashioned, flute, pint, and wine glasses. You can also find beach-themed decanters, pitchers, ice buckets, and carafes. Designs include classics such as schools of fish, compasses, crustaceans, dolphins, whales, flamingos, herons, mermaids, seahorses, starfish, shells, and more. If you're looking to add some upscale elegance to your beachy home glassware, this is a sure-fire way to do it.

CARONSBEACHHOUSE.COM
\$47 AND UP





Beaches & Beer

(Do we have your attention now?)

A cold beer on a hot day might be the ultimate refreshment, and lots of cold beer on a hot day shared with other beer-lovers is nirvana. Brew fests offer the opportunity to sample a variety of suds—from pales to porters, pumpkins ales to tropical fruit IPAs, coffee to milk stouts—and Florida's Gulf Coast has some choice views to enjoy while sipping down those delicious pints.

By Carrie Honaker
Photos: Carrie Honaker
The Good Life Destin
Angelina Bruno



SGI BREWFEST

St. George Island, Florida
(Every April)

Celebrating its fifth year with a brand-new, on-the-beach location, SGI Brewfest serves craft beer while supporting homeless animals. The annual event is a fundraiser for Franklin County Humane Society—all proceeds go to caring for cats and dogs at the shelter. And there are even some pets at the event available for adoption.

It's a heart-warming cause, but beyond that, there's a lot of delicious malted barley to sample. Over 30 breweries participate every year, including local favorites like Oyster City, Salty Oak, and Grayton Beer, as well as further afield brewers like Founder's from Michigan, Estrella Galicia from Spain, and Kona from Hawaii. Attendees get unlimited tastings, access to food trucks, and live music—all with a view of St. George Island Beach.

This year, the fest moved to its new home, St. George Island Lighthouse Park, and has tiered levels of tickets from "Designated Driver" to "VIP." All tickets must be purchased in advance of the October 16, 2021, date. But if you miss this fall, SGI Brewfest returns to its normal time slot in April, starting in 2022.

"This is a unique event because you can attend the festival, sample great beer, maybe adopt some animals, and then relax on the beach," said SGI Brewfest president, Amy Hodson.

www.sgibrewfest.com



EMERALD COAST BEER FESTIVAL

Pensacola, Florida
(Every September)

Escambia Bay Homebrewers Club started with some craft beer lovers in the spring of '85. Back then, the craft brew scene happened in garages and basements of enthusiasts. Celebrating its silver anniversary, the Emerald Coast Beer Festival brought craft breweries and homebrew clubs together to take over Seville Quarter in Historic Downtown Pensacola for three days of imbibing. The September 2021 event kicked off with a pairing dinner, sponsored by Wicked Weed Brewing. The Grand Tasting in Seville Quarter hosted over 40 breweries offering unlimited tastings of everything from Smoked Habanero Pale Ale, to Hot Damn Hefe, to Coastal Love Hazy IPA, and more.

"The dress is casual, the mood is light, and the eclectic group of people enjoying three stages of music makes this a fun-filled event from start to finish," said Bernie Hill, Escambia Bay Homebrewers member.

The Dixieland atmosphere extended to Pensacola Beach with Beer Olympics and gumbo. There was cornhole, paddle board competitions, and relay races all on the sugar-white sand and emerald waters of the Gulf Coast. Keep your calendar open next September.

www.emeraldcoastbeerfest.com



FLORIDA BREWERS GUILD CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

Tampa, Florida
(Every March)

What better way to kick off Tampa Bay Beer Week, than a celebration of the craft beer scene growing since 2012? On Saturday, March 5, 2022, the annual Florida Brewers Guild Craft Beer Festival returns to Perry Harvey Sr. Park, a vibrant greenspace filled with public art.



For over 20 years, the beer fest has been pouring from breweries all over Florida (in 2019, over 80 breweries were tapping and tasting). Food trucks provide bites, and all attendees receive a commemorative cup. Keep an eye out for tickets that go on presale in early 2022.

www.floridabrewersguild.org

TAMPA OKTOBERFEST

Tampa, Florida
(Every October)

A beer festival list would not be complete without a signature Oktoberfest. Though Tampa's already happened, it's worth a look for next year.

Held at Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park, attendees experience a biergarten

buzzing with live music, stein hoisting competitions, lederhosen, and lots of suds. The three-day festival includes a variety of Oktoberfest-style beers, a Bavarian food hall serving favorites like schnitzel and bratwurst, and those dreamy Gulf Coast sunsets to wash it all down.

www.oktoberfesttampa.com

BAYTOWNE WHARF BEER FEST

Sandestin, Florida
(Every October)

The Baytowne Wharf Beer Fest is held in October at the Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort. The two-day event features more than 200 domestic and international craft beers, including new additions Perfect Plain and Odd Colony from Pensacola, Florida. Attendees receive a commemorative tasting glass and enjoy live music.

The beloved "Beer From Around Here" event opens the fest on Friday night, showcasing samples from local



breweries paired with cuisine from restaurants in the Village at Baytowne Wharf. On Saturday, festival-goers amble the lush grounds and tap into local favorites Grayton Beer, 3rd Planet, Idyll Hounds, and many more.

www.baytownebeerfestival.com



Whale of a Journey

The story of Gray Whale Gin, a small batch spirit inspired by the migratory path of the Pacific gray whale.

Marsh and Jan Mokhtari were on a camping trip in Big Sur, California, with their young daughters in 2016 when they spotted a gray whale and her calf making their migratory journey up the Pacific Coastline. These massive mammals make one of the longest annual migrations at around 12,000 miles for a round trip. It was an inspiring sight, and in this moment, the idea for Gray Whale Gin was born.

By Abigail Abesamis Demarest
Photos: Daniel Gorostieta
Gray Whale Gin Images

“

Gray Whale Gin was founded on the notion that a spirit can bring people together for good times while also doing some good in the world.

”



THE BOTANICALS:

Limes (Temecula): "Our hand-zested limes are from an orchard in Temecula, California. The citrus is beautifully present on the nose and imparts a delicate sweetness to the gin."

Mint (Santa Cruz): "The mint is from Pescadero, near Santa Cruz, California. This ingredient adds a cooling sweetness."

Almonds (Capay Valley): "The almonds are from Capay Hills Orchard and add a wonderful creamy mouthfeel to the gin and a long lingering finish."

Juniper (Big Sur): "The heart and soul of our multi award-winning gin is our juniper from Big Sur. The Californian juniper adds a refined cedar quality."

Fir tree (Sonoma): "The fir trees are located just outside the distillery in Sonoma, and they add a delicate, complementary flavor to our juniper berries."

Kombu (Mendocino Coast): "Our ocean botanical (and Marsh's personal favorite), our foraged kombu sea kelp, adds an earthy umami component that sets this gin apart from any other gin in the world."



"We were having a wonderful time and having these deep conversations, the kind that only happen when you're on vacation and away from your nine-to-five jobs and daily chores at home," Marsh said. "The conversation revolved around what we were doing with our lives," added Jan. "In our limited time on this earth, were we using our superpowers to make a positive impact on this planet? Were we doing something that would make our daughters proud and teach them to be a force for good?"

Jan (an award-winning creative director and filmmaker who has worked for top advertising agencies and helped build some of the world's most beloved brands) and her husband Marsh (a scientist who built a career hosting adventure and culinary TV shows like *Perilous Journeys* on National Geographic and *Extreme Chef* on Food Network) combined their talents to create a unique gin brand that not only tastes great but gives back.

Once the seed of an idea was planted, Jan leaned into her talents for brand storytelling and Marsh leaned into his culinary and science background to begin development. They spoke with other distillers and entrepreneurs in the spirits industry who generously gave their time and advice. "We poured our hearts and savings into creating Gray Whale Gin," said Marsh. They sold their home to help get their brand off the ground and spent years perfecting the recipe and bottle design. The first batch of Gray Whale Gin was released in April of 2018.

Each bottle of Gray Whale Gin is made using six botanicals that are sustainably sourced along the migratory path of the Pacific gray whale, which begins in the warm lagoons of the Baja Peninsula and ends in the cool waters of the Arctic. "Each botanical is listed on the front of our bottle, and you can also see the Pacific Coastline inside of our whale tail logo," said Jan. "After hundreds of iterations, we finally nailed down the perfect botanical balance."

Beyond a brand name, logo, and ingredients, the gray whale has also inspired a conservation ethos. "Gray Whale Gin was founded on the notion that a spirit can bring people together for good times while also doing some good in the world," said Jan. "And that principle guides everything we do."

The striking bottle the gin is sold in, for example, is printed with organic paint, and the cork is biodegradable. Gray Whale Gin donates a portion of their profits to Oceana, the largest organization in the world devoted to marine conservation. Gray Whale Gin is also a member of One Percent for the Planet and has pledged to contribute at least one percent of their annual sales to environmental causes. Additionally, Gray Whale Gin upcycles their empty bottles to create candles scented with the gin's botanicals. The candles are sold on their website, and 100% of candle sales benefit Oceana.

To learn more about Gray Whale Gin, visit graywhalegin.com.



Summer in a Glass

Grab some gin and make this refreshing cocktail at home.



Whale Hello There

2 ounces Gray Whale Gin
1/2 ounce fresh lime juice
1/2 ounce fresh lemon juice
1/2 ounce agave syrup

Fill a cocktail shaker with ice and pour in the gin, lime juice, lemon juice, and agave. Shake vigorously and strain into a chilled coupe or martini glass, or strain over a rocks glass filled with ice, depending on preference. Garnish with a lemon twist and serve immediately.

Shakin' It Up

Why go to a beach bar when you can bring one to you?

By Carrie Honaker

Jimmy Buffett said, "It's 5 o'clock somewhere." But if it's not quite quitting time just yet, don't panic. Some bars can move wherever you like — think floating tiki bar boats, vintage trucks with keg systems, or a bus to serve you drinks wherever you desire. Here are a few innovative businesses that can help you avoid the beach bar crowds, while enjoying fresh perspectives.

Bubbles & Brews / Get Cozy

Birmingham's Bubbles & Brews, a Get Cozy franchise, offers a vintage Italian Piaggio Ape converted into a mobile bar serving prosecco, craft beers, and cocktails.

Oh, and her name is Betty.

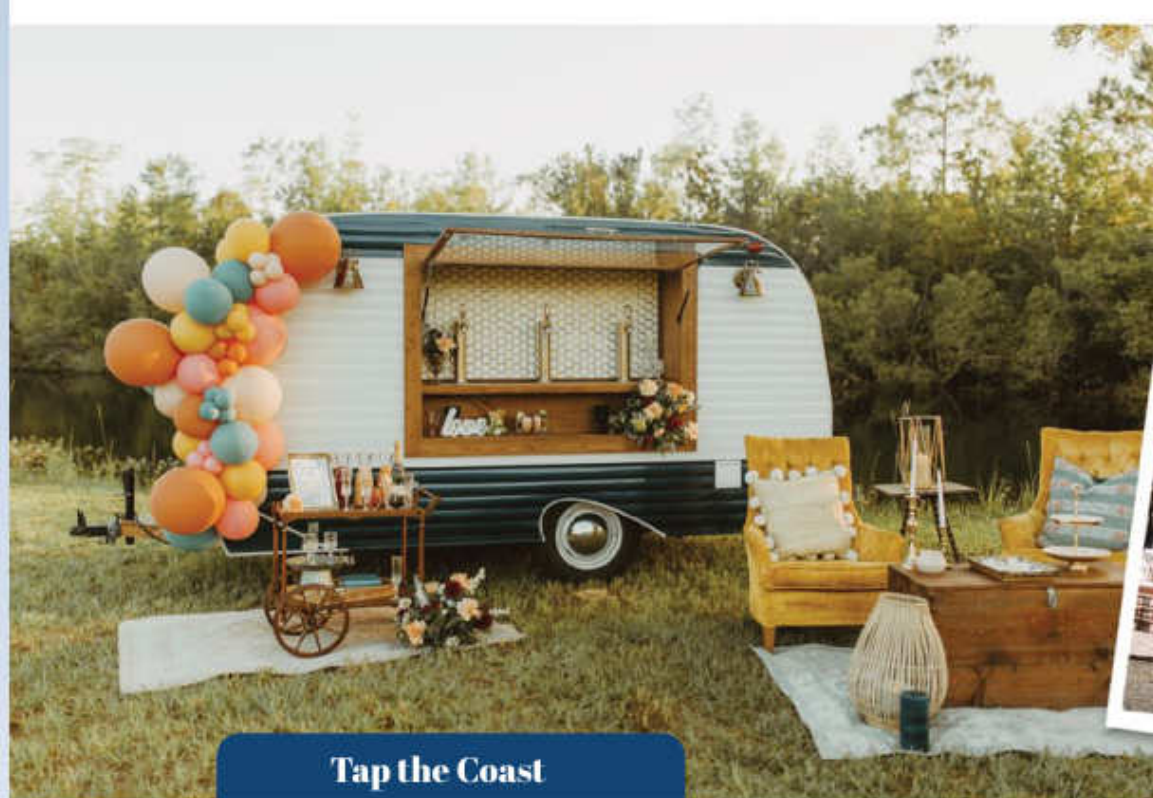
Sisters Danielle and Lindsay dreamed of opening a business together. After 15 years in the corporate world, some toddlers, and a pandemic, that dream is now a reality. "We love girls' trips, good cocktails, and parties, and after doing some research, we found Get Cozy. We thought it was a great fit."

Betty burns up the roads from Alabama to Destin, Florida, with her seven taps, personalized experiences, and vintage vibe. Get Cozy BHM provides bartenders (it's a sister act), but customers are responsible for liquid procurement.

Website: getcozybars.com
IG: [@getcozyvintagemobilebars](https://www.instagram.com/getcozyvintagemobilebars)



Photos: Amanda Suanne Photography
RAW images - Rachel Howard



Tap the Coast

Launching a business during the pandemic wasn't ideal for Pensacola-native Dannon Hooks, but now her vintage 1975 Serro Scotty camper travels the Florida panhandle and southern Alabama, delivering mobile bar services to thirsty customers.

Her modernized camper is equipped to dispense beer, wine, bubbly, cocktails, and more, although the customer provides the libations. The funky bar also features a digital video/photo booth with Instant Share on board. Hooks routinely hosts private

cocktail parties and workshops, and you know this entrepreneur has a good sense of humor when her tagline is "#IdTapThat."

Website: www.tapthecoast.com
IG: [@tapthecoast](https://www.instagram.com/tapthecoast)



Brew Bus Gulf Coast

Tori and Brandon Justesen were searching for bar options for their wedding when lightning struck. The Alabama natives saw a need and filled it with their 1966 vintage van converted to the Brew Bus. Based in Mobile, Alabama, they pick up and deliver

your chosen beverages and provide the Brew Bus, which is designed to deliver tap liquids, and a bartender. Customers can opt for a photoshoot to capture those Kodak moments.

Website: brewbusgulfcoast.com
IG: [@brew_bus](https://www.instagram.com/brew_bus)





Cruisin' Tikis Destin

Once upon a time, a retired engineer from Fort Lauderdale built a backyard tiki bar. But it grew too large, so he threw it over the sea wall, put a motor on it, and Cruisin' Tikis was born.

The Blaisses from Vancouver, Washington, packed up their three kids and moved to Florida to open a franchise, Cruisin' Tikis Destin. The Blaise brothers, Ian and Sean, became boat captains to their six-passenger, octagon-shaped tiki cruisers, where it's about "kicking back, and enjoying the ride."

They provide coolers, ice, shot paddles (great for photo ops), and Bluetooth for tunes, but customers bring their own tasty libations. Cruisin' Tikis Destin offers 3-hour jaunts to Crab Island (not really an island, but more of a state of mind), 1.5-hour sunset and fireworks cruises, and off-season adventures such as holiday cruises. As they say, "Why go bar hopping, when you can hop on the bar?"

Website: www.cruisintikisdestin.com
IG: @cruisintikisdestin



Kombi Keg 30A

Featuring six taps and a chilled trunk for spirits, wine, and soft drinks, Kombi Keg 30A is the ultimate drive-in, drive-out experience. Childhood buds Kevin and Patrick bring over 30 years of service and event experience with their vintage VW Kombi Van. From Pensacola to Tallahassee, they serve up ice-cold beverages, glasses, staff, and a roof-top TV across the Florida Panhandle. Movie night on the beach, anyone?

Website: www.kombikeg.com/united-states/florida-30a
IG: @KombiKeg30A

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Ryan and Sarah Conroy have visited 225 beach bars...and they're just getting started.

By Abigail Abesamis Demarest

There's a lot to love about a beach bar: ice-cold drinks, water views, chill vibes. And, news flash, Florida has plenty of them. Ryan and Sarah Conroy know a thing or two about Florida beach bars. They've visited more than 225 of them and operate a website called FloridaBeachBar.com. Here, you'll find a comprehensive directory of beach bars plus recommendations sorted by region and city.

After graduating from college, Sarah and Ryan had job opportunities that moved them from the Midwest (Sarah from Wisconsin and Ryan from Ohio) to Orlando in 2006. They were looking to explore more areas of Florida and stop by some beach bars along the way. A Google search led them to FloridaBeachBar.com, a website highlighting hundreds of beach bars around the state. It quickly became their tool to identify the beach bars they wanted to visit. "Going to beach bars was a way to escape on

the weekends and take in the unique atmosphere of the coastal beach towns across Florida," said Sarah.

At the time, FloridaBeachBar.com was run by John and Chris Sancin, a couple from the Midwest who started the website as something fun to do in their retirement. John also authored the book *Traveling to Florida Beach Bars* in 2013. Ryan reached out to John and Chris, telling them how much they loved their website and their plans to visit them all (or at least try). "John and Chris loved our plan so much that they decided to put our goal on the website for others to follow our progress," Ryan said.

Thus, the Florida Beach Bar Challenge was born. It was a friendly competition between Sarah and Ryan and their friends to see who could visit the most beach bars. "We plotted out our course before each trip and had an Excel spreadsheet that included a place for notes on each bar. We listed

them in the order we planned on visiting them," Sarah said. By the end of their challenge, they had visited more than 225 Florida beach bars, and Sarah and Ryan became experts in their own right.

Fast forward to 2015, and Ryan and Sarah officially became owners of FloridaBeachBar.com, as founders John and Chris decided to turn their attention to other endeavors. When it came to deciding who would take over the website, the answer was obvious: no one but Ryan and Sarah had visited as many bars as John and Chris. Ryan and Sarah redesigned the website, making it more mobile-friendly, and they added new listings for beach bars they had visited during the Beach Bar Challenge. They also added a blog to share stories from other Florida beach bar enthusiasts and continued John and Chris's tradition of hosting an annual Best Florida Beach Bar competition where fans vote on their favorites. "The top 10 winners throw a party and we present them with an award," Ryan said. "It's a fun and friendly competition that gets our

website's visitors to show their love for their favorite beach bars."

For Sarah and Ryan, the appeal of a beach bar is that it feels like an escape. "Whether it's the food, the drinks, the smell of the ocean, the sound of the waves, or the live music, Florida beach bars have a way of making you feel relaxed and help to slow down the pace of life," Ryan said. If they're visiting a beach bar for the first time, they like to ask the bartender what it's known for before deciding what to eat and drink. "There are so many Florida beach bars that have unique tropical drinks or food items, and we're always looking for something different," Sarah said. "We also love asking the bartender to make us their favorite drink that is not on the menu."

The answer they received to the latter question at The Golden Lion Cafe has become a go-to cocktail that Sarah and Ryan make at home. The Suntanned Surfer Girl is made with just three ingredients: pineapple juice, coconut rum, and a splash of cola.

“Going to beach bars was a way to escape on the weekends and take in the unique atmosphere of the coastal beach towns across Florida.”



To learn more, check out FloridaBeachBar.com.



5 Beach Bars

Ryan and Sarah Love

"We don't have favorite Florida beach bars. Chris Sancin would always say her favorite is the one she's currently at, and we agree! Get out there and try a new one—there are so many to visit," said Ryan and Sarah Conroy.

The bars listed below (in no particular order) are a sampling of the types of places you'll find on their website.

1. The Golden Lion Cafe

Flagler Beach

We love sitting on the upper deck and looking out at the Atlantic Ocean. The owners are always looking to enhance the guest experience, and they have a great stage for live music.

2. Jimmy B's Beach Bar

St. Petersburg Beach

Often placing as a top Florida beach bar in our competition, Jimmy B's has it all: a great Gulf view and multiple bar areas and stages. Stick around for a free Sunset Shooter, and there's a hotel attached in case you have one too many.

3. Juana's Pagodas & Sailors' Grill

Navarre Beach

You can't miss the beautiful pagodas as you drive by this beach bar. They have an inside bar where you can have a drink while dipping your toes in the sand. They also have a volleyball court and offer water activities like paddleboarding. You can tell which of the additions to the bar are newer as they become more elevated based on updated hurricane codes, which is why the bar is built at multiple levels.

4. Flora-Bama Lounge, Package & Oyster Bar

Perdido Key

This might be one of the largest Florida beach bars we've been to. Sitting right at the Florida-Alabama line, this beach bar has a lot of history and is never in short supply of great live music. Kenny Chesney's song "Flora-Bama" paints a great picture of what it's like to sit at this legendary spot. Don't miss the license plate mural displayed at this beach bar featuring the lyrics to his song.

5. Sharky's on the Pier

Venice

Located in the shark tooth capital of the world and next to Venice's fishing pier, this Florida beach bar has beautiful sunset views and a fun atmosphere. Sharky's on the Pier has also been rated a top beach bar multiple years.



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Hip-Deep in the Ocean

The Hip Abduction
is one of the world's
best beach bands.

By Cory Davis



Do you remember that time you saw one of your soon-to-be favorite bands perform for the very first time? I do. Our family once traveled around the state of Florida to various paddleboard events so that I could serve as the official announcer for each race. Tough gig, right? My friends at YOLO Board had dialed me into the paddleboard world from this angle, and Jeff Archer, YOLO Board's founder, challenged me to create a new online stand-up paddleboarding radio station. Having a broadcasting background, I said, "Yeah, let's do it." So for about three years, I ran an online radio station that supported the growing sport of stand-up paddleboarding — locally, and nationally — from the Battle of the Paddle to the Payette River Games to the Florida Cup in Treasure Island, Florida.

The post-race party at the Florida Cup was at a place called Gator's, located on a channel that led to the Gulf of Mexico. The band at the event was called The Hip Abduction, and one of the band members is an avid paddler. Our kids danced on the stage with them that night, and a few more times over the years since then.

30A Radio: You guys started out playing in Florida beach bars. How did that influence your unique style?

David: At the outset, we played other people's music, while drawing from our influences, to see what we are good at. When you start off at these bars, no one cares what you play; they just want to hear Jimmy Buffett or Bob Marley. So if you're going to play original music, you better play music that gets in their head.



When you think of iconic beach music, you certainly can't go wrong with Jimmy, Bob, Kenny, and more Bob. Many minds instantly jump to reggae or island music. There's also a TropRock genre that you might find playing on repeat in a tiny retro-cool tiki bar. But it's very rare to find a band that doesn't fit into any of those categories yet instantly transports you to the beach every time you hit the play button.

The Hip Abduction's uniquely beachy sound makes them a perfect addition to our daily 30A Radio playlist. It's not reggae. It's not jam. IT'S NOT JACK JOHNSON. But one thing is certain: there would be a void on 30A Radio without their music and influence.

We recently caught up with lead singer David New after one of his surf sessions in St. Augustine, Florida.

"If you can write timeless music, it's always there for you, and there is more soul."

But The Hip Abduction isn't your normal "beach" band, is it?

We started off reggae, then sort of jam, then indie pop, but really I don't feel like we fit in any genre of music. If you fit perfectly into a genre, it can be huge for you because you can open up for the biggest band in that genre and everyone will love you. We tend to feel more island indie. It's kind of reggae, but not really. We are just inspired by that sound.

Could you write music without having the beach nearby?

I live 800 feet from high tide in St. Augustine, Florida, and I've never written this much music in my life. I'm definitely affected by it. It helps me clear everything and be empty and soak in my surroundings. But interacting with the places I go to can be more meaningful for songwriting. I can take inspiration from something I saw or someone I met. Even a single word I heard on a trip can spark a song.

How hard is it to be positive in your life and in your writing?

Writing positively helps me stay positive. But I don't know if I can write that way without having been in a dark space. It's hard to stay positive on social media all the time. But if you just hold your hands out as wide as you can and smile, it can change your mood just a little bit. The physical act of trying to stay positive day to day... we all need to do that.

How did music growing up influence your music with The Hip Abduction?

You are what you eat. I listened to Van Morrison, Dave Matthews — timeless music that doesn't fit in one timeframe. If you can write timeless music, it's always there for you, and there is more soul. I listened to reggae, country, Americana, Bluegrass, everything. But ultimately, I found that I was influenced by timeless music.

As a writer, was 2020 good or bad for you?

2020 taught me what's important to me, and it's not living in a van touring my ass off all the time. I'm a hermit, and in a weird way, I needed that reset time to surf, work out, and write music. It usually takes me three years to write one album. I wrote two albums in 2020, *Seafarer* and *Infinite Dream*. And it's what I wanted to listen to. You always want to consider what's popular at the moment, but I decided to write music that I wanted to hear. From start to finish,



it's the best album we've ever released. When we go on tour in 2022, we could play the album from start to finish. It's that good.

Great lyrics can become words to live by. What was your intent with the line, "The second hand doesn't wait for you," from your song, "Daydreamer"?

Maybe it's telling you to travel more. Or having conversations with people. A call to ease relationships from the past. You have to live a timeless lifestyle. Time doesn't wait.

Do you have one song that takes you to the beach every single time you hear it?

"Reggaemylitis" by Peter Tosh. When I lived in the Bahamas, that was it.

Learn more about The Hip Abduction at www.thehipabduction.com.

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GITANO BEACH TULUM, MEXICO

By Elena Sanitate

**CARR. TULUM-BOCA PAILA KM 4.2, ZONA HOTELERA
TULUM, ZONA COSTERA, 77780 Q.R., MEXICO**

The sun twinkles on the turquoise waters of Tulum Beach. The scent of coconut suntan lotion fills the air.

Nestled in the southern tip of the Riviera Maya, Gitano Beach has become Mexico's most vibrant beach bar destination. Gitano is the creation of the epicurean pioneer and hit-maker James Gardner, who decided to open the doors of one of the most incredible beach bars in Tulum, in the Yucatan.

James defines himself as an innovator and entrepreneur. He started his career in London as a strategist and technology professional, and in 1994, he moved to NYC, where he became a Wall Street algorithmic trading leader. But the waves were calling, and he had to answer. He decided to create a home-away-from-home in Tulum with the Group Gitano, which quickly became a global brand having five locations in Mexico, NYC, and Miami, with more to be announced.

Introduced in February 2021, Gitano Beach is Tulum's only private beach club. It is surrounded by the stunning Mayan-ruin-studded Parque Nacional, featuring a rustic design with particular attention to outdoor spaces.

Guests at Gitano Beach Bar are immediately welcomed into an international Gypset locale where tropical atmospheres, local flavors, and gypsy vibes blend to perfection. The name *Gitano* is the Spanish word for "gypsy," suggesting a bohemian, free spirit, laid-back vibe.

Now imagine soft white sands under your feet, the turquoise Yucatan waters, palm trees flowing in the breeze, and good old tropical vibes. That's what Gitano is all about. The minimalist white and black striped tipis shield the sand loungers and bamboo benches, while under the palapa, the international menu is cooked on an open fire with a wood-burning oven, grill, and comal.

Gitano's incredible success is undoubtedly due to its trendy vibes perfectly balanced with an eco-friendly mindset. The zero-waste cocktails made with burnt pineapple and salvaged lime husks; the locally-grown seasonal fruits, and herbs; or Gitano's support for public beach cleaning initiatives are just the tip of the iceberg.

Gitano's cuisine captures the essence of who they are: free spirits, wanderers, and wonderers. Their menu is a hymn to bohemian, diverse, inclusive, conscious, and creative gastronomic culture. Unique and savory flavors are served and styled to tease even the most sophisticated palates, thanks to Chef Alexandros Gkoutsi who left Mykonos to create a perfect Mexican menu with a Mediterranean twist. Signature dishes range from hummus and tzatziki to Cochinita Pibil Tacos – roasted pork, red onion, habanero, chimichurri, and salsa verde – and Lebanese Chicken Kebab.

The signature cocktails are addictively delicious. Try the Kisses in the Car, with mezcal, rum, passion fruit, and tangerine habanero, or the cheekily named Gypsy Disco 75 Cocktail, which features vodka, rosé prosecco, elderflower, and lime for a quick pit stop before dancing the night away.

When the sun sets, the music rises up in the sky. The DJ starts spinning at 10 pm, and the soundtrack is an eclectic blend of drum-forward world music meeting classic disco masterpieces. Check their beats and most-loved playlist on their Spotify and SoundCloud for a beach party vibe.

They say life at the beach is different, that time doesn't move hour to hour but mood to moment. We'll certainly drink to that at Gitano Beach!

To learn more about Gitano, visit their website (www.gitano.com) or follow them on Facebook (www.facebook.com/gitanobeach).



SA TRINXA IBIZA

By Ellen Grace Jones

**PLAYA DE SES SALINES, S/N, 07830 SANT JOSEP
DE SA TALAIA, BALEARIC ISLANDS, SPAIN**

From the artists and dreamers of the '60s to bug-eyed '80s ravers and the glamorous jet-setters of today, Ibiza's magnetic allure for pleasure-seekers of all persuasions has endured through the decades. Whilst Ibiza is an ever-shapeshifting place, its soul remains eternal — a place of carefree abandon. A place where freedom of expression and anything-goes reigns supreme.

While upscale resorts and glossy beach bars now pop up non-stop, there is one beach bar that's changed little in its 40-year lifetime. Nestled in a corner of the White Isle's most southerly tip, Sa Trinxà is the living, breathing embodiment of Ibiza's bohemian spirit.

Stroll along the powdery sands of Salinas Beach and you'll spot the iconic blue hand-painted sign atop a roof of palm fringes fading under the glare of the Balearic sun. Row after row of white sun loungers line their way across the sands, while a long green Astroturf catwalk leads you over rugged rocks, down to the glistening Mediterranean.

More chiringuito than chichi, Sa Trinxà's barefoot sensibilities and warm, inclusive atmosphere are a seductive draw for tourists and the island's characters alike. From the hip crowd to hippies, on any given day you'll rub shoulders with VOGUE-clutching fashionistas, local Spanish families, globe-trotting nomads, an incognito celeb, and perhaps even the odd octogenarian nudist.

Serving the freshest of seafood and excellent cocktails (and arguably the best cava sangria on the island), Sa Trinxà has got plenty going for it, gastronomically. Park up in the cool shade of its palm-leaf roof and savor some just-caught octopus and prawns alongside a papaya salad. Wash it down with a killer cocktail — or pressed-juice if you're shaking off the previous night's excesses still.

The best days at Sa Trinxà are spent lazing on a lounge as the gentle throb of the DJ's tunes aligns with the lapping of the sea. Ease your way into sunset with some cocktails as the sun dips below the horizon and the DJ's tempo picks up. You may even catch a live sax, guitar, or djembe performance.

In Ibiza's era of five-star mega establish-

ments, Sa Trinxà's unapologetically humble vibes are a defiant testament to a place with soul and an incredible legacy. When it comes to superior sounds, over the course of its existence, Sa Trinxà has launched countless DJs' careers, whilst becoming the go-to spot for blissed-out daytime beats.

Perhaps no one captures the essence of Sa Trinxà more than its iconic namesake DJ, Jon Sa Trinxà. His story is classic Ibiza legend. Upon arriving in Ibiza penniless in the '80s, he got knocked down when hitch-hiking. Sa Trinxà's late founder and owner Nito Cardona came to his rescue, bringing him to the bar where he fed him and cleaned up his wounds in the sea.

The following day, Nito's DJ was a no-show, and knowing that Jon liked to spin records, he invited him to play at the bar. Word soon got out, and Jon steadily grew a following, putting Sa Trinxà on the map for locals and the growing mass of European and international party-seekers in the early '90s.

Playing a kaleidoscopic mix of jazz, techno and classical, Jon's sonic journeys were the laid-back prototype for what's known as the Balearic sound. Jon's presence is so vital to the island, he was the inspiration for the recent documentary, *Born Balearic: Jon Sa Trinxà & the Spirit of Ibiza*. In the documentary, he is the lens through which Ibiza's colorful international culture and community are witnessed in all its glory.

Sa Trinxà no doubt owes much of its success to the transcendental beauty of its surroundings. Taking its name from the salt flats that sit behind it, Salinas Beach is framed by a striking nature reserve. Crystal clear waters, softly undulating dunes and banner blue skies make it one of Ibiza's most loved beaches. At the very end, an old pirate watchtower still guards the coastline.

If you can tear yourself away from your sandy dancefloor at Sa Trinxà, explore its mesmerizing surroundings and immerse yourself in the raw natural splendor of one of the few remaining places that captures Ibiza's elemental energy and character.

To learn more about Sa Trinxà, visit their website (www.satrinxa.com) or follow them on Facebook (www.facebook.com/satrinxaofficial).



KU DE TA BALI, INDONESIA

By Craig Jarvis

JL. KAYU AYA NO.9, SEMINYAK, KUTA, KABUPATEN
BADUNG, BALI, INDONESIA

One thing there is no shortage of in Bali is beach bars. They are literally a dime a dozen, with most selling half-chilled Bintang and average cocktails with local spirits. Good enough to get going, but not the most sophisticated night out. There are a few exceptions, and out of those few, KU DE TA stands out.

Affectionately known as KU, it sports a pretty incredible location. Seminyak Beach is not as well-known for surfing as the Uluwatu stretch, Bingen, Padang Padang, or even Impossibles. Still, it has the occasional excellent sandbank forming up on smaller days. This provides perfect little runners for any takers. Being less well-known as a surf break also means it gets less crowded than some more famous spots.

The first thing you notice about the atmosphere when entering KU is the distinct level of sophistication. There is a definite dress code, but the rules are within reason. The vibe is more than just vests and boardshorts. People have to make a little bit more of an effort than that.

The second thing you notice at KU is there are some gorgeous people around. The pool is always full during the hot afternoons. There are slinky humans in tiny bikinis, as well as buffed men in their swimming attire, soaking up the rays and appreciating the views we just mentioned.

The third thing that comes front of mind is that there is always good music playing. There is no time for loud disco or screeching punk. Instead, the sounds are often DJ-led grooves that are so good that a KU DE TA radio station exists on Mixcloud (www.mixcloud.com/kudetaradio) consisting of recorded live sets. They are currently on episode 438.

Arguably the most prominent element of KU is their approach to food. There's nothing done in halves here, and every single side order to every main dish is treated with respect. There are bar snacks and starters, and there is a wonderful and busy restaurant.

The Mekejawi Restaurant is run by Executive Chef Jeremy Hunt from South Africa. It is fine dining on the beach. The Japanese

Sushi tray is a divine adventure, coming in at \$33, but there is literally something for everyone. The pizza and burger menu is varied and exotic, with the pizza around \$13 and a standard burger at \$8. An expansive cocktail menu, a good selection of imported and craft beers, and a curated wine list changes with the seasons.

A warm evening with loud but good music, masses of humanity and plenty of alcohol being consumed always brings out the nerves in some people, but the vibe at KU stays mellow. Accidentally bump into someone, and they'll be the one apologizing, as the waiter is already bustling to the bar to replace the spilt drink. Smiles and friendliness abound, and this makes KU somewhat of a haven in Bali.

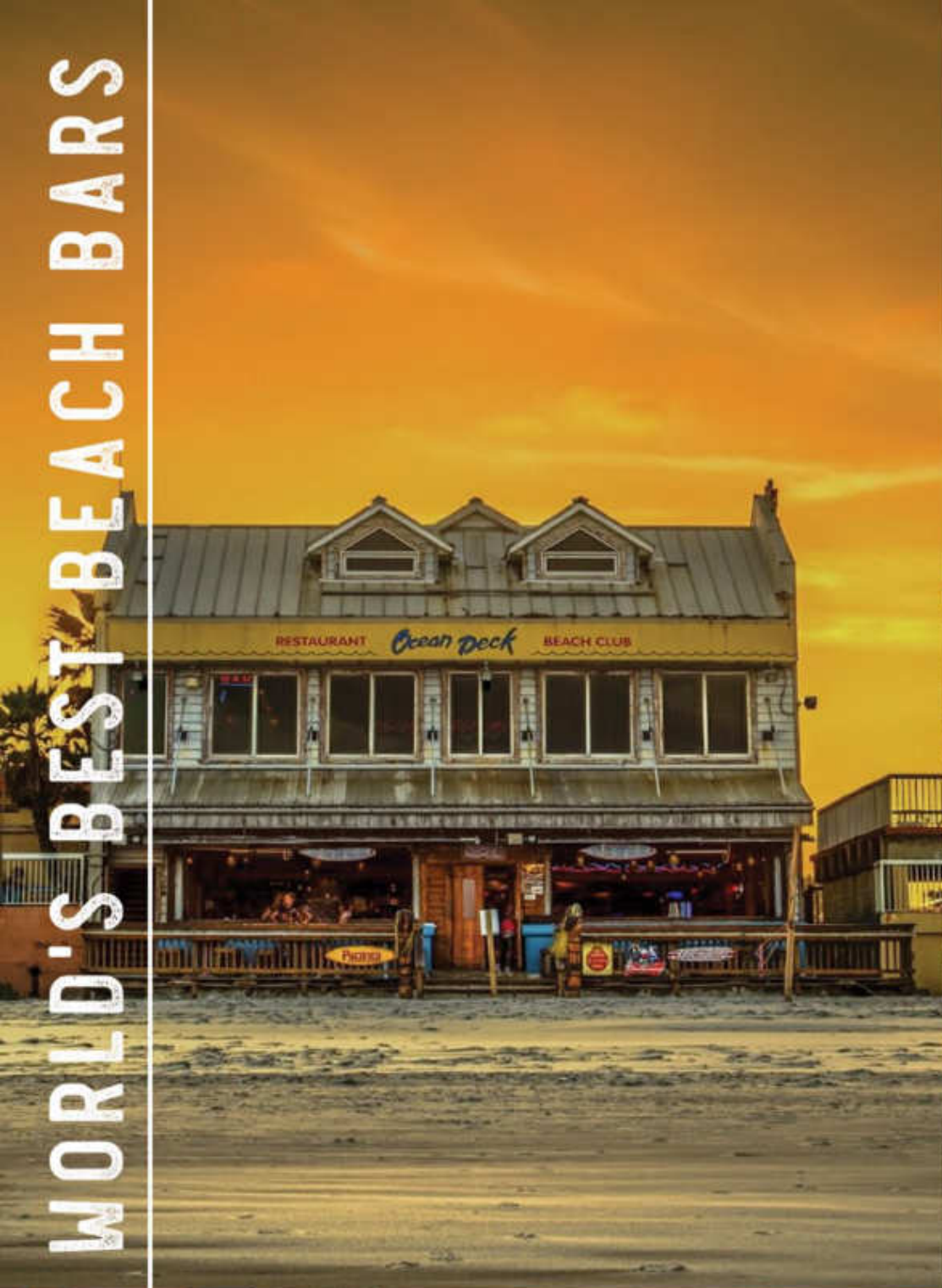
It also is a location that, despite the popularity, seems to welcome a vibe of discretion. It's not the place to whip out your mobile phone and start taking uninvited photos of people swimming in the pool. This sort of behavior will be quickly dealt with, and one gets a feeling that this forms part of the safe-haven vibe they are constantly working on. For me, it means I can go with my wife and family, and with friends, and be totally confident that I will receive good service and consistently fantastic food, and I won't be harassed by anyone whatsoever. If I need to find a quiet spot somewhere, they are available.

The best bit of advice I ever got was to get there early enough in the evening to grab a few loungers. It is quite the perfect place to listen to a chilled sunset music set, cocktail in hand, and watch the sun go down in paradise.

With all the respect a place like Bali deserves, so many crowded bars and pubs are daunting and uninviting if you're not into loud disco sounds and aggressive patrons. Instead, KU has instilled a culture of high standards over the last 14 years of chilled vibes, excellent food, great service, and the complimentary view of a gorgeous Balinese beach. There's not that much more one could ask for.

To learn more about KU DE TA, visit their website (www.kudeta.com) or follow them on Facebook (www.facebook.com/KUDETA).





OCEAN DECK DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA

By Krystina Quintana

127 S OCEAN AVE, DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32118,
UNITED STATES

With its ample beach activities, boardwalk, and abundant hotels and resorts, Daytona Beach is never without crowds. But travel back to the 1950s, and you'll discover that Daytona Beach was a much quieter place—a place where a small hot dog stand was one of the only available food providers along these sandy shores.

Locals referred to this hot dog stand as "The Deck," owned and run by Dick Keough. In 1980, Keough decided to buy what is now known as Ocean Deck Restaurant & Beach Club. He quickly changed from hot dogs only to a full-fledged menu, serving up seafood items such as their beloved Mahi Mahi and signature cocktails such as the Red Tide, which is still served today. In fact, waiters and bartenders dreamed up many of the signature mixed drinks and shots that now reside on the menu.

At the time, Ocean Deck was the only beach bar and eatery located directly on the beach. Beyond the appeal of being able to dip your toes in the soft, warm sand while sipping a frozen drink, the venue also provided Caribbean vibes.

Although Dick Keough retired in 2012—32 years after opening Ocean Deck—it continues to thrive and is referred to as "The Legend on the Beach." Today, this relaxed family-owned oceanside spot is popular with locals and visitors alike.

Upon arrival, head up the ramp, and you'll find the sit-down portion of this restaurant and beach club. A full menu is available, though you will most likely be subjected to a 30-minute wait. Reservations are not accepted, so make sure you don't arrive hungry as wait times vary, especially on weekends.

Ocean Deck is continually packed. This is true even on rainy days. The menu impress-

es with items such as the lobster tail, the famed Mahi Mahi dish, and a fresh Atlantic Salmon entrée. Opt to sit in the central area known simply as "The Upper Deck" or sit right by the large windows often propped open in "The West Deck" area. Either option provides a fun, tasty experience, though the tables near the windows receive the best views.

Heading to the lower level provides an entirely different feel. This level can be accessed either by stairs leading directly to "The Original Beachfront Lower Deck" or by walking up from the beach. As soon as one walks into the lower deck, a stage appears on the left, and high-top tables, booths, and circular tables with seats attached are seen throughout the level. More often than not, a singer or band will be providing music as visitors arrive.

Walking into the lower level also provides a look into history when the restaurant first opened. What began as a single-level eatery has turned into a dual-level, three-section restaurant. Although renovations have been made since to include a tiki bar and a renovated stage, it still provides the feeling of a casual island eatery where you can soak up the sun and stop in for a cool drink before heading back to the surf.

Ocean Deck Restaurant & Beach Club maintains an active role within the community with music festivals, competitions, and even fun runs. Ocean Deck hours are 11 am to 2 am daily, with Happy Hour from 3 pm–6 pm, Monday through Friday. Live music is available seven days a week, featuring 2 pm karaoke with Stormin' Norman thrown in for good measure on the weekends.

To learn more about the Ocean Deck Restaurant & Beach Club, visit their website (oceandeck.com) or follow them on Facebook (www.facebook.com/OceanDeck).



THE ISLAND SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

By Brooke Ressel

**MRS MACQUARIES RD, SYDNEY NSW 2000,
AUSTRALIA**

There's just something so peaceful about being next to the water as you watch the sun slowly dip below the horizon. With a craft cocktail in your hand, good house music wafting along a gentle breeze, and the stunning Sydney Harbour Bridge as your backdrop, you look around and all you see is genuinely happy people dressed up and enjoying the evening as much as you are.

What may seem like a magical scene straight out of a movie can, in fact, be your reality when you visit The Island — Sydney's first and only floating beach club.

Never been to a floating beach club before? Just picture taking your favorite night club experience and transporting it out to the middle of one of the most recognizable harbors in the world. It's a warm summer night, and you're so close to the refreshing water, you can dip your toes in.

Located in the heart of downtown Sydney, Australia, The Island is an exclusive event space that was created with European beach club culture in mind. First launched as a shipping container popup bar with striped umbrellas and turf on Cockatoo Island, this award-winning club later relaunched in 2011 as an open-air floating barge with modern aesthetics.

Open to the public from September through May, The Island is now the top hot spot in Sydney during the gorgeous summer months, attracting young, beautiful partygoers from around the world.

With its whitewashed walls, comfortable lounge areas, large shade umbrellas, greenery, string lights, and plenty of dance space, this repurposed floating barge is unlike any other club you've ever been to. And the available VIP table packages are sure to take your club experience to a whole new level.

After booking your tickets online, enjoy the picturesque view of Sydney Harbour as you take a water taxi out to The Island barge. Once there, grab a delicious cocktail from the fully-stocked bar, take a dip in the refreshing sea pool, and order a little something from their mouth-watering menu. (Trust us, the pizza is a must.)

From the minute you step on The Island to the minute you depart — by way of their private water taxi — you will receive only

the best, 5-star service you would expect from such an exclusive club. So you won't be left waiting in long queues just to get watered-down drinks.

In fact, The Island is well known for its professional and friendly staff, its thirst-quenching drinks, its private water taxis, and of course, the incredible views of the Sydney cityscape and harbor, making it a unique and innovative bar you have to see to believe. So grab your partner or a group of friends, enjoy the open-air and the sound of the waves as they lap against the barge, and make a toast over frosty drinks in coconut shells or over ice-cold buckets of beer.

With so many incredible events on their calendar, you're sure to find one that you will enjoy. From their island sunset bashes to their theme-nights, popular brunches, and New Year's Eve parties, The Island makes the perfect spot for a romantic date or a large group outing with friends.

The Island is available for private bookings year-round. With 3,750 square feet of space and a maximum capacity of up to 200 guests, you can book this floating party barge for your next corporate event, product launch, holiday party, or luxury wedding.

The Island boasts a fully licensed and serviced bar, state-of-the-art surround sound and DJ equipment, and a fully retractable roof to shelter you from the elements. Plus, it can be moored just about anywhere on the Sydney Harbor, so you can choose the perfect view for your guests.

You have never been to a private party quite like this one, and your guests will be talking about it for weeks. Plus, you don't have to worry about transportation. The Island's private water taxis are waiting on standby to shuttle your guests to and from, as needed.

So when you're ready for some leisurely day drinking, a fun night out on the town, or planning an event that your guests will always remember, The Island in Sydney, Australia, is a picture-perfect choice.

To learn more about The Island, visit their website (theislandsydney.com.au) or follow them on Facebook (www.facebook.com/theisland-sydney).

5

Questions

With Charles Joly

The global bartending champion, spirits and cocktail educator, and co-founder of Crafthouse Cocktails talks about his go-to beach bar drink and favorite beach destinations.

The title “bartender” barely scratches the surface of what Charles Joly does. He has worked in the hospitality industry for more than 20 years, and in that time he has won prestigious awards (James Beard Award for Outstanding Beverage Program at The Aviary, Tales of the Cocktail American Bartender of the Year in 2013 and World’s Best Cocktail Menu in 2014), appeared as a guest on top morning shows, and created the official cocktails served at the Emmys and Academy Awards for the last five years as their official mixologist.

He is also the co-founder of a ready-to-drink cocktail brand that launched almost 10 years ago, well before today’s trend. Joly is a leader in the international craft cocktail and spirits movement, and we were lucky enough to get a few minutes with him to chat about beachy drinks and some of the amazing places he’s visited throughout his career.



By Abigail Abesamis Demarest
Photos: Crafthouse Cocktails
Charles Joly

1. What’s your go-to beach bar drink?

When I think of the beach, my mind and taste buds go to either blanco tequila or rum. Let’s be honest though, my mind always goes to tequila and rum. The daiquiri is one of my go-to cocktails. It is one of the near-perfect classic cocktails. Unfortunately, it’s been a victim of overly sugared slushie machines and bad pre-mixes. When done in the classic style—high-quality rum, real lime juice, and just enough sugar to balance the citrus—it is a thing of beauty.

Our Crafthouse Cocktails Pineapple Daiquiri was a pet project for me. I knew we were going to have to teach people about a proper daiquiri. If the combination of pineapple and five-year-old Barbados rums we source from Plantation along with aromatic bitters and lime juice doesn’t make you want to have a seat in the sand, I’m not sure what will.

2. In your extensive global travels, what has been your favorite beach destination?

This is a seriously tough question. Who doesn’t love gazing out over the water, cocktail in hand? I’ve had the pleasure of being a featured mixologist at the Cayman Cookout, hosted at The Ritz-Carlton in the Cayman Islands for several years. I get to shake up my creations alongside some of the world’s best chefs. We all come together in a celebration of food and drink in an incredible setting. The calm waters and views are stunning.

Sipping ice-cold fino sherry while staring across the Strait of Gibraltar in Spain, having lunch on a secluded beach (with daiquiris, of course) in Cuba, hiking down to a rugged inlet bar in Mykonos, giving a bartender master class on the sand in Indonesia, dusting off the surfboard in Rincón, kayaking to Moku Nui in Oahu... enough of this, let’s pack our bags!



3. *Crafthouse Cocktails was a first-mover in a segment that's now exploding. How did you come up with the idea?*

My business partner Matt Lindner and I have both spent our entire lives in hospitality, working in restaurants and bars. Somewhere about 2011, I was running one of the first full-fledged cocktail bars in Chicago (the original Drawing Room, which opened in 2007). Guests would always ask for our recipes so they could make drinks at home or for parties, and we would always oblige and walk them through the steps. Inevitably, they would come back and say the drinks never tasted quite as good as we made them at the bar. I encourage and love to teach people to make cocktails at home. That said, it is a skill and takes time and practice to perfect. There are nuances that separate good cocktails from great cocktails.

Matt and I started chatting and asked ourselves why no one was making high-quality prepared cocktails. We started to explore what it would take to create some. Two years of tasting, testing, and R&D later, we launched Crafthouse Cocktails. From the beginning, we were committed to using real spirits, real citrus, real sugar, no preservatives, and serving true ABV (the same strength) that followed what we did in the bar.

The past ten years has been a wild ride for our independent brand and the category has exploded. We spent much of that time

just having people taste our drinks, so they could see for themselves that a fantastic, cocktail bar quality drink in a bottled format was possible. We've done a lot with our little team, partnering with airlines, airports, Amtrak, Virgin Voyages cruises, hotels, theaters, and awesome retail partners to spread the word about the best quality bottled cocktails. These types of partnerships are typically reserved for big corporate brands. Luckily, our quality, integrity, and passion has shined through, and people have been on board since the beginning.

4. *What ingredients, flavors, or garnishes remind you of the beach, and how do you like to incorporate them into drinks?*

There are some universal flavors that vibe with the beach, most often along the tropical and tiki vibe. Fruits, spices, and juices that are native to these areas will always play well. That said, this is where quality really counts. So many of these flavors get overly processed and become a shell of their former selves. Things like passion fruit, coconut, pineapple, and banana can all make incredible, refined cocktails when you take the time to source good produce. They quickly go the other way when we revert back to the oft-used artificial approximations of these.

5. *What are your top must-have items to take with you to the beach?*

I get antsy at the beach. I'm the type of person who needs activities. If there are sensibly sized waves, I love to try and surf, albeit poorly. I always bring goggles so I can swim some distance and enjoy aquatic life. I can spend all day peering into the alien depths around reefs and such. I never pull up without a small cooler filled with our Crafthouse Cocktails aluminum bottles. They're tailor-made for the beach, 100 percent recyclable, and stay cold. If it's an all-day thing, I usually bring a book as well and pretend like I'm going to get some reading done.

To learn more about Charles Joly, follow him on Instagram (@charlesjoly, @drinkcrafthouse) and check out charlesjoly.com and crafthousecocktails.com. 📱



Bring the Beach Bar Home

"I've created many beach-worthy cocktails over the years, but let's start out with one of the basics. Once you've mastered this fundamental cocktail, shake in your favorite fruits and start to embellish it," said Joly.



Done Right Daiquiri

- 1 ounce aged rum (I like Plantation 5-Year Barbados, Denizen Merchant's Reserve, or similar)
- 3/4 ounce white rum (Plantation 3 Stars, Denizen White, Flor de Caña 4 Year)
- 1/4 ounce Jamaican pot still rum (Smith & Cross, Plantation Xaymaca)
- 1 ounce fresh lime juice
- 3/4 ounce simple syrup (1 part sugar dissolved into 1 part water)
- Dash Angostura bitters
- Glass: Cocktail coupe

Combine all ingredients in a cocktail shaker with ice. Shake well and strain into a chilled cocktail coupe. Garnish with a lime twist or wheel.

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Nauti by Nature

By Carrie Honaker

Gulf Coast bars best reached by boat

The Gulf Coast boasts some of the most picturesque waters anywhere, and there are a number of beachfront bars where you can take it all in. But why spend your time lugging around a heavy cooler, or fighting for a parking spot, when you can just boat up and imbibe? (Responsibly, of course!) Get on board, motor over to the dock, tie up, and enjoy these bars you can reach by water.



The Bay

The Bay made some boat-friendly upgrades so sailors can easily enjoy their inventive cuisine, refreshing drinks, and live music. "A hurricane wiped out our pier," said Blake Whorton, general manager. "In rebuilding, we added three extra slips. Just tie up, and take the pier over. We have beach bonfires every Wednesday and Sunday. It's a relaxed vibe away from the hustle and bustle."

In addition to Chef Jim Shirley's famous Bomber Burger, and selections inspired by his time living in Japan, there are tasty cocktails. Whorton said the Tropical Lemonade, made with nectarine vodka and fresh-squeezed juices, is not to be missed. Map your course for the Bay and its deck overlooking Choctawhatchee Bay for some choice sunsets and live music.

24215 Hwy. 331, at the foot of the bridge
Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459
www.baysouthwalton.com



Juana's Pagodas

Located at the foot of Navarre Beach Bridge, Juana's Pagodas has been a family-owned and operated business since 1989. Before becoming the sprawling bar and restaurant complex it is today, it was a small rental operation. The Rudki family recalled, "We figured out real quick we weren't going to make a living just renting jet skis and boats," so they built a bar on the beach. But people wanted food, so they added another grass hut. Hurricanes over the years knocked those structures down. "Every time, we rebuilt bigger and stronger."

Now Juana's Pagodas boasts six lit volleyball courts, a dance club, two restaurants and west-facing deck with outdoor bar to catch those gorgeous gulf sunsets. Nosing up on the beach is one option, but boaters looking for more secure parking can utilize the transient slips with deep water dockage at the boat ramp. Rudki added about coming by boat, "On a chart, it looks intimidating. But, just turn south into our dock, halfway between channel marker 93 and Navarre Beach Bridge. Head for the water tower, and it's a straight shot."

Whether cruising the Great Loop or looking for a tiki bar to pull up to, Juana's Pagodas has you covered. And don't forget to order a Juanawacker, their take on the famous tropical drink.

1451 Navarre Beach Causeway
Navarre, FL 32566
www.juanaspagodas.com



Boathouse Oyster Bar

Miss Wanda and Action Jackson opened "a little hole in the wall where the kitchen wasn't even attached in 1986," said current owner Missy Schofield. Hurricane Opal took it out, but they rebuilt, and in 2012, they added a courtyard with nine tables where customers start up conga lines to the nightly live music. The Schofield's took over in 2018 to keep the party going in the spot "where every hour is happy hour." The Boathouse Oyster Bar now has three bars and is known for their briny bivalves.

According to Schofield, boat parking is an "if you know, you know" situation.

All public slips are first come, first serve. The lone long boat dock isn't named, and sits in front of a vacant, new construction restaurant. Four public spots are available on the west side of the dock.

Cast-off worries at Boathouse Oyster Bar where the vibe is laid-back, and no shoes, no shirt gets you service. Try their Boathouse Breeze, and settle in for one of Destin's favorite local hidden treasures.

288 Harbor Blvd
Destin, FL 32541
www.boathouseoysterbardestin.com





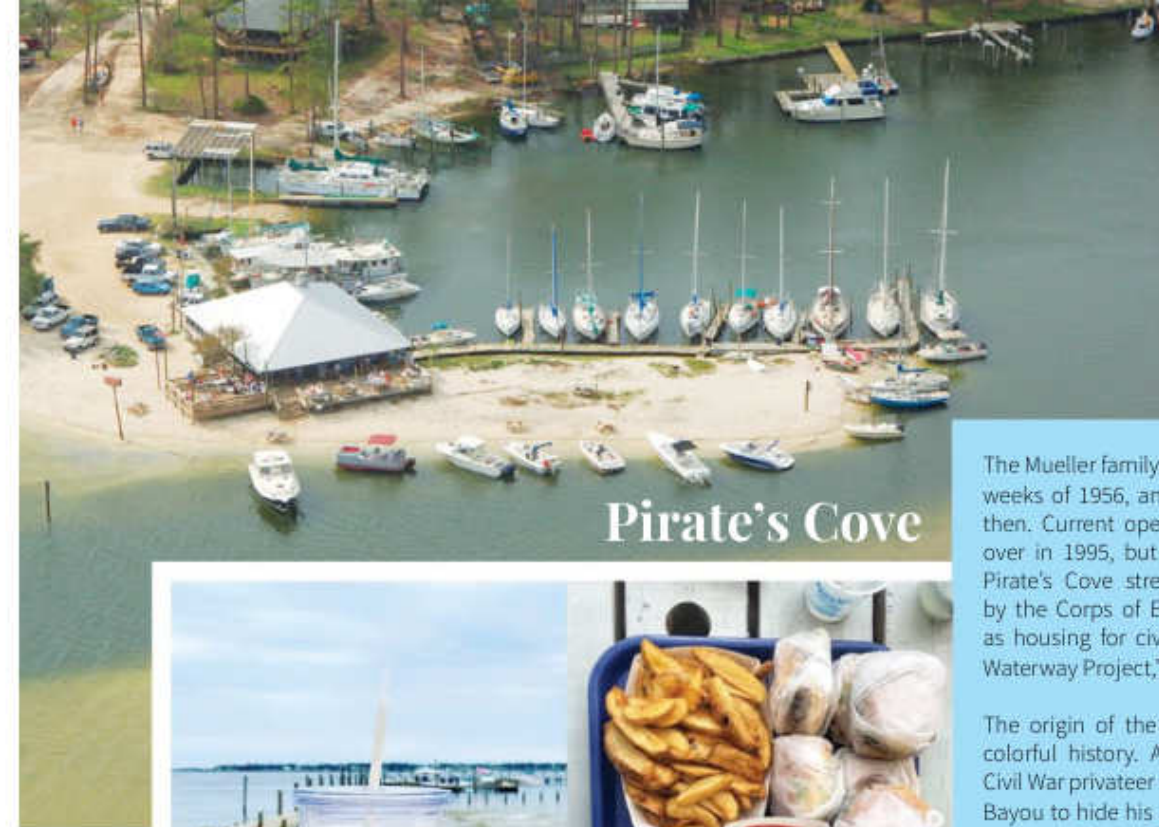
The Oar House on Bayou Chico



It started with a talking fish named Jezebel. Legend says a young woman, who was married to a deployed naval aviator, became lonely for her husband and needed a little extra cash, so she opened a small bar and grill on Bayou Chico. One day when out fishing, she happened upon a magical talking fish who promised a reunion with her husband if she drank the mysterious potion he offered. Jezebel swallowed it happily, and as legend goes, she can still be seen off the deck of the Oar House to a lucky few.

Minutes from downtown Pensacola, the Oar House on Bayou Chico offers spectacular sunsets, a view of Bahia Mar Marina, and some tiki-roof shade to enjoy your favorite libation. Visitors will find live entertainment, tasty bayou bites like Cousin Boudreaux's etouffee, and beach games like table tennis and corn hole. Boat in, tie up on the attached dock, enjoy some sunset cocktails, and maybe catch a sighting of Jezebel.

1000 South Pace Boulevard
Pensacola, FL 32502
www.oarhousepensacola.com



Pirate's Cove

The Mueller family bought Pirate's Cove in the waning weeks of 1956, and it has been a family affair since then. Current operators Paul and Karl Mueller took over in 1995, but according to Paul, the history of Pirate's Cove stretches further back. "It was built by the Corps of Engineers, sometime around 1935, as housing for civilians working on the Intracoastal Waterway Project," said Paul.

The origin of the name Pirate's Cove adds to that colorful history. Admiral Rafael Semmes, a known Civil War privateer (pirate), sailed his ship into Robert's Bayou to hide his booty from pursuers. The area was renamed Pirate's Cove as its fame for piracy grew.

Today, Pirate's Cove is a laid-back bar with live music on weekends. It's known for its cheeseburgers, wood-fired pizzas, and dogs...lots of dogs. Two decks overlook the beach where canines and kids can play, and there's a courtesy dock to pull up your boat. Get one of their bushwackers; they sell, according to Paul, "more Mailbu than any other retailer in the U.S." Time for boat drinks!

6664 County Road 95
Josephine, AL 36530
www.piratescoveriffraff.com



Sunset Pointe

"Panini Pete," a Fairhope native, set up shop at Sunset Pointe restaurant in Fly Creek Marina to deliver high-quality cocktails and farm-to-table food against the backdrop of Mobile Bay sunsets. Hungry boaters can enjoy Sunset Pointe's tasty bights. "A bight can be simply a bend or curve in any geographical feature, usually a coast... at sunset, we encourage you to come get a bight."

And the marina could not be more nautical-friendly. Family owned and operated, Fly Creek Marina is tucked into a sheltered harbor on Mobile Bay, a short distance from downtown Fairhope, Alabama. The facility features wide slips, side-tie slips, and boat lifts. Long- and short-term accommodations are available for any docking needs.

Motor up and order one of their signature Sunset Lemonades—a refreshing mix of Tulemore Dew, St Germain, Pomm juice, and fresh lemon, all floated with ginger ale...yum!

831 N. Section Street
Fairhope, Alabama 36532
www.sunsetpointefairhope.com



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Help Keep Walton County *Scenic*

State of Florida Approves Official 30A® Specialty License Plate

This summer, Governor Ron DeSantis signed Senate Bill 676 to help create a new 30A® specialty license plate for all Florida motorists.

All proceeds from sales of the new 30A specialty license plate will be donated to Scenic Walton (www.scenicwalton.org), a 501(c)(3) non-profit that works to preserve, protect, and enhance the beauty and safety of Walton County, Florida.

"Every person who buys an official State of Florida 30A tag for their vehicle will help keep Walton County beautiful," said Mike Ragsdale, Founder of The 30A Company. "This really is an extraordinary opportunity for our community."

Scenic Walton's mission is to promote beautification and safety projects throughout all of Walton County, Florida, including improving landscaping in roadway medians, reducing litter, championing underground utilities, expanding infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists, advocating for excellent

design standards for development, and other projects that enhance the quality of life for Walton County residents and visitors.

"It took a lot of hard work to get the bill passed by the House and Senate, and we truly appreciate Governor DeSantis signing the bill into law," said Leigh Moore, executive director of Scenic Walton. "We especially want to thank our district state legislators, Representative Brad Drake and Senator George Gainer, for sponsoring the bill."

The team recruited the help of Gulf Coast native Jake Meyer of I Will Design For Food (www.iwdff.com) to design the new 30A tag. They asked locals and the 30A company's 1.5 million social media fans to vote for their favorites.

"We ran numerous polls this summer to narrow down our universe of options," said Ragsdale. The design that received the most votes among both locals and out-of-state fans depicts the famous 30A sunshine logo alongside a subtle silhouette of Walton

County's famous Western Lake. "Of course, we have amazing beaches here, as do many Florida towns, but our coastal dune lakes really are unique to Walton County," said Ragsdale. "I think our local community and 30A fans made an excellent choice."

Now the hard work begins. 3,000 vouchers must now be sold before the Florida's Department of Motor Vehicles will manufacture the new 30A tags. The tags cost \$33.

"It's up to our community to take full advantage of this amazing opportunity," said Moore. "This is the only specialty tag that generates revenue exclusively for community projects here in Walton County. As soon as 3,000 plates are ordered, the State of Florida will manufacture and deliver the new 30A tags."

To pre-order the new 30A tag, go to 30Atag.com now! Florida residents can also go to the Tax Collector Office to buy a 30A pre-sale voucher. For questions, email feedback@30A.com.



Florida's Craft Beer and Spirits Revival

By Martin Liptrot

If stereotypes are to be believed, Florida-man is happiest with a budget beer in his hand, while Florida-woman favors anything with a large pour and an umbrella in it.

While sales of boat beer and two-liter plastic bottles of supermarket vodka may give some credence to this claim, there are swarms of craft breweries and distilleries springing up along the Gulf Coast to provide the more discerning tippler with something different.

Driving from Tampa to Pensacola along the Northwest Florida Coast, there are literally hundreds of craft bars, breweries and distilleries to visit and taste the artisan beers, rums, vodkas, tequilas, and gins on offer.

This is a sample of some of the best from a recent ramble along the coast.

Tampa was home to some of Florida's most fearsome rum-soaked pirates and buccaneers, and the spirit is still going strong in the city today. One of my favorites is Mutiny – a peppery,



spicy rum – produced by **82° West Distillery**, named for the line of longitude that passes through the heart of Tampa Bay. The distillery is open for visits and is settled in the hip and funky Seminole Heights neighborhood. But why limit the fun? Frequent visitors and lovers of rum can invest in the distillery, and for \$500, they can get a silver doubloon, which affords them one ration of rum every day, forever. Bargain!

Beer is big business in Tampa too. America's oldest operating brewery, **Yuengling**, has a base here, but my port of call was at **Cigar City Brewing** in the Ybor City district. Their award-winning Jai Lai brew is well known to craft-beer fans nationwide, but on a brewery visit, you get to sample some other tasty suds too, including the Double IPA Floridaman and a personal favorite, Margarita Gose, a salty German beer flavored with lime and orange zest that sports the impressive tagline – Refreshingly Tart.

Heading north, hugging the coast to avoid the Interstate, the next stop is **Marker 48 Brewery** in Weeki Wachee, a town where it looks like alligator wrestling might still be a thing.

This friendly bar taproom offers a rotating mix of 25 different beers, ciders, and sangrias – all made in-house. They also have a beer



garden with guest food trucks, and a mix of spicy BBQ with a flight of Hazy IPA, Weise, Blueberry Lager and a Mermaid's Milk Stout, making it well worth the detour.

As we head towards the Big Bend and the Forgotten Coast, a wild and undeveloped piece of old, old Florida, I suspect there are any number of "moonshine" distilleries hidden amongst the farm buildings and barns visible from the road, but perhaps unsurprisingly, there are no signs inviting nosey outsiders in to sample the wares.

So, instead, we swing back inland towards Gainesville, home of University of Florida, where we find **Swamp Head Brewing**.



Badging itself as Florida's Brewery, this operation is both Florida First and serious about sustainability. The beers include ingredients and flavors native to Florida, with spices and botanicals coming from the brewery's own beer garden. Since so many of the ingredients that go into making your favorite beer never make it to the glass, they also recycle, reuse, and reclaim their hot water and yeast and send the spent grain to local cattle farmers – the more you drink, the more you are helping.

The brewery sits on a large lot with picnic tables in an open-air garden with a pond. It is the perfect spot to sample the Field Trip Amber Ales. These surprisingly quaffable beers are inspired by an American school lunch staple – the peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

The Field Trips range include beers that have a sweet and nutty finish. You can choose from blackberry, grape or marshmallow flavors.

As we near Tallahassee, Florida's state capital, the craft breweries start to re-emerge. While there are many downtown breweries, tap rooms, and brewpubs, I opted for **Lake Tribe Brewery**, a few minutes from the I-10 west of Tallahassee and in the glamorous locale of an industrial park.

This no-frills brewery welcomes visitors and has a selection of ales and lagers, and a taproom that hosts informal events on weekend nights. I sampled the Tiger Shark, a frightening blood-red ale, flavored with hibiscus and blackberry with a sour bite.

Detouring from the highways and interstates again, we followed the coast road instead and parked opposite **Oyster City Brewing** in the picture-perfect fishing town of Apalachicola.

This brewery has a number of award-winning brews in its repertoire, including the Mill Pond Dirty, brewed to be paired with sunshine and the core industry in Apalachicola – oysters. It is a lightly hopped ale, with an easy finish, which makes it perfectly drinkable while sitting all afternoon on the stools in the brewery tap.

This brewery is at the heart of its community. This is perhaps what everyone dreams of creating when they talk of setting up a craft brewery. Whenever I have stopped by, locals and tourists rub shoulders, swap stories, and encourage each other to sample new brews and pairings. Housed in a low slung, corner unit with a wrap-around shaded porch, it sits in the middle of downtown.

Heading west into the tourist hotspots of Panama City Beach, Scenic Highway 30A, and Destin, there are a number of breweries offering tours and tastings. **History Class Brewing Company** in downtown historic Panama City is worth a visit, if only to show support for the regeneration efforts they are spearheading

in the storm damaged district.

Our next stop was **Distillery 98**, a plush operation in a business park that offers food trucks and live music. I was lucky enough to stop by when Indian food truck Curry in a Hurry was there and head bartender Zack was mixing their Dune Laker vodka with coconut, lime, basil and cucumber to create a signature drink, the Lotus Drop. Delicious combinations.



With near-neighbors **Grayton Beer Company** and **Idyllhounds Brewery** also located along the same lane, they are anchoring a craft revival in Walton County for tourists and locals alike. Grayton Beer Company produces the wildly popular 30A Beach Blonde Ale and a sessionable 30A IPA.



The final stop on our journey was **Pensacola Bay Brewery**. This is a favorite haunt, not only because they brew a huge selection of great tasting American IPAs, pale ales and lagers, but they often carry their Extra Special Bitter, a taste of Old England in their classic spit and sawdust style bar.

Craft breweries – and increasingly craft distilleries – are blossoming in Florida. With a fast-growing population, a youthful and diverse demographic, and millions of visitors to its beaches, cities and theme parks from around the world, could it be that this sun-kissed part of the Gulf Coast will one day rival Wisconsin or Kentucky as the drinks capital of the USA? ☺

7 Tools for That Special Smuggler in Your Life

Are you a pirate born 200 years too late? Even if you're not, odds are that you have a smuggler somewhere in your salty circles. Hey, we're not advocating for anyone to break the law here. We're just sharing a few tools-of-the-trade for that wanna-be pirate in your life, ranging from the ingenious to the downright bizarre.

By Shannon Serpette

1. The Jokel Store Sunscreen Flasks

Everyone carries sunscreen to the big game or the beach (and if you don't, shame on you!), so no one will ever suspect that this two-pack of sunscreen lotion actually stores up to 20 ounces of your favorite liquid. To make sure you don't spill one delicious drop, the sunscreen set comes with a funnel and leak-proof safety seals.

AMAZON.COM
(\$13.98)



2. PortoVino Wine Bags

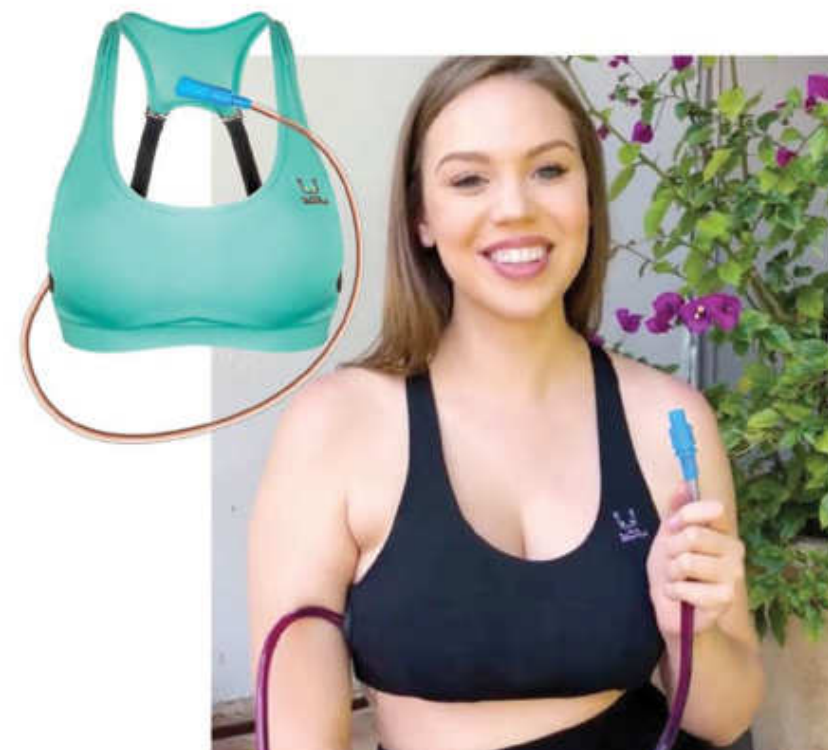
This clever beach bag with a hidden pour spout holds more than an entire bottle of wine in a reusable pouch contained in a special secret pocket inside. You can stuff the rest of the bag full of whatever else you need to enjoy a day at the beach – towels, keys, sunscreen, and more. If you don't want to deal with the mess of cleaning up the pouch between uses, you can buy inexpensive replacement pouches.

PORTO-VINO.COM
(STARTING AT \$54.95)

3. Fashionable Canes Walking Cane Flasks

Peg-legged pirates are a thing, right? Each of these walking canes conceals glass flasks inside the shaft. The ornamental top easily unscrews to give you access to the flask, as well as two thimble cups. You can choose from a wide variety of handle designs to suit your particular pirate personality.

FASHIONABLECANES.COM
(STARTING AT \$89.95)



4. WineOvation WineRack Booze Bra

Male pirates don't get to have all the fun! With this "booze bra," you might step out onto the beach looking a bit like Dolly Parton. That's because this surprisingly supportive bra holds a full bottle of wine in a concealed bladder. It comes with a long, plastic drinking straw that you can furtively sip on when no one's looking. And if you're not a wine drinker, no worries. You can put any kind of hard alcohol in the bra. Just pray you don't bust a seal, or you might get some funny looks.

AMAZON.COM
(\$29.97)



6. GoPong Umbrella Flask

You never know when a sudden rainstorm will hit while you're chilling at the beach or during game-day at the stadium. These flasks look like real umbrellas, but they actually hold a combined total of 24 ounces of alcohol. It comes with a funnel, so hopefully rain is the only liquid that ever falls to the ground.

AMAZON.COM
(\$9.99)

5. Greenfire Products SneakyBooks Flask Book

If you're a smuggler with an environmentally-minded conscience, check out these SneakyBooks flask books. Each of these flask books is made from real used, hardback books that are so overstocked they were headed for a shredder. They're now enjoying another purpose – hiding your six-ounce flask. You'll look like a real scholar sitting out there on the beach when really you're just savoring the mischievous moment.

GREENFIREPRODUCTS.COM
(\$45)



7. The Smuggle Mug Cooler Flask Ice Pack

Lugging a big, bulky cooler down to the beach? Every cooler is stuffed full of ice and/or pre-frozen ice packs. You can easily fill these faux ice packs with the tasty beverage of your choice. Each flask holds 20 ounces of liquid.

SMUGGLEMUG.COM
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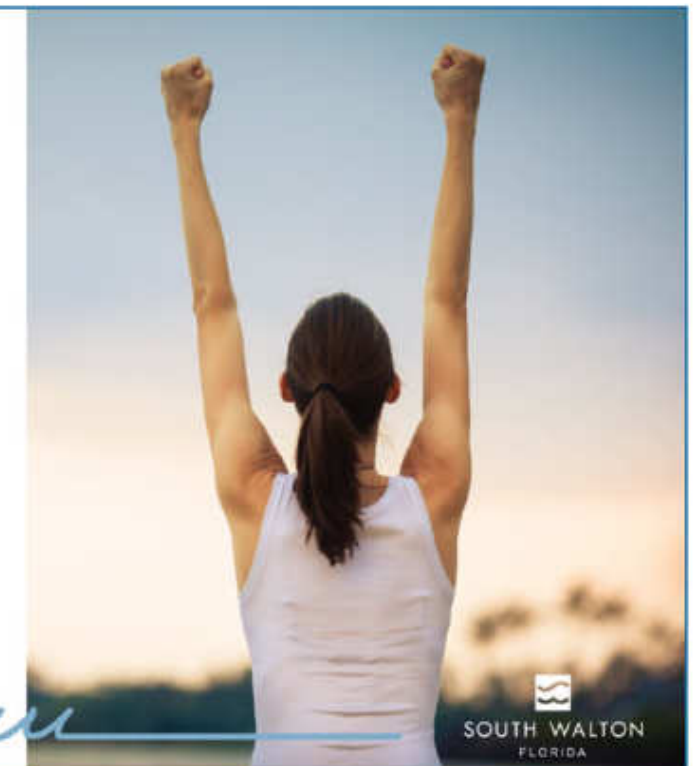
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An aerial photograph of a tropical beach. On the left, a lush green lawn is dotted with palm trees, some of which have long, dark shadows cast across it. People are scattered across the lawn, some sitting on towels or blankets. A few colorful beach umbrellas are open. The lawn meets a wide, sandy beach in the center. The beach is also populated with people, some standing and others sitting. Several beach umbrellas are visible on the sand. The beach curves along the edge of the ocean. The water is a vibrant turquoise color, with white foam from the waves breaking onto the shore. Dark, jagged rocks are visible in the shallow water near the beach. The overall scene is bright and sunny, with a clear blue sky.

A Fresh Perspective

By Abigail Abesamis Demarest

Gray Malin's aerial beach photography offers a sense of joy and escapism from a different point of view.

A beach is a familiar sight to many, but seeing one from a bird's-eye view changes that picture to something different entirely. What's old and familiar is fresh and new again.

Gray Malin, a fine art photographer, specializes in aerial photography. In 2016, he published *Beaches*, a *New York Times* bestseller featuring beach photos from more than 20 cities spanning six continents, all shot from doorless helicopters.

Makena Beach Triptych Center, Maui



Malin's passion for aerial photography began when he took a picture from the top floor of The Palazzo hotel in Las Vegas looking straight down on the giant swimming pool below.

"I realized that this perspective gave a completely different feel to a location, allowing the viewer to take a step back and see the patterns, colors, and shapes of a place from an aerial point of view," he said. "I then took to doorless helicopters. I love that every moment that I capture is candid and that the world below creates a complete work of art when shown from a bird's-eye view."

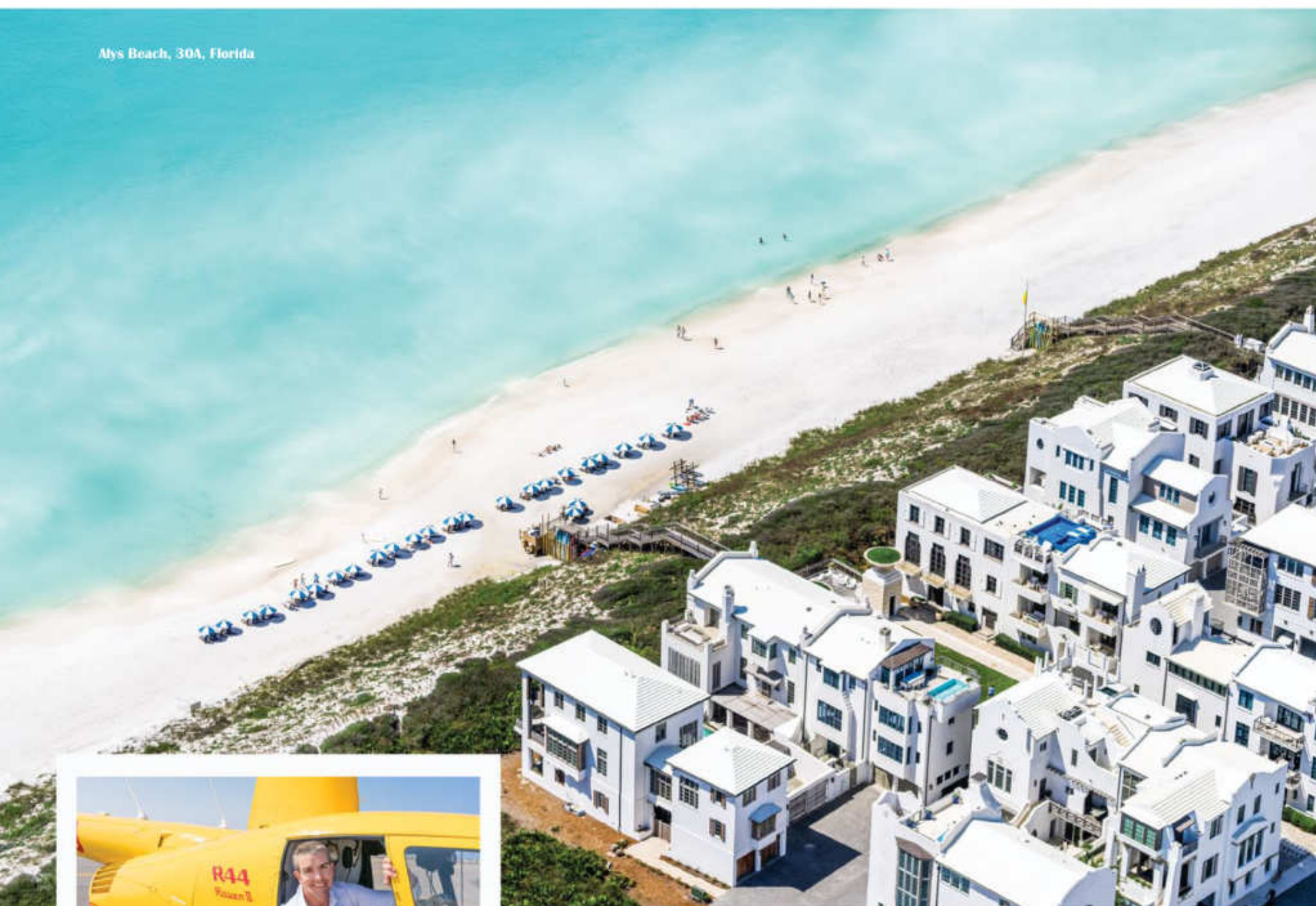
When we spoke with Malin, he was just a few days out from releasing a series of aerial photos of the 30A area; a stretch of white-sand beach and beautiful homes along a two-lane road on Florida's Gulf Coast. Malin told us that he was thrilled to release this collection of images.

"The 30A area was a treat to visit and photograph," he said. "This destination is so charming and the beaches are absolutely stunning—the pristine white sand and mesmerizing color of the water create an unforgettable sight, especially from an aerial perspective."



Watersound Beach Pool, 30A, Florida

Alys Beach, 30A, Florida



Scenic Highway 30A has been on Malin's list of beaches to visit and photograph for a while, and his customers have made clear their interest in the area.

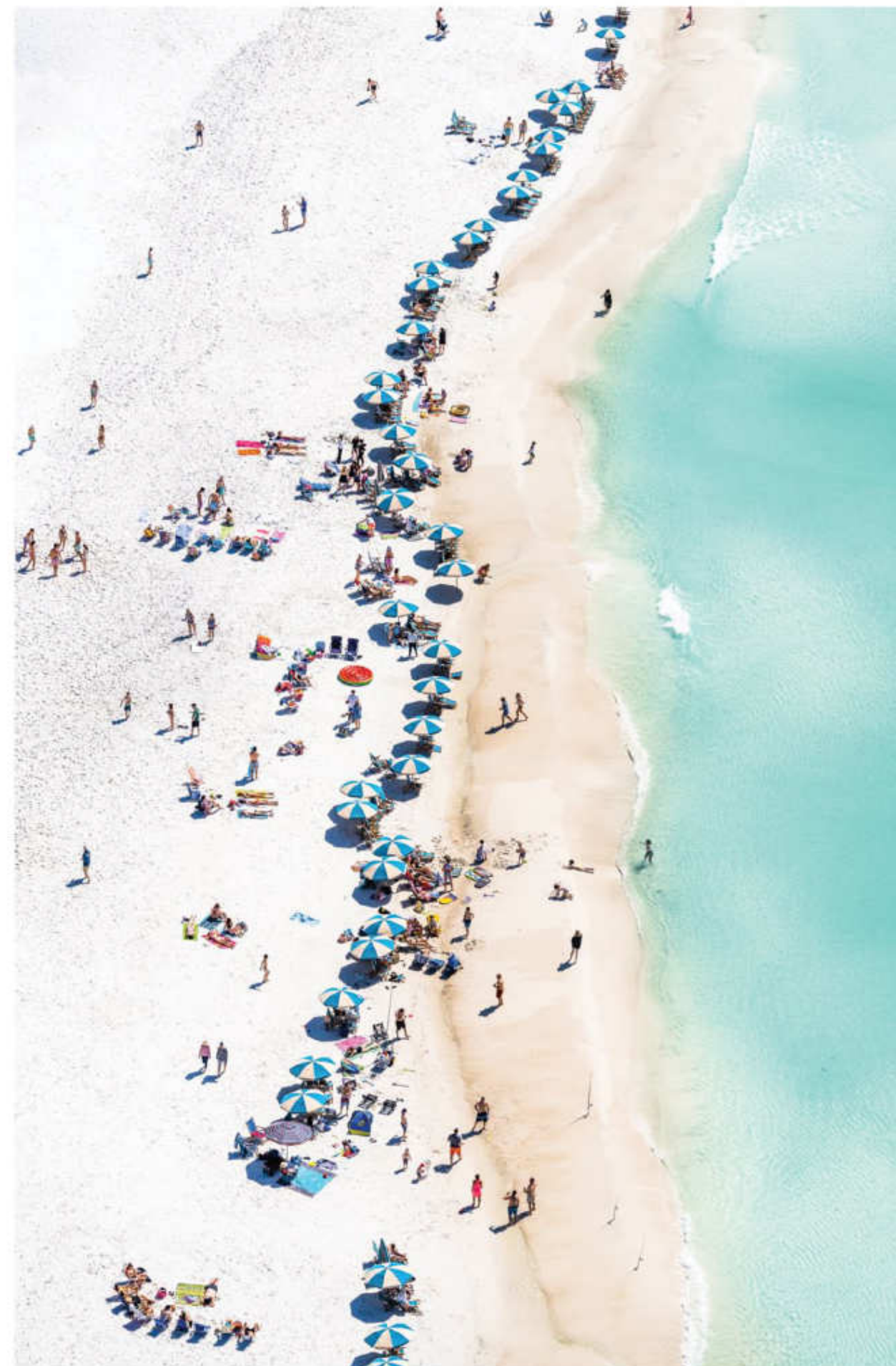
"I took these images earlier this year, and I photographed all of them from a doorless helicopter," Malin said. "With many of my aerial shoots, I have to fly over multiple parts of the city that are

spread out. It was fun to be able to just go up and down the coastline of the 30A area and capture all of the beaches and gorgeous communities that line the shore."

Malin's collection of 30A aerial photos is available for purchase in three sizes and frame colors at graymalin.com.

Malin's approach to photography is to create a sense of joy, escapism, and timelessness. His tagline, make every day a getaway, sums it up well.

"My goal is to create pieces that people want to hang on their walls and look at



“My goal is to create pieces that people want to hang on their walls and look at every day, to create artwork that evokes positivity and inspiration.”

Rosemary Beach, 30A, Florida



every day, to create artwork that evokes positivity and inspiration,” he said.

The beach has long been a source of inspiration for Malin, and for good reason. “I’ve always loved photographing beaches due to the vibrance of the colors, the unique qualities of beaches in different locations, and the fact that there is a universal joy that the beach symbolizes,” he said. “I have such fond memories of beaches and I know a lot of people feel nostalgic for beautiful vacations and priceless days spent at the beach when they see my photography.”

For *Beaches*, Malin curated a selection of his work showcasing what are, in his opinion, some of the most beautiful, fun, aspirational, and colorful shorelines around the world. In the book, you’ll find aerial photos of iconic beaches in cities around the world, including Sydney, Miami, The Hamptons, Rio de Janeiro, Barcelona, Cape Town, and Dubai. The photos were shot by Malin over a span of several years, even before a book was officially in the works.

“Putting the book together was fun and challenging,” Malin said. “I’m proud that it really highlights my love for the beach and a sunny disposition.” 🌞

To learn more about Gray Malin and see more of his stunning photography, follow him on Instagram (@graymalin) or visit graymalin.com.

What You Get FOR YOUR MONEY



Prefer to stir up concoctions at home rather than hovering in wait for a stool at the local beach bar? Despite the pandemic (or more likely, because of it), more and more people are finally taking the plunge to make their dream of moving to the coast a reality. While these exact homes may already be sold by the time you hold this issue in your hands, here's an idea of what your money can currently buy you in two popular Gulf Coast beach communities.

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90 Via Flavia, 4 bed / 3 bath 3,135 sq. ft.
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3732 Preserve Bay Blvd, 4 bed / 3.5 bath 4,437 sq. ft.
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Listings by: Brittany "Britt" Matthews Gonzalez, Beachy Beach Real Estate, 850-660-7626
www.beachybeachon30a.com



198 S Zander Way, 3 bed / 4 bath 1,904 sq. ft.
\$509,000



43 Dune Breeze Lane, 4 bed / 4 bath 2,400 sq. ft.
\$875,000



247 Flatwoods Forest Loop, 4 bed / 5 bath 3,147 sq. ft.
\$1,600,000



77 Shore Bridge Circle, 5 bed / 5 bath 3,230 sq. ft.
\$3,174,000

Listings by: Brad Reese, Beach Properties of Florida, www.southwaltonfl.com, 850-797-7930



107 Blackwater Street, 8 bed / 8 bath 6,442 sq. ft.
\$6,925,000

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6 Famous Movie and TV Beach Bars You Can Actually Visit

By Shannon Serpette

Beach bars in movies and television shows usually look pretty dreamy. You wish you could walk right into your screen and start sipping on an ice-cold piña colada while an overhead fan slowly swirls around that ocean breeze.

It makes you wonder if any of those beach bars featured on the screen are real or if they're just a set dreamed up by Hollywood. We did a little digging to come up with a list of on-screen beach bars that truly exist, where you can sip on coastal cocktails just like some of your favorite characters.

1. Turtle Bay Resort Oahu, Hawaii

Forgetting Sarah Marshall was a 2008 hit comedy featuring Kristen Bell, Mila Kunis, and Jason Segel. It was filmed largely at the Turtle Bay Resort on Oahu Island in Hawaii. With several places to grab a bite to eat or a frosty drink to sip on, if you have a trip planned to Turtle Bay Resort, you'll likely recognize numerous spots featured in the film.



2. Monty's Raw Bar Coconut Grove, Florida

Monty's Raw Bar serves up that waterfront scenery you'd expect from a location that's been featured in television and movies. This marina-based restaurant and bar gives you the option of indoor dining or an outside tiki hut vibe for people wanting fresh air and casual attire. It's been featured in shows and films such as *Marley & Me*, *Burn Notice*, and *Miami Vice*.



3. Flamboyant Beach Bar St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

If you want to visit the site of one of the scenes from the 1983 movie *Trading Places*, which featured Eddie Murphy and Dan Aykroyd, check out the Renaissance Carambola Beach Resort and Spa's Flamboyant Beach Bar. You'll love the beautiful scenery and nice breezes, as well as the tropical drinks and island food.



4. Red Fish Grill Miami, Florida

This eatery and bar was featured in the smash-hit movie, *There's Something About Mary*. You'll recognize it from the scene where Matt Dillon's character is listening in on Cameron Diaz's conversation with her friends as they dine.



5. Neptune's Net Malibu, California

Neptune's Net is more than just an awesome name - it's been the site for scenes from several movies, including *Fast and Furious*, *Point Break*, and *Iron Man 3*. It's been in operation since 1956 and is known for keeping the good times rolling while serving beer and food. They also sell a lot of Neptune's Net merch, including t-shirts, hats, and more.



6. Modica Market Seaside, Florida

At first glance, Modica Market may simply appear to be a tiny grocery store, but it's actually a one-stop shop. You can buy groceries here, of course, but they also sell ready-made food and drinks (mimosa, anyone?). There's seating outside on the patio, perfect for people watching, which makes sense given that Modica Market was one of the locations featured prominently in the 1998 movie *The Truman Show* starring Jim Carrey.





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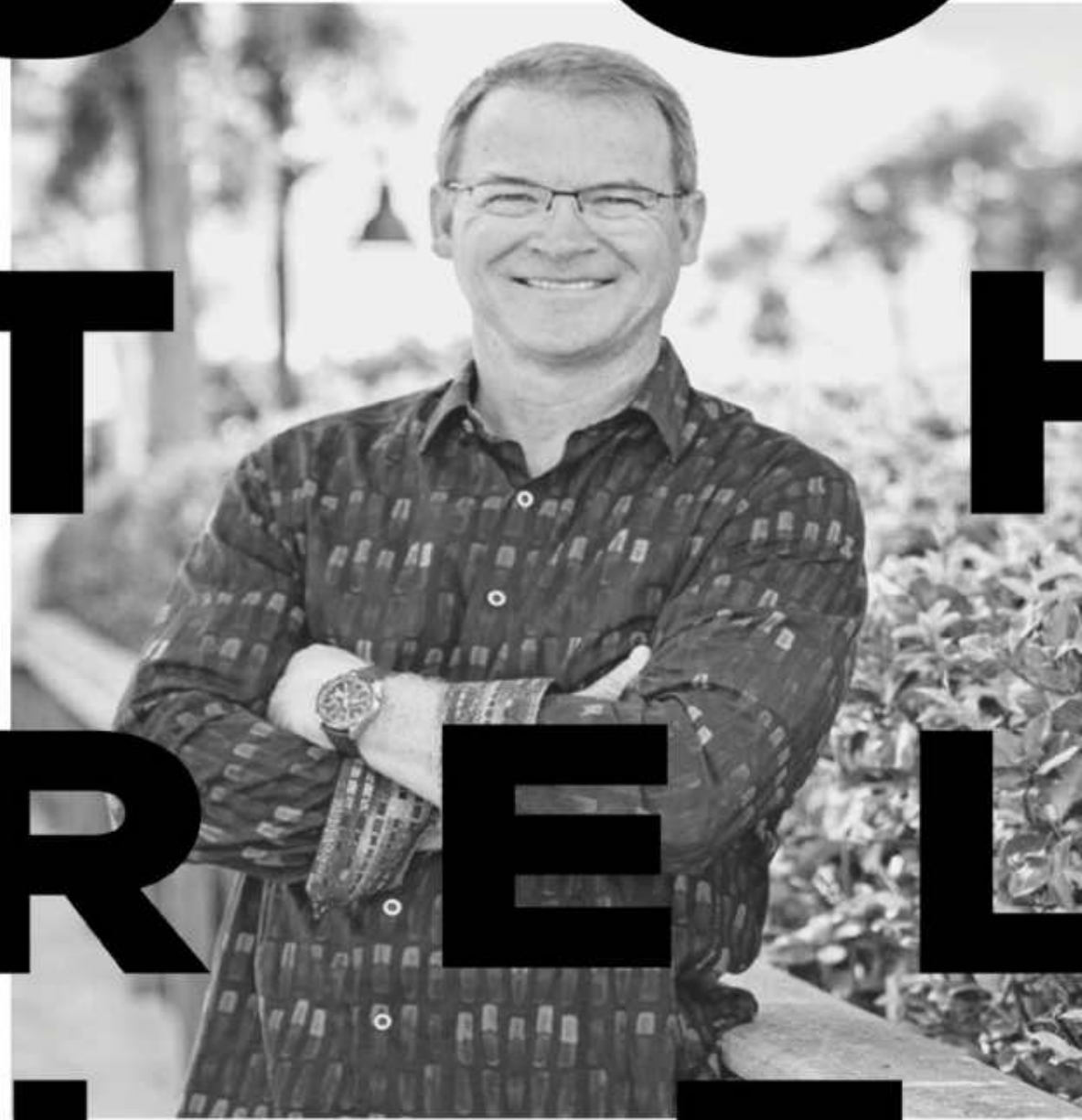


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30A Panama City Beach Crestview DeFuniak Springs

20 BEACH BAR BALLADS

Does this issue of *Beach Happy* have you toasting to hazy memories of your favorite beach bar? Let's see what happens when we mix a few tropical tunes into this coastal concoction! Here are 20 beach bar ballads we're currently spinning on 30Aradio.com.

1. "Party On The Beach" - Brian Kelley
2. "Blake Shelton" - Some Beach
3. "Daydreamer" - The Hip Abduction
4. "Margaritas" - The Elovaters
5. "Guitars and Tiki Bars" - Kenny Chesney
6. "Follow the Sun" - Xavier Rudd
7. "Boat Drinks" - Jimmy Buffett
8. "Red Red Wine" - UB40
9. "Toes" - Zac Brown Band
10. "Island State of Mind" - Jesse Rice
11. "Is This Love" - Bob Marley
12. "Beachin'" - Jake Owen
13. "Brown Eyed Girl" - Van Morrison
14. "Kokomo" - The Beach Boys
15. "Sun is Shining" - Stick Figure
16. "Summer Nights" - Iration
17. "Amber" - 311
18. "Soulshine" - Roots of Creation
19. "Tahitian Blue" - John Butler Trio
20. "Heaven" - Los Lonely Boys

What's YOUR favorite song about beach bars? Let us know at feedback@30A.com and get your daily beach bar fix at 30Aradio.com!



southern coastal music 24/7



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What is 30A?

This is a map of our little beach community. Old Florida "State Road 30" once started at the Alabama state line and meandered 283 miles east across the panhandle. Several "alternate routes" (hence the "A" in 30A) offered drivers a slower scenic option, usually along the beach. But we don't think of 30A as disjointed miles of soulless asphalt. 30A® is a celebration of small town beach life – the kind that's been enjoyed by families for decades all along the Gulf Coast. 30A isn't just a line on the map. It's a lifestyle; an attitude. It's that happy place we all dream of when we need to unwind, unplug and celebrate life. — 30A.com





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