



## *The Marine Room*

ELEGANT DINING ON THE SURF

### **THE MARINE ROOM RESTAURANT**

“A La Jolla Landmark”

**La Jolla, California** - For more than five and a half decades, celebrities, world figures, residents and visitors have made it a habit to come to the Marine Room to enjoy its spectacular seaside panorama and great meals. The combination has made it one of San Diego's most popular restaurants.

The restaurant's history actually begins before its 1941 opening. The Spindrift Inn, as it was originally called, was a cozy, four-bedroom roadside inn and restaurant. It was built in 1916 and served as the only lodging on what was once called Long Beach - now La Jolla Shores. In 1935, The Spindrift Inn was purchased by Frederick W. Kellogg, who also bought the adjoining La Jolla Beach & Yacht Club - now the La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club.

Kellogg planned to change the Spindrift Inn into a restaurant, but did not live to see his dream realized. Instead, his son, William Scripps Kellogg, resumed work and finally opened the restaurant under its new name, the Marine Room, on May 29, 1941. The opening day menu featured Fresh Lobster a la Newburg in a shell for \$1.35, Rainbow Mountain Trout Saute Amandine for \$1.25 and martinis for 35 cents.

The Marine Room quickly became famous as pounding surf created dramatic displays outside the original, single-pane windows. However, these windows were no match for mother nature so the room had to be boarded up during winter storms. When the Spindrift Lounge was added in 1948, the original glass was replaced with 3/4 inch tempered glass which withstood the ocean's assault for the next 34 years.

A major series of storms hit San Diego hard during the El Nino conditions of 1982 and unfortunately the Marine Room was featured on the world news as the waves forced their way through the windows and flooded the restaurant. Hence, we were forced to undertake an unplanned, nine-month remodeling project but came out all the better for it. The wait was well worth it and the Marine Room came back stronger than ever after its setback.

The storms that closed the restaurant in 1942 and 1982 get no credit for the landmark's sixth and most recent restoration which took place in October of 1994. Signature elements such as the aquarium and logo seahorses were retained in keeping with the tradition and gracious style of hospitality central to the philosophy of La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club, Inc., owner and operator of the Marine Room.

Since opening the restaurant, the staff has continued to emphasize superior standards of cuisine and service making the Marine Room experience one of the most consistently pleasing. Our award-winning Executive Chef Bernard Guillas and his team introduced a culinary facelift featuring seasonal dishes mixed with the signature seafood bill of fare for which we have become famous. Bernard now regularly varies the menus to take advantage of Southern California's year-round fresh produce and is always looking for specialty items from around-the-world.

Chef Bernard, having grown up in a family of butchers, bakers and restaurateurs, believes that food must taste as good as it looks and adds: "When I look out the windows of the Marine Room, I see my favorite Monet and Manet paintings. Like any other artist, I try to translate that beauty into impressionistic masterpieces on the plates that come out of our kitchen."

The imaginative cuisine is more than matched by the up-close view of the surf. All of the tables, both window-side and elevated booths, offer reach-out-and-almost-touch views of the incoming surf. Patrons seated window-side during an unusually high tide can savor the food as plumes of surf cascade off windows only a few inches away.

With all this, it is no surprise that the Marine Room is selected as a frequent dining spot by a roll call of luminaries. Over the decades, many celebrities have graced the establishment to include Hollywood personalities Bob Hope, Gregory Peck and Bill Cosby, news anchor Stone Phillips, tennis legends John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors and renowned San Diegans, Jonas Salk and Reuben H. Fleet. If someone important visited San Diego, the Marine Room was (and still is) on the list of sights.

The restaurant is always a favorite of the media, not only for its great setting but for its great food, as well. The San Diego Restaurant Association recognized Bernard Guillas as the "Best Chef in San Diego" at the 2001 Gold Medallion Awards Dinner. In response to a recent *San Diego Magazine* reader's poll, the Marine Room was named "Best of the Best, Money No Object", "Best Restaurant with a View", "Most Romantic Restaurant" and "Best Service". The readers of the *San Diego Union-Tribune* bestowed upon the restaurant the "People's Choice" award signifying the best of the best for seven of the last eight years. The readers of the same publication have also honored the Marine Room with the award for the "Most Scenic Restaurant", "Most Romantic Restaurant" and the "Best Service" award. In addition, *Wine Spectator Magazine* recently recognized the Marine Room's attention to wine lists and service with an Award of Excellence. The restaurant is truly a culinary treat and unquestionably offers the best ocean views in San Diego.

The Marine Room offers diners global cuisine rooted in the French classics. Its spectacular views, exemplary service and outstanding wine list make it San Diego's premier dining destination. The Marine Room is located at 2000 Spindrift Drive in La Jolla and is owned and operated by the La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club, Inc. For more information and reservations, call (858) 459.7222, or visit [www.MarineRoom.com](http://www.MarineRoom.com).

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