

Explore Old Belize

Step back in time and discover
our country's history! P. 3



From the Editor *Tamara Sniffin*

I always enjoy learning about history, especially when you can literally take a step back in time! While exploring Old Belize you truly get the feel for what life was like decades ago and gain a new appreciation for our modern day life. It's amazing how far we have come, and once you learn about our historical journey, you will most likely have a new (or renewed) affection for our little country and her very colorful past.

And, as we walk (or I should say sail) down memory lane, one entity that has stood the test of time is our island's one and only Rum Punch II. Her proud captain George Eiley calls it "sailing old school"...but we just call it fun with a capital F! Sailing our crystal clear waters powered solely by the wind takes us back to the days of old, when pirates and rum ruled the waters! This year George celebrates 30 years at the helm of our favorite sailboat, and there is no question the Rum Punch II is a big part of our island history.

In this May issue of My Beautiful Belize we also write about a little history in the making, (well...that might be a stretch)...but according to many who attended the Wine de Vine wine dinner at Casa Picasso the night was one for the history books! You can read about the wonderful evening of delicious wines and delectable food and decide for yourself!

I welcome you to indulge in our past and savor in the present while you explore My Beautiful Belize, chances are your visit will go down in your own personal 'history book' as one of the best times...ever!!!



Where do you read *My Beautiful Belize*?!

Don't forget to take your picture reading our publications and send to us via email. You could be seeing yourself in print too!

Debbie & Larry Heimgartner took their copy of *My Beautiful Belize* while in Corinth, Greece. They took a 3-day cruise of the Greek islands while on spring break.



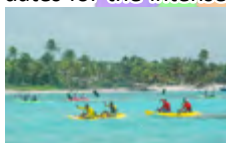
Please be sure to indicate where you are and send photos to: hello@mybeautifulbelize.com. Photos in unique locations are preferred.

Weh Di Go Ahn Eena May?!

SPTC Mother's Day Extravaganza – Saturday, May 9th. San Pedro Town Council celebrates the island moms with comedian, Hector Herrera Jr., along with local entertainment, games and surprises.

Cashew Festival: May 16th. The village of Crooked Tree comes alive with cultural presentations, food, music and lots of CASHEW fruit! Fresh cashew, cashew seeds, cashew jams, preserves, pickles and wine...so much to enjoy! Don't miss out!

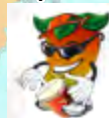
Lagoon Reef Eco Challenge: May 23rd & 24th are the official dates for the intense kayak race that takes place in the lagoons of Ambergris Caye and ends on the reef side of



the island. Over two days, paddlers test their endurance while bringing awareness to the fragile eco-system that we are surrounded by.

Chocolate Festival of Belize: May 22nd – 24th, celebrating Belizean chocolate and Toledo culture! A sweet experience for the entire family! Details at www.chocolatefestivalofbelize.com.

Hopkins Mango Festival: Saturday, May 30th at the Hopkins Village Center. Live cultural acts all day, including the incredible Garifuna Collective! Raffles, children and adult games, food, arts and crafts, exhibits and of course, the star of the day: MANGOES!



Wolfe's Woofers

By: Dennis Wolfe

Evolution

"Davin and I came over to borrow your saw," Glen said. "We're going to do some work on Melody's art gallery."

"Where is Melody and Baby Grayson?" I asked.

"She's across the street teaching an art class at Crazy Canucks. She has Grayson with her."

"How is that new baby doing?"

"He's fat," Glen said. "And big."

"He sure is big," Davin told me. "But I don't think he's as big as I was when I was that old."

"You're nine years old aren't you?"

"Yes."

"When I was your age I was already thirteen years old," I told him.

"Hunh?"

"Never mind," I said. "you can figure that out when you get older."

"Where did people come from?" Davin asked.

Glen said, "Adam and Eve had babies and then their babies had babies and so on."

"I'm going to go ask my mom," Davin said. "She told me something about monkeys."

Davin ran across the street and returned a few minutes later.

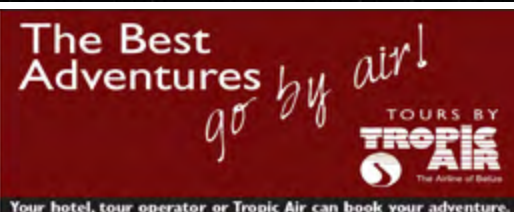
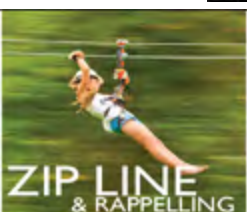
"You lied to me," he said to Glen. "Mom says that we were monkeys first and then we did something called evolution and became human beings. Why did you lie to me?"

"I didn't lie," Glen said. "I was talking about my side of the family and she was talking about her side."



SuDoku Time! Answers on Page 10

8			2	9	7			
	4		3					
		7		4				6
	3		6		4			
2	7		1			6	9	
		8	2			7		
9			7		2			
				9		8		
			4	8	2			3



Rekindle the past at Old Belize!

By Janelle Cowo



Visiting the old capital, Belize City, always brings about such a sense of nostalgia. Growing up I spent a lot of time in there, attracted to the more historical aspects of the fast-modernizing city. From colonial style homes to the old pieces of metal work displayed in the roundabout on the Northern Highway, Belize has a transcending "Old" feel. There's no wonder why I always find myself gravitating to Old Belize!

I have so much great memories of Old Belize- I have been there a few times, but I'm still eager to visit again. Located five miles on the George Price Highway (a 15-20 minute drive from the city, depending on the traffic), Old Belize provides a crash course on Belizean History to anyone looking to play and learn at the same time. It's a fun place to get away with family, or in my case, my better half Samii. Old Belize is a museum, beach, marina, gift shop, restaurant and BAR all in one! Sound like a place you want to go, doesn't it?

While we were there to enjoy ALL that Old Belize has to offer, our

Continued on Page 5



Belize

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Old Belize Continued from Page 3

highlight was the museum. Samii had never being there and was excited to get the full experience. After paying our \$5BZ entrance fee we head into the museum- honestly it's more like an exhibit. It's a self-guided tour, so don't expect anyone to take you around. The fascinating culture and intriguing history of Belize come to life in beautifully, realistic, colorful displays.



Upon entering, you are greeted with the heart of Belize, the lush rainforest. Throughout the first exhibit there are descriptions of the more distinguishable flora of Belize. After taking a couple pictures in the indoor-cave, it is time to move on to the next exhibit which honors our ancestors, the Mayas. You can see everything from hand painted hieroglyphics, model thatch homes, stone carvings and even a couple of skulls. The focal point of this exhibit is a huge Maya stone carving of a face looking down at a burial tomb complete with a full skeleton.

An exhibit dedicated to the first industry in Belize is next. In this room, you get a glimpse of the logging and chicle (chewing gum) industry.

Continued on Page 6



Belize is the Land of Wealth & Opportunity

If you think Belize is all play and no work you're in for a big surprise. Although the island of Ambergris Caye was chosen "The Number One Island in the World" by Trip Advisor® and is the fastest growing tourism market in the Caribbean and Latin America, Ambergris Caye is also the fastest growing place in the Caribbean for second homes, retirement homes, entrepreneur businesses and offshore investments.

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Old Belize Continued from Page 5



By looks the looks of it, loggers and chicleiros were very hard workers. The tools and machinery in the display are all real, so if you touch, please be careful. And yes, you are allowed to touch! Samii was getting too comfortable with some of the tools, so I knew it was time to move on!

The last leg of the tour is a display of a street in colonial Belize (1800's). Oh what a beautiful era! As we walked down the street, we could feel the memories of old Belize lingering. Samii checked out the local bar, but unfortunately they were all out of booze. After poking my head into all the windows to get a glimpse of the interior (most of the doors were locked), it was time to leave the exhibit.

At the end of the tour, you're led right to the gift shop, which has great trinkets to bring back home. I

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San Pedro's Best Hot Dog

**Daily Happy Hour
3 - 6PM**

Ray's



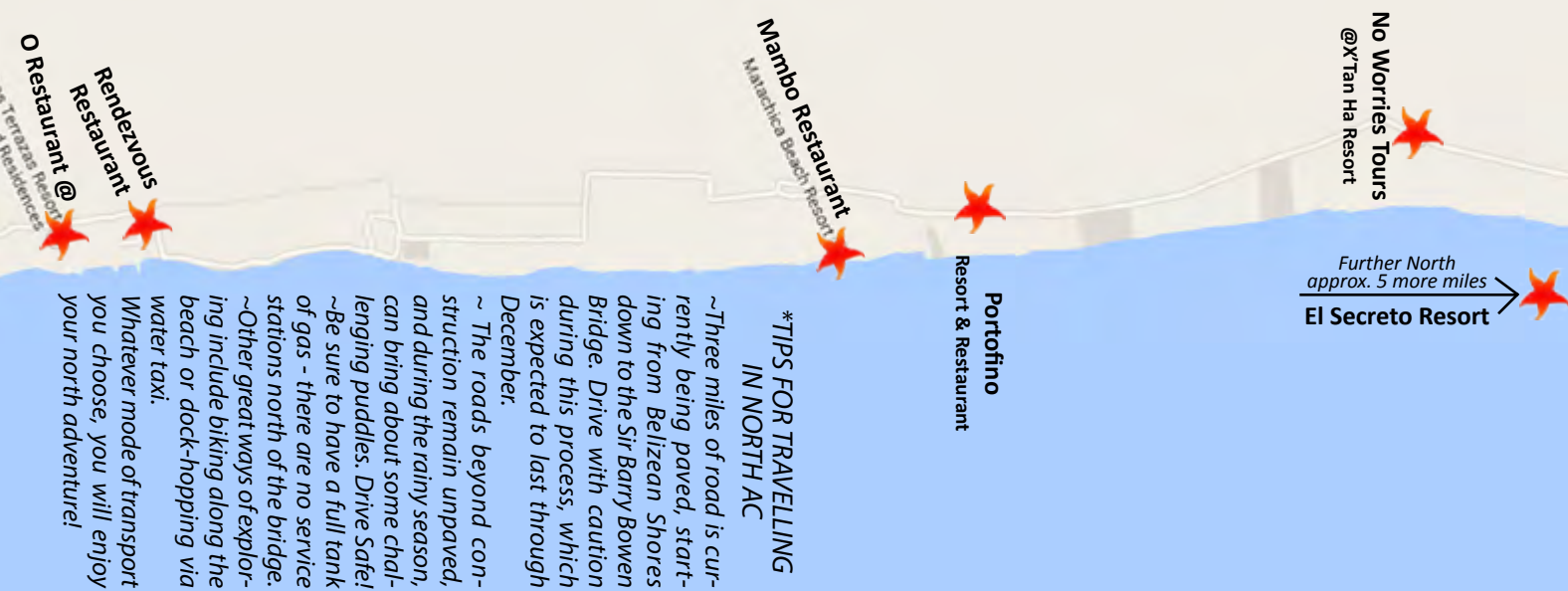
BIG DOG

**Featuring
Peel & Eat
JUMBO Shrimp**

Beachfront, Black Coral St.
Open Mon-Sat: 11am to 7 pm
Follow us on Facebook/Rate us on TripAdvisor!

North Ambergris Caye

©2014, Map not to scale



Further North
approx. 5 more miles
El Secreto Resort

Portofino
Resort & Restaurant

Mambo Restaurant
Matachica Beach Resort

Rendezvous
Restaurant @
Las Terrazas Resort

*TIPS FOR TRAVELLING IN NORTH AC

~Three miles of road is currently being paved, starting from Belizean Shores down to the Sir Barry Bowen Bridge. Drive with caution during this process, which is expected to last through December.

~The roads beyond construction remain unpaved, and during the rainy season, can bring about some challenging puddles. Drive Safe!

~Be sure to have a full tank of gas - there are no service stations north of the bridge.

~Other great ways of exploring include biking along the beach or dock-hopping via water taxi.
Whatever mode of transport you choose, you will enjoy your north adventure!

EAT RAIN RESTAURANT - Two miles north at

Grand Caribe. World cuisine, two dining atmospheres: indoor semi-formal dining and outdoor rooftop casual dining. Wine dinners every 3rd Tuesday of the month. 226-4746, ext. 314 or email info@rainbelize.com. Free boat transfer with reservations: pick-up at 6:15pm, return 9pm by Tuff E Nuff tours, Rubies' dock.

PIRATE'S TREASURE - A unique dining experience with their Chef's Table. Watch as Chef Mar prepares a fresh 3-course Belizean meal over a coconut-husk fire while you enjoy refreshing cocktails and island vibes. Regular Menu always available without reservations. Noon to 11PM. 668-2156.

O RESTAURANT - Central American cuisine with Caribbean flair, at Las Terrazas Resort. Breakfast, lunch, & dinner. Casual chic, or dine alfresco next to the infinity pool. 226-4249.

RENDEZVOUS RESTAURANT & WINERY - Charming and exotic setting on the beach, specializing in Thai and French fusion cuisine. Enjoy the signature wines we produce, from Chardonnays to Cabernet and Merlot and try our new beach bar for lunch. Closed Monday & Tuesday. Reservations recommended. Telephone 226-3426.



PORTOFINO RESTAURANT - Enjoy our Euro-Caribbean inspired menu and spectacular Caribbean views. Also offering a full VEGETARIAN Menu. For Reservations & Free

Transportation, please call 226-5096 or 678-5096.

MAMBO RESTAURANT - Enjoy a unique dining experience at this award-winning restaurant at Matachica Resort. Romantic atmosphere with island ambience, offering locally inspired flavors and meals that will excite even the most seasoned palate. Complimentary transportation with reservations - call 226-5010/226-5011.

STAY



AK'BOL - Yoga & Resort. 1 Mile North of Bridge. Open Daily 7AM-

9PM. Drop in daily yoga classes at the end of pier + Massage + Tours. Restaurant/Bar on the beach. Thatched Cabanas. Budget rooms with shared bath. 7 night yoga retreats. 626-6296.

PLAY



FELIZ BAR & GRILL: Your north side destination for sports and darts and super fast WiFi. We have 4 x 46" HDTV's and 2 dart boards, a great selection of fresh food including: burgers, paninis, pizzas, wings and much more, ice cold beers, local rum and cocktails and a nice cool breeze.



LEGEND'S ROAD HOUSE - Home of Tuesday JAM nights- live music starting at 7pm all musicians welcome. Now serving Texas style smoked meats and a sit down southern breakfast starting at 6am. 1/4 mile north of the bridge.



KAMA LOUNGE: Kama Lounge is under new ownership. We

are located 1 minute across the bridge on the beach in front of Reef Village. We serve breakfast, lunch, snacks & dinner all day. Pool open. Daily happy hour from 4-7. Closed on Wednesdays.

PALAPA BAR AND GRILL - 1.5 Miles north of Bridge. Daily 10am - 9pm. Relax on the inner-tubes and have your bucket of ice cold beers lowered to you. Outdoor seating, awesome smoked food, cheeseburgers, seafood and tropical drinks and an astonishing view!

NO WORRIES TOURS - Dive. Snorkel. Jungle. Ruins. Caves. Discover the best that Belize has to offer with No Worries Tours. Experience the best of the Jungle and Sea, when you visit the mystic ruins of the ancient Maya, or snorkel the waters with nurse sharks! Book your tour today at 501-226-4831 or visit us at www.noworriestours.com

TRANSPORTATION

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Monthly Rentals Available. Huge Discounts on Group and Multiple Rentals. Pick-Up and Delivery Upon Request or Reservation. JandHgoldcart@gmail.com 226-2351/600-1151/602-9992.

CRYSTAL AUTO RENTALS - 2 BZ locations: Philip S.W. Goldson International Airport and 5 Miles Northern Highway. Free shuttle service to and from our Belize City office to anywhere in Belize City. Tel: 011-501-223-1600 Fax: 011-501-223-1900 (direct dialing from U.S.A.) Toll Free in Belize: 0-800-777-7777 Email: reservations@crystal-belize.com or visit our website at <http://crystal-belize.com>



EATS & TREATS



BLACK ORCHID RESTAURANT & LOUNGE: Come visit us; just a quick Golf Cart Ride 2 1/2 miles South of Town after the Croc Pond Lagoon and well before the Marco Gonzales Maya Site. Open Tuesday through Saturday from 11am-9pm. www.blackorchidrestaurant.com. Reservations Recommended (501) 206-2441.



CASA PICASSO RESTAURANT: Tapas dining in an artful setting. Global flavors from local ingredients...martinis, wines, cocktails. Vegetarian & gluten-free options. Open Tuesday-Saturday at 5:30pm. Last reservations 9pm...226-4443 or reservations@casapicassobelize.com. Located south of town past Caribena Gas Station & Belikin Distributor. Ask about complimentary taxi pick-up/drop-off service within San Pedro Town. Check out our specials & "Tasting Thursday" menu at facebook.com/CasaPicassoBelize & casapicassobelize.com.



THE COCONUT CAFÉ: The ONLY Build-Your-Own Pizza, Panini and Wrap restaurant on the Caye. Choose from over 20 fresh ingredients. Open for breakfast and lunch from 7am to 3pm (closed Sundays), on Coconut Drive across from Ramon's Village. 226-4311.

RAY'S BIG DOG: San Pedro's only Fast Casual palapa dining experience offers artisanal All Beef and Chicken hot dogs loaded with gourmand toppings, peel & eat shrimp growlers, and old school Ice cream floats hand made in three flavors. At the entrance of the Tacklebox dock.



PINOCCHIO ITALIAN RESTAURANT & Pizzeria. The only authentic Italian restaurant on the island. A San Pedro favourite! Real Italian pizza, thin crust, baked in wood-fire oven. Come enjoy our daily specials, including homemade fettuccini and lasagne. 632-8975.

TASTES OF THAILAND: Authentic Thai Food – cooked and prepared by Thai Chef. Available for Small parties and private booking on Mondays. Regular Hours: Tuesdays – Saturdays 5:30-9PM. Corner Seagrape Drive and Hurricane Street. Reservations Preferred: 226-4778 / 629-0527. Check us out on TripAdvisor and FaceBook.



DI V'U DOCK BAR & REEF SIDE DINING: Located on Wet Willy's Dock.

Offering a menu to satisfy any appetite! Appetizers, lunch, dinner & desserts. Incredible drink menu with imported cocktails, fresh fruit drinks, margaritas and more. Breath-taking views, live entertainment! Open daily 7:30AM – Midnight. Call 226-4136 for reservations.



HURRICANE'S CEVICHE BAR & GRILL: The ceviche house! A whirlwind of delicacies! Fine outdoor dining and delicious tropical drinks. Full lunch and dinner menu, seafood specials and pastas. Restaurant open 10am - 9:30pm. Bar open until 10pm Monday to Saturday, closed on Sundays.

JAMBEL'S JERK PIT: Specializing in Jamaican-Belizean Cuisine. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner: 7AM – 9PM Daily. Wednesdays: 6-9PM - ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFETT with Live Reggae Music! Saturday Nights – Live Music! Swing by for that IRIE DINING EXPERIENCE! 226-3515. Located off the Beach at the Sun Breeze Suites. Like us on Facebook.



HIDDEN TREASURE RESTAURANT: Serving Latin American & Caribbean cuisine in an enchanting atmosphere. Serving dinner only from 5:00pm - 9:00pm, closed on Tuesdays, located in the Escalante neighborhood. Live music on Thursdays! Free shuttle service to customers in town. Contact us 226-4111/4236, www.hiddentreasurebelize.com

LA DIVINA PROVIDENCIA: Cozy and friendly store & cafeteria. Serving excellent local dishes, good-sized portions and reasonable prices. Our atmosphere is local. We serve breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks anytime. Opening hours: Monday to Saturday: 6AM to 10PM and Sundays: 6AM to 2PM and 5PM to 10PM.

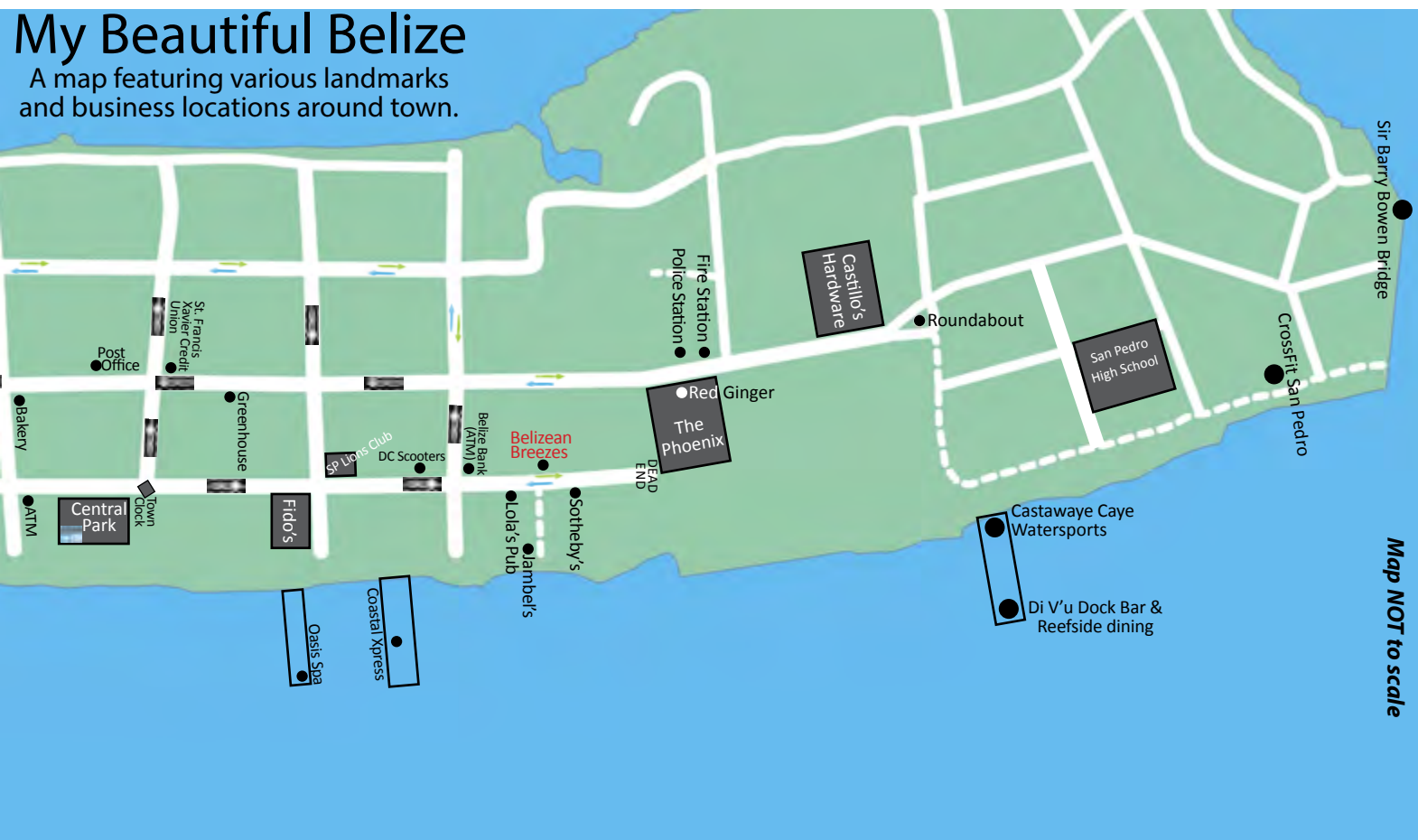


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My Beautiful Belize

A map featuring various landmarks and business locations around town.



UNIQUE OFFERINGS

BELIZEAN BREEZES SOAP CO.:

Home to over 160 scents of All Natural, Hand Poured soaps! From Bars to guest soaps, cupcake soaps and a ton of fun! A full line of affordable and unique jewelry and gift items. A MUST see. 9AM-8PM, 671-2025.



CAYE COFFEE ROASTING COMPANY: Local fresh roasted coffee manufactured in San Pedro Town. Available throughout Ambergris Caye and at select locations in mainland Belize. For more information visit <http://www.cayecoffee.bz>.

GRANIEL'S DREAMLAND: Exotic Hard Woods and Mahogany Products made locally on the island. Gift Items, indoor and outdoor furniture, carvings, and custom-made orders. Worldwide Shipping. Free Delivery to Hotel, Airport or Boat within town limits. 226- 2938, Pescador Drive. granielsdreamland2@yahoo.com, www.granielsdreamlandbelize.com Facebook: Graniels Dreamland

BLACK & WHITE GARIFUNA Restaurant and Cultural Center: Garifuna Cultural Presentations with traditional food, music and dance! Learn about the vibrant culture every Thursday and Sunday at 6:30PM. For reservations call 605-2895/ 625-5204 or email gariculcenter@gmail.com. Restaurant opens daily for great local Belizean food. Oh! What a Belizean Experience!

CASTAWAY CAYE WATERSPORTS: Enjoy a fun day out on the water with family and friends on our Seadoo Jetskis and Banana Boats. Or get a bird's eye view as you Parasail over paradise with our professional staff. Located on Wet Willy's Dock. 671-3000.



"12" is the only shop in Belize that features only Belizean made luxury products & gifts suitable for both locals and tourists. Featuring exclusive items from around the country from soaps & scrubs to handbags & sauces, we ship same day throughout Belize. www.12belize.com 670-5272.

MOHO CHOCOLATE COMPANY: From bean to bar: handmade chocolate with Organic Maya Cacao. Milk & dark chocolate, truffles, skin care products and souvenirs. Black Coral Drive. 625-1980.

OASIS SPA – Relax, Refresh, Renew with our variety of treatments, including pre-natal massages, deep tissue, aromatherapy and more. On the pier at Fido's Courtyard. 206-2600, oasisspabelize@gmail.com.



DC ISLAND SCOOTER: We are located on Barrier Reef Dr (Front Street), right across from the Thomas Hotel and Island Movie. We offer scooter rentals by the hour, day, and week. There are no restrictions on where the scooter can go (except the water). Stop by, ride the breeze and explore Isla Bonita. 652-0307.

PARTY PARTY

CRAZY CANUCKS BEACH BAR: Beach bar located at Exotic Caye Beach Resort. Open daily, 11am-midnight. Bar food & daily drink specials. **Mondays:** Live reggae @8pm **Tuesdays:** DJ Debbie @8pm **Every other Thursday:** Splash n Paint @2pm **Fridays:** Trivia @7pm Karaoke @8:30pm **Sundays:** Live music/horseshoes @3pm **Phone: 670-8001** Find us on Facebook.



LUNA LOCA - Coolest place to party on the beach in San Pedro. Drink, Dance, Party, Get Loca! Serving a wide variety of tropical cocktails. Saturday Night: Free To Be @ Luna Loca. Mon - Tue: 11:00 am - 12:00 am, Thu - Sun: 11:00 am - 12:00 am.

637-2412.

LOLA'S PUB - The best stocked bar on the island! Martinis, Single Malt, Bourbon, Pickleback Shots, Tequila Shot Chillers. KARAOKE FREE ZONE. Across from Belize Bank on Front Street. 206-2120.



WAHOO'S LOUNGE - We are home to the WORLD FAMOUS CHICKEN DROP! Thursday nights starting at 6PM. Drink specials, games and an amazing view of the reef. Located on the beach at the Spindrift Hotel. 226-2002.

ISLAND DAIQUIRI: San Pedro's first Daiquiri Bar. Cool off and enjoy our refreshing Daiquiri's; made with local fruits and rum. Island Daiquiri offers the best deals in town with 2 for \$5 rum/coke and \$3 Belikin/Light House. Open Mon-Sun 12noon to 9pm. Call 607-5862 and Find us on Facebook.



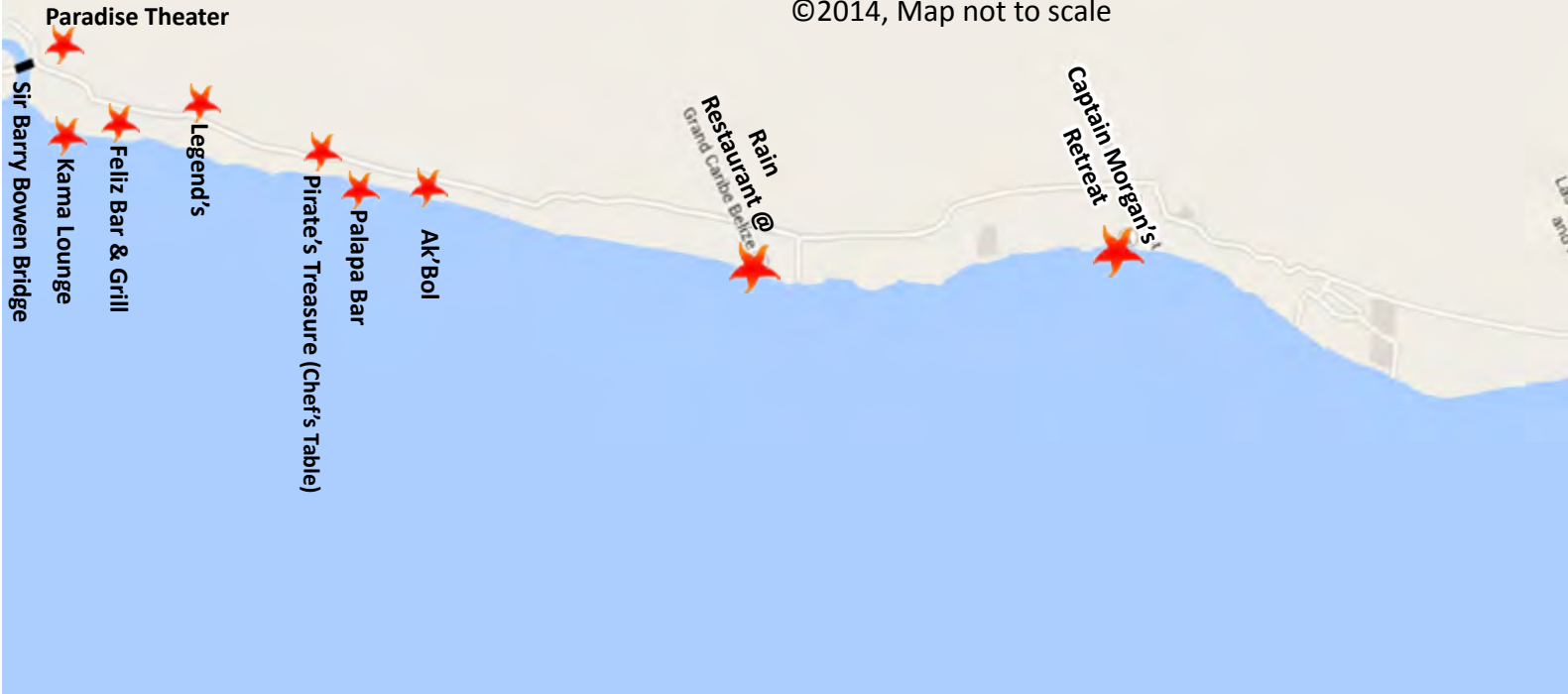
SQUIRREL'S NEST BAR: The islands 'hidden treasure on the beach' at Mata Rocks Resort. Beach Front Palapa Bar located 1 mile South of San Pedro. Happy Hour 5PM to 7PM daily. Stop by and see "Where The Nuts Gather".



THE SAN PEDRO LIONS CLUB Join us on Fridays for fun bingo (7PM) and delicious chicken BBQ (from noon). All proceeds go back to assisting the community in times of need.

North Ambergris Caye

©2014, Map not to scale



CAPTAIN MORGAN'S RETREAT & CASINO - Full service beach resort 3.5 miles north Ambergris Caye. Cozy thatched casitas, spacious villas, and luxury condos, 3 pools, restaurant, bar, tour center, grocery store, spa and fun casino are the perfect combination for the ultimate getaway! Call 226-2207 for reservations.

EL SECRETO is a barefoot luxury resort comfortably secluded just miles north of San Pedro. Dine at the most beautiful setting on the island and discover the secret flavors of Miss Miguella's kitchen! Offering a variety of international food with a Belizean touch. Call 236-5111.

REAL ESTATE

DIAMANTE BELIZE: Now under construction, the luxurious Diamante will feature 5 standalone buildings of 2- and 3-bedroom condos with high-end finishes throughout. Full strata beachfront condominiums in the heart of town! Visit diamantebelize.com to learn more!

Tourist Information

AA Meetings: Tel: 627-1585. English Meetings:
'Boca Del Rio': Mon - Sat: 6PM - 7PM (#5 Boca Del Rio Dr).
'Clean & Serene': Tues & Fri, noon, Catholic Church Parish Hall.
UltraMar Group (Spanish): T/W/F/Sun: 7:30PM, San Pablo Church.
Belize Tourism Board - 227-2419.
Belize Tourism Industry Association (BTIA) - 227-5717.
Belize Hotel Association - 223-0669, bha@btl.net
San Pedro Tourist Guide Association 226-2391.

CRYSTAL AUTO RENTALS - 2 BZ locations: Philip S.W. Goldson International Airport and 5 Miles Northern Highway. Free shuttle service to and from our Belize City office to anywhere in Belize City. Tel: 011-501-223-1600 Fax: 011-501-223-1900 (direct dialing from U.S.A.) Toll Free in Belize: 0-800-777-7777 Email: reservations@crystal-belize.com or visit our website at <http://crystal-belize.com>
COASTAL XPRESS WATER TAXI - Scheduled ferry service & water taxi for Ambergris Caye. Phone 226-3007.
GET TRANSFERS - Executive transfer and tour services anywhere in Belize: Chetumal, Cancun, Quintana Roo & even Merida and Guatemala. Phone: 422-2485 (fx: 422-3511) or email: info@gettransfers.com.
RAINBOW TAXI - Caye Caulker golf cart, guided island tours, reliable service. 226-0123. Minerva: 661-6254 or Champ 602-8136.

IMPORTANT #'S

Police - 206-2022 / **Fire** - 206-2372
South Police Sub-Station - 610-4911
Emergency - 911
Crimestoppers - 800 922-TIPS
Dr. Otto Rodriguez San Pedro Polyclinic
IL - 226-2536.
Emergency: 660-2871
US Embassy - 822-4011
Canadian Consulate - 223-1060
British High Commissioner - 822-2146



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Sudoku Answers Puzzle on Page 2

2	5	7	8	1	3	6	9	4
9	8	4	2	5	6	3	7	1
1	3	6	4	7	9	8	5	2
8	2	5	6	3	4	9	1	7
4	1	3	5	9	7	2	8	6
6	7	9	1	8	2	5	4	3
5	4	2	7	6	8	1	3	9
7	9	8	3	2	1	4	6	5
3	6	1	9	4	5	7	2	8

Old Belize

Continued from Page 6

had too much fun in there myself, but lunchtime beckoned and we headed over to the restaurant, where we enjoyed a great view of the harbor and Cucumber Beach. Lunch was superb and reasonably priced. I had a shrimp Alfredo pasta while Samii had a Mexican chorizo burger- something for everyone! Of course, our lunch was accompanied by some drinks- daiquiris anyone?

Full and happy we took a stroll through the beach before we had to leave. Cucumber Beach is definitely a great place to spend an afternoon with the family. It has colorful beach chairs, inner tubes, a rope swing and even a 90-foot long water slide called the Slippery Conch! I could foresee a great weekend splashing and playing there.

Old Belize is a great place to rekindle your love for Belize's past, while enjoying an atmosphere of history, fun and great food. This place certainly makes for unforgettable experiences.

To find out more on Old Belize call 501-222-4129, email info@oldbelize.com or visit their website at www.oldbelize.com.



Thirsty Thursday

For every \$50 play on slot,
get \$5 promo
½ price pizza

Diva Fridays

Dress up & play with us
Free Local Drinks:
8PM – 9:30PM for the Divas
Every 10th diva gets free
raffle & promo ticket
DJ & Dance:
9PM – 12midnight

Blackjack Poolside

Tue/Thurs/Sun, 1PM – 5PM

Free Transportation:

From Fido's Dock:
7 – 9 - 11PM
From Captain Morgan's Dock:
8 – 10 - 12PM & 2AM

NOW OPEN



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- ★ Fresh Fruit Smoothies
- ★ Baked Goods Daily
- ★ Water, Sodas, Wine & Beer

located just off the main road
across from the Palapa Bar

www.facebook.com/marbucksbelize



Tuesdays:

Belizean Buffet
Local dishes, live band
& local artisans

Thursdays:

Mexican Night
Pork & Chicken Burritos,
Fish Tacos, Salbutes,
Fajitas, Tostadas & more

Game Day Sunday:

Bucket Beers & Snacks

Happy Hour Daily:

3PM – 6PM

Reservations

Recommended:

226-2207

3 1/2 miles North AC



Food and Wine: A glorious match

By Mary Gonzalez



For its 30th Wine Event, Wine De Vine and Casa Picasso teamed up for a night of delicious food and top-ranked wines. From the moment the menu and wine list landed in our inbox, it was time to make a plan. Based on my previous experiences at wine dinners, there was possibility of some wine-induced shenanigans. Tamara and I know a little bit about wine, rum, beer, cocktail-induced shenanigans, and so, we were ready for some good FUN!!

Those familiar with Casa Picasso know that food would be exquisite. Those who have had the pleasure of meeting Flor from Wine de Vine know that her taste in wines is extensive and always exciting! Combine the two, and well, dinner was guaranteed to be fabulous!

After a social hour, wherein bubbly was consumed and delectable bites of profiteroles with camembert and shrimp salad on wontons were passed around, we were all directed to the seating area where rows and rows of wineglasses extended as far as the eye could see. Oh my...gulp...or should we say...slurp!

The menu listed items like black truffle mousse, foie gras, octopus, sea bass, beef and Kakaw chocolate. Wow, were we in for some excellent dining! Flor was excited to share her wine picks with the crowd, detailing bits of her adventures tasting in Argentina, even throwing a little history in the mix. (Just don't ask us about it...because, well, there was lots of wine...ALL of which were 90+ points rated!)

One thing I do love about these dinners is that you never know who you will be seated with or how the conversation may go! Our tablemates were fun and relaxed, and after the first course of wild mushroom and black truffle mousse, paired with a South African Chenin Blanc, we were practically besties. But that title was officially reserved to our fabulous waitress Jackie, who took VERY good care of us, not letting our glasses go dry once!

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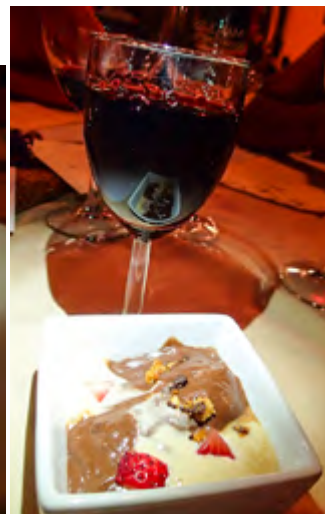
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Glorious Food and Wine

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I've never had Foie Gras in my life, but luckily one of our dining companions was an authentic Frenchman who taught me the proper way to pronounce it, followed by his approval of the dish itself! And the wine that accompanied it, a Napa Valley Chardonnay, deeelicious! Course after course followed, interspersed with fun giveaways and a little information on the accompanying wines. All around us was the sound of laughter and conversation, glasses clinking, and a general air of camaraderie.

Flor and her staff, Jackie and Adam, Chef Jeff and his amazing kitchen warriors managed to pull off yet another successful wine event. Attendees were happy when they arrived, and ecstatic when they left! We'd say that's a sign of a good time!

Keep your eye out on the next Wine de Vine dinner event – they sell out fast. Check out Wine de Vine via their shop on Coconut Drive, or online at their Facebook page (facebook.com/winedevine), or call them at 226-3430. Casa Picasso dinner reservations can be had by calling them at 226-4443, or emailing them at reservations@casapicasso.com. They even offer complimentary pick-up/drop-off within Town limits. Follow them on Facebook too: facebook.com/CasaPicassoBelize.





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Celebrating 30 years of The Rum Punch II!

By Mary Gonzalez



Photographs circa 1985.

She is not fancy; her humble exterior belies how much she truly means to so many, but The Rum Punch II is hands down, the BEST adventure on the water. Built by hand over two years, from mahogany wood, she is solid. Her red exterior and off-white sails stand out over the hues of blue and green waters. She's not huge; in fact, she's perfect for no more than a dozen people on board ready to enjoy some adventures on the water. With owner George Eiley at the helm, a gallon of his extra special rum punch at the ready, cruising the Caribbean is a breeze! And for 30 years, The Rum Punch II has been providing an escape for those who seek it, if only for a few hours.

The Rum Punch is my happy place, and has been for a long time. It has also made George very happy in the years he's navigated

the waters on board her. He regaled us with stories of his foray into this sailing adventure, which officially started in 1985. Oh those tales of island hopping all along the coastline of beautiful Belize!!! His photographs show us but just a few glimpses into his daring adventures overnight. Imagine sailing six days down south: camping, fishing, cooking, mixing drinks and tending to sunburned tourists who got to see a Belize that most of us never will. I flip through his photographs, feeling a fleeting jealousy as I try and picture how amazing it must be to wander the waters of our country, seeking shelter on uninhabited islands. Of course, George is game to take us on a similar journey whenever we're ready (I hand in my request for immediate vacation).

George's photos reveal a fishing village that had an active

water-based life. "The first boat belonged to this guy who was down here for a while. Back then \$1000 could keep you here for up to six months! He paid \$300 for this sailboat and we used to party and have so much fun with him. Then one day he said he had to go back home, and asked us [George and Tony Eiley (now deceased)] to take care of it for him, and that he would be back in two weeks." The owner didn't make it back for five years! "We would use the boat to head out to the reef and fish. Oohhh, back in those days, fishing was amazing! Lobsters everywhere you looked... and we would bring in buckets of fish. One day on our way back, a tourist asked us how much we would charge for a sailing trip, and we joked and said \$10 US. The guy was like, okay. We made a hundred and twenty dollars that

day! Tony and I said, 'time to get serious.'" And so The Rum Punch tours began.

But how did the boat get its name?

If anyone's talked to George at length, you know how hard it is to get a full story, as one anecdote leads to five. After discussing the wonders of Tobacco Caye, Southwater Caye and Wee Wee Caye, he finally came round and told us the origin of the boat's name. "*Back in the day, there were no hardware stores where you could just go buy a paintbrush. So the guy (original boat owner) took some coconut leaves, and beat the end of it till it got frayed and it looked like a brush. He dipped it in the paint and started painting: 'R-U-M-P-U-N-C-H'.*" Yes, he was drunk when he did it! George laughed loudly as he recounted that tale. "*I always*

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Celebrating The Rum Punch II!

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said my next boat would be named *The Rum Punch II*." He held on to that promise and did just that with his own boat. The mahogany beauty was hand-built in Sarteneja village in 1974, but did not come to be in his possession until 1985. And now here she is on Ambergris Caye waters, celebrating 30 glorious years as *The Rum Punch II*.

Favorite Trips

After three decades of sailing, we're pretty sure George has some favorite adventures in his captain's log book. He surprised us by saying that while the overnight trips down south were amazing and fun, he is just as happy doing day trips to snorkel and picnic on the beaches of Ambergris Caye. *"When I was young and could handle it better, those long trips were fun - tiring, but fun. But now, I'm happy doing day trips. It's peaceful, calm and I get to be out on the water."* There are no clear favorites – just wonderful memories and photographs of islands that he can name just by glancing at them.



We created our own memories before George took her to dry dock for the 2015 season, joining him for one last hurrah before his vacation. We celebrated another milestone birthday, my hubby's 30th birthday, with family and close friends on board. For a week, the highly anticipated sailing trip consisted of texts *"...is it Sunday yet?!"* Such is the love for being on board *The Rum Punch*! With a barbeque picnic, homemade sangria, rum and beers, we toasted the boy and the boat, happy to be a part of history and already excited to christen her when she goes back on the water!

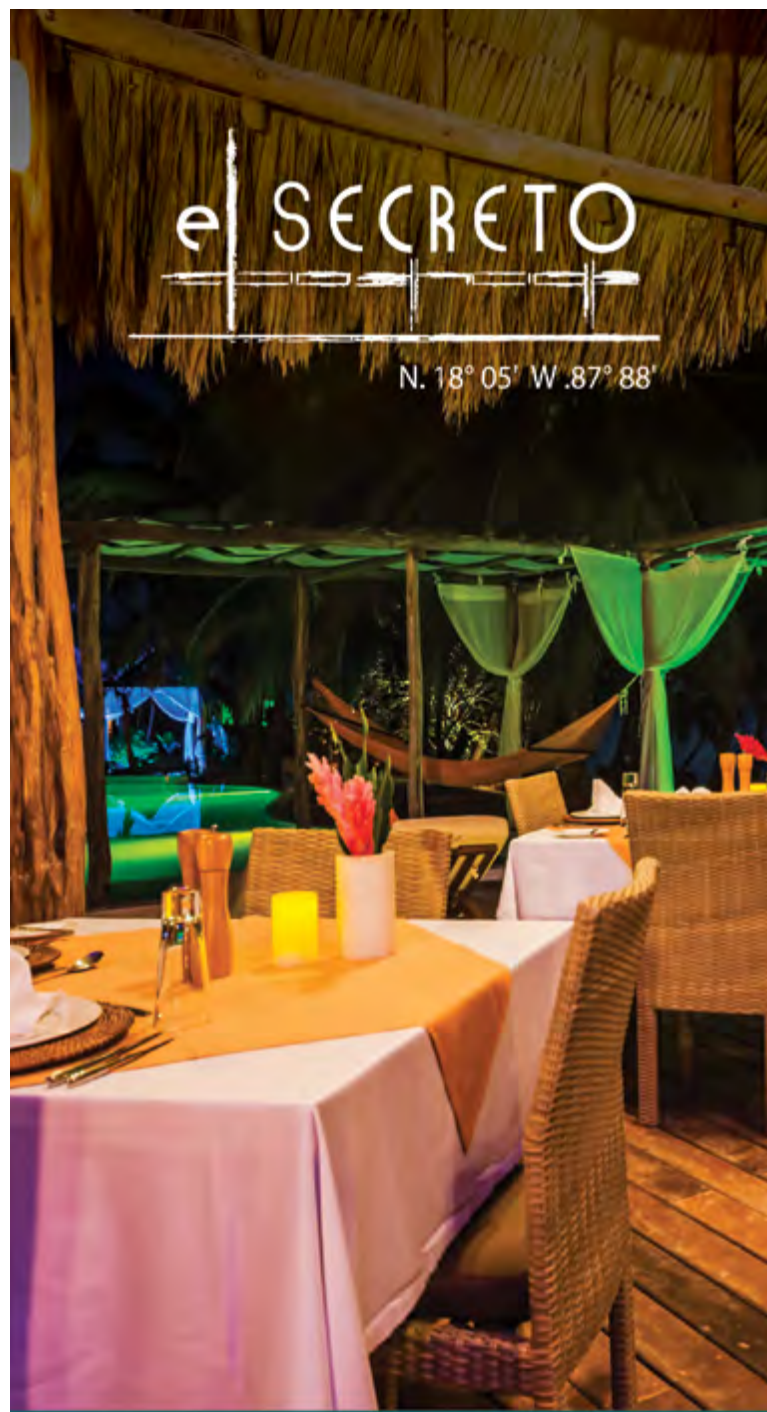


Photographs circa 2015 ;-)



Here's to MANY more years on the Caribbean with *The Rum Punch II*, and Mistah George and his lethal rum punch concoction! May your trips be plentiful, full of laughter, and may you continue to bring joy to those who board you! (*Book a trip with George by calling 610-3240*).

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