Hidden Treasure - an exquisite dining experience

Plus:
Meeting Colorful Characters in Caye Caulker

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Language can link us with other cultures, no matter how foreign the tongue may be. In an effort to share this form of communication with our audience, The San Pedro Sun proudly presents – Words of the Week. This week, we will present a couple of words in Creole, and translate it to English, using the Creole/English Dictionary released through the Kriol Council. Special thanks to Sylvana Woods for our copy of the dictionary. Enjoy!!!

Music: myoozik – Ai mek mi pikni dehn lisn tu aal kain a myoozik. (I let my children listen to all kinds of music.)

Responsible: rispansabl – Eech wan a wi rispansabl fi how wi liv. (Each one of us is responsible for how we live.)

SuDoku! Answers on Page 4

Where did you read your San Pedro Sun? Where did you take your San Pedro Sun & Visitor Guide? Take a photo of you and the paper and send it to us at: spsun@sanpedrosun.net

Betty, Karen and Roberto catch the thrilling Belize vs. Mexico game at Reliant Stadium in Houston, Texas, USA. They also took the opportunity to snap their picture with The San Pedro Sun. Despite the 2-0 loss, fans came back exhilarated and proud to have been part of history.

Photos taken in unique and unusual places are preferred. Be sure to identify who is in the photo and where the photo was taken. Don’t forget to include your names and what you were doing.
Hidden Treasure
The name says it all

There are few places on earth that can truly live up to their name. By choosing a name like Hidden Treasure, the Muñoz family has created a buzz unlike any other. Already receiving rave reviews from diners both by word of mouth and online, this new restaurant epitomizes the new level of class,pered and coddled, and want nothing more than to stay late into the night and enjoy such incredibly warm service.

Our late Sunday supper was planned quickly, but the attention to detail and dining experience and ambiance that discriminating diners have come to expect of San Pedro. From your arrival to the gate, through your walk up to the dining area - a gorgeous tropical oasis, to the first drink, you feel pampered.

A warm, tropical ambiance is coupled with incredible service for the perfect dining experience.

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romantic atmosphere brought all hurriedness to a halt, and life took a slow turn for the better. A warm friendly welcome from owner Ruben Muñoz himself starts the night off just right. After an even warmer embrace from his wife and partner, Elvia, we are shown to our table, and quick as a flash, waitress Marina is over to fill our glasses with some refreshing ice water. Ruben explains the specials of the night to us as Dwayne brings over some menus, and while we mull over the choice of Surf and Turf or the lamb chops, Steve mixes up a delicious watermelon mojito.

One refreshing drink later, our minds are made up. A Achiote chicken, two Surf and Turfs and one order of Lamb Chops are ordered for us four, and we resume conversation. All of us agree that the ambiance is Continued on Page 4
Hidden Treasure truly divine: the open air building, with its white drapes and gorgeously hued Belizean woods, combined with the soft beautiful music and fresh air simply screams romance in the tropics. The drinks are cool; the company is super fun, and the service – impeccable. One simply has to turn slightly and Dwayne or Marina comes over immediately to take care of you. Not once did we have to wait to get service. And, in a fast-paced tourism environment like San Pedro, where the competition is fierce, and new restaurants crop up only to give in a few months later, excellent service is not just a plus, it is expected.

Well, Hidden Treasure has that notch built in on their belt. Everyone works over time to ensure that the client is well attended, so that they neither need nor want for anything. Talk about pampering!

Our dinner arrives shortly after our orders were placed, and we’re looking forward to getting into Chef Juan Carlos Rosales’ creations. The scents that waft from the dishes tell a tale of delight, and the taste buds perk up in anticipation. The first thing we notice once the plates are on the table is the portions. Hidden Treasure does not skimp on the portions.

Hidden Treasure
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Soft, melt-in-your-mouth lamb chops are drizzled with a warm, tangy mushroom sauce and accompanied by fluffy whipped potatoes and steamed buttery veggies.

Surf and Turf - the special of the night, combines the best of both worlds: incredible grilled lobster and a thick, prime cut of beef that has been spiced to perfection.

Pinguino Wine Company Presents Art in “The Vineyard”

Paintings by: Linda Mikulich & Kjrt Cruz
Hand carved bowls by Bob Wright
Recycled Butterfly Art by Baron Neal

WINE & OLIVE TASTING DAILY
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quantity of food, and as we can attest, neither on the quality. The lamb chops are soooooo soft and buttery, melt-in-the-mouth tender, with the perfect balance of spices and an explosion of taste that simply says "sublime". A delightful dark and saucy mushroom dressing marries each bite perfectly, and with the accompaniment of buttery, fluffy mashed potatoes and delicious steamed vegetables, the meal is simply perfection.

Achiote spice rubbed chicken is roasted to a golden brown, and topped with an herb butter sauce. Accompanied by Belizean rice and beans, potatoes and vegetables, it is a hearty meal.
The Achiote Chicken is a chicken quarter that has been rubbed with the spicy and native Achiote, and spiced lightly then roasted to perfection, and served with a butter sauce, and accompanied with whipped fluffy potatoes and veggies as well. Each bite is more flavorful than the other, and the marvelous creation once more brings praise to the geniuses in the kitchen.

The Surf and Turf special also begs for our attention and praise. A butterflied lobster tail is buttered and with the simplest of spices to best bring out its flavor, is then grilled to perfection. The lobster meat is tender and juicy, and alongside a thick medium rare T-bone steak, aged and closer to a Porterhouse than a T-Bone, the combination is a fusion of Belizean spice and talent, ensuring a dish that deserves praise and attention.

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Ambergris Caye’s neighboring isle, Caye Caulker is only five miles or so south as the crow flies, but it is worlds apart in ambiance. Where Ambergris Caye is predominately an upscale, swank hustling and bustling tourist haunt that draws hordes of sophisticated, moneyed international jet-setters, Caye Caulker is a low-keyed, laid-back tourist hang-out that draws a menagerie of arty-types and staunch individualists walking the colorful edge of eccentricity.

I think of Caye Caulker as in some obscure ways (and some not so obscure) similar to popular myths of the American “Wild West” circa 1870 as depicted in tinsel-town flicks. That was the era of iconic cowboys like Wild Bill Hickok, Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson and Buffalo Bill Cody. On film, TV and in literature they were larger than life, quasi-mythical characters that tamed the Wild West. According to Ned Buntline dime novels and Hollywood movies they lived lives Continued on Page 10
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DADE COUNTY APPROVED

QUESTION: What is more than just oil? It's liquid engineering.

Hi folks, here's your clue for the month of June!

C T R

Benny's Homecenter • Benny's Wholesale Depot • Benny's Bargain Center • BenQuip • Peg's Homecenter (Delmar)
Allen's Hardware (Cayo) • National Hardware Store (Corentz) • L&R Imports (Orange Walk) • Landy's & Sons (Orange Walk)
A&D's (Sunrise Creek)
on their own terms, on the edge, proverbial loners — conversely, with a fan club. Without those myths there wouldn’t have been any John Wayne, Roy Rogers, Clint Eastwood or Hopalong Cassidy.

Caye Caulker is the preferred destination for economy conscious travelers. The economy group includes — but not limited to — graying flower children, freeze dried yuppies, artists with rather ambiguous pasts and assorted Euro-trash travelers that are experts at stretching their limited dollars. Cauker also draws a smattering of quasi-affluent trekkers that includes white collar Baby Boomers.

Split Personalities

Continued from Page 8

Caye Caulker is additionally the place several colorful business-persons call home. This installment of Split Personalities will cover three of those nonconformist individuals — Bert Nicholas, Maurice Moore and George Besta. All are based near the north-end of the caye, the area known as “The Split”. Ergo the title, Split Personalities.

Bert Nicholas, AKA Ras Creek is a pioneer in marine tour guiding. He is a seminal figure in discovery and development the Hol Chan Marine Reserve better known as Shark-Ray Alley and the Sea Horse Ranch on the lee side of Caye Caulker into must-see tourist destinations. Those two naturalist spots have helped immeasurably in putting Belize on the nature-lovers’ tourist map. Hundreds of other tour guides have followed in his footsteps.

Ras Creek is a historically important figure in the evolution of tourism in the Jewel and is still educating and thrilling tourists with his naturalist wisdom and his capacity to pull off a hell of a party simultaneously. His tours both instill awareness of the environ-

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San Pedro Sun — Visitors Guide review, Vol. 18 #15

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offers two and three bedroom beach front (and beach view)
condos ranging from 1,425 to 1,760 square ft. The 3 Bed-
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condos on the beach range from $675,000 on up.
Don’t delay, these should not last long at these
incredible values...not if we can help it!

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We are turning heads...
ments and generate good vibes galore. Every time his vessel the *Heritage Cruz* returns from an excursion the clientele are dancing, singing and carrying on in a decidedly high spirited manner.

In spite of Ras Creek’s historical significance, he has not been given the props he deserves by the, at times, fickle tourist industry. Believe it or not there are some philistines in the tourist biz that harass him on a regular basis. A true disservice to a man that had the vision to create something novel in a highly competitive field where new ideas are few and far between. Ras Creek might come off after he’s tipped a few too many, or like some kind of vociferous, persnickety Rasta hustler, though underneath that bohemian demeanor is an astute mind with a wealth of information on the sea life that lives in the waters surrounding Caulker. A cowboy-esque, mythic character that knows his stuff.

Caye Caulker’s celebrity chef Wish Willy, born Maurice Moore on the mean streets of Belize City’s Southside 50 years ago is a study in contrasts. His unique culinary concoctions are sophisticated, highly nuanced affairs that come as close to palate heaven as this itinerate critic has found in Belize. In contrast to Wish Willy’s classy cooking is his bohemian, beach-bum, casual-to-the-point-of-disheveled look and his ad hoc, outrageously funky open-air eatery.

Wish Willy (his birth name Maurice just doesn’t capture the elegant-down-to-earth contradictory essence of the man) was born and for his first twelve years raised on West Street in Belize City. At twelve, he relocated with his family to Chicago, Illinois. After graduating from high school stateside, Wish Willy, who had a natural knack for business, worked as a stock broker in the Chicago Stock Exchange for several years.

Then in his late twenties Wish Willy on a lark enrolled in one of those fancy culinary institutes that all big cities up north have in aces. Wish Willy’s instructors readily noticed that he had a special aptitude for putting a new, exciting twist on traditional dishes. A chef whiz was created.

After plying his unique culinary creativity a few years in the kitchens of some swank five star restaurants in the Windy City in 1989 Wishwilly got tired of the cold winds blowing off Lake Michigan and headed back home to Belize. Chicago’s loss is our gain. Wish Willy’s way with food has made him well known on Caye Caulker. His emphatically rustic restaurant counter-pointed by elegant concoctions has over the years become a local tourist attraction. Wish Willy’s usual attire is short pants, unbuttoned shirt and bare feet. While his sublimely seasoned nouveau dishes are on par with the works of renowned chefs like Wolfgang Puck and Paul Prudhomme.

There are no high-rise resorts on Caye Caulker, no structure is more than two, three stories, about the height of the ubiquitous coconut palms that are sprinkled across the mini-caye. Due to that comparable lack of high-powered tourist development Caye Caulker continues to maintain its own buccaneer Belizean spirit; which includes a tolerance for maverick personalities.

One such maverick was the inimitable entrepreneur George Besta. Bar and resort owner Besta, better known around the caye as “Big George” or “Griz” (as in grizzly bear) due to his larger than life scale, passed away 13 months ago- but his spirit still haunts the caye. Griz was one of those rebels that did things his own way and to hell with what other folks said or thought. Griz was truly one of a kind. Griz was the exact opposite of 99% of the other resort owners I’ve come in contact with. Realistically the resort business is all about catering to the clientele’s every whim, every want. The business savvy resort owner will therefore naturally hire a sweet

**Split Personalities**

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Split Personalities

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and smiling staff that obsequiously charms the moneyed tourists. And the owner inevitably sets the good example by having the most gregarious, convivial personality on the whole crew. A doctorate in sweet-mouth.

Then there was Griz. From sweet-mouth to foul-mouth. The Griz had his own expletive enriched way of expressing himself. He sure wasn’t conventional, though his shoot-from-the-hip style was authentic. Crude, yes. Rude, double yes. Honest to a fault, triple yes. He called it like he saw it, no apologies. This critic can’t imagine another place in Belize that would have tolerated Griz’s bluntness except Caye Caulker. On the reverse side of the coin, Griz was one of the most, if not the most, community minded resident on the island. When any civic organization needs funds the Griz was the one with the deepest pockets.

If the Police need financial assistance for a project or a woman’s group requests backing or the school seeks new sports equipment, Griz was the dude who always came through with the dough. As difficult as it might first seem, buried underneath his bawdy rhetoric and imposing 400-plus pound physique beat a soft, humanitarian heart. Buried deep, some would say. Nonetheless, Griz was a character that might have been born a century too late. Even though he loved the caye, I think he would have fit right in with Wyatt Earp and Doc Holiday pounding down shots and telling tall tales in some bar in Tombstone during the heyday of the Wild West. Yippie Yi Yo, Yippie Ay A Ye!

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Commercial/Condos/Homes

Lovely Home San Pedro Town North (M68) Centrally located in a nice neighborhood north of Town Center and just a minute’s walk to the white sandy beach, this charming two story A-frame concrete house is within all amenities. With excellent construction quality and finishing, the 3 bedroom/2bath home comes with tiled floors, French doors, ample storage space, a children playroom, laundry room, and spacious backyard. Located in an area where property values are on the increase! Priced at only $450,000.00 US.

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Raw land

Ambergris Bay (P56) - Lot #05, measures 62’ of beach frontage & 110’ of depth. Great investment at only $93,900.00 US.

Palmero Point (G43) Nice lot several rows off the beach, located 9 miles north of town. Measuring approx. 107’ x 164’ $30,000.00 US.

Paradise Coves (C49) Good sized lot 3.5 miles north of San Pedro – great location & great price at $25,000.00 US.

Flying Fisherman (D16) lot 300’ off the beach, measures 50’ x 78’. $12,500.00 US.

Santa Rita (H32) Lot 18 - 50’ x 110’ - 3rd row - $24,500.00 US.

Ambergris Bay (W31) & (W32) Large parcel with gorgeous white sandy beachfront, Lot 438 measures 75’ x 180’, with enough space for large house & backyard. $95,000.00 US.

San Pedro Lagoon (G39) Beachfront property totaling 8.46 acres of pristine land located west of town & facing the tranquil San Pedro lagoon. This unspoiled location offers spectacular vistas of the lagoon area, striking sunsets, & great fishing at your doorstep. Build your dream retreat only a few minutes away by boat from San Pedro Town. Property comprises 992 feet of beach frontage by 400 feet of depth. Price $1,984,000.00 US.

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Hidden Treasure

five stars. Accompanied by Belizean coconut rice and beans and steamed veggies, this star dish is worthy of being the night’s special, and we can certainly attest to why it has been such a hit since it was introduced.

Hidden Treasure is the fulfillment of a dream that Ruben and his wife, Elvia Muñoz, had for many years. After working in the tourism industry for most of their lives, and helping others become successful with their own restaurants and resorts, they knew it was time to make their own dream restaurant come true. That dream officially came to fruition on May 10th, 2008.

Located in the Escalante Subdivision, Hidden Treasure has brought a taste of the good life to the neighborhood with delicious Caribbean and regional dishes prepared by Chef Rosales and his incredibly talented team in the kitchen.

A family run business, Ruben and Elvia, aided by their talented daughter Nashley, this new restaurant welcomes you with open and inviting arms. Sitting down to dinner is a family affair, with service that pampers and makes you feel like royalty! Come enjoy a tropically elegant ambiance and indulge your taste buds with excellent Belizean and Caribbean cooking! There are lots more dishes to sample and indulge your taste buds with!

For further information and for reservations, kindly call 226-4111.

Continued from Page 7

For many, the private and beautiful location of Hidden Treasure makes it perfect for a special occasion. Here, Findley celebrates his birthday with friends Stephanie, Tracy and Marvin.

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“I’m going to need some help today,” Dulce said.

“You’re going to have to get Dennis Jr. to help you,” I told her. “I don’t want to get involved with your business.”

“Dennisito is working today and he can’t help me. If you want to get the electric bill paid this week, I would advise you to get in your golf cart and deliver these floral arrangements for me.”

“But I always screw it up,” I said. “Remember the last time when the box fell off the back of the golf cart and ruined the arrangement?”

“Well, you just drive really slow and carefully and things will be fine,” she said. “Now, I need some help and I need it now. I have a floral arrangement for a restaurant that just moved and is having a grand re-opening. It has to go now.”

“O.K., I’ll give it to me and I’ll deliver it.”

“Hold on,” she said. “I also have this funeral arrangement that will be finished in just a minute. You can take both of them and save having to make two trips.”

“Did everything go all right?” Dulce asked, when I returned from the deliveries.

“Of course,” I said. “You know, that’s another reason I hate to help you in your work. You always act like I’m dumb or something.”

“I don’t think you’re dumb,” she said. “It’s just that you do some really dumb things.”

“Well, isn’t that the same thing? Come on; admit it. You really think I’m dumb, don’t you?”

“Hold on. Let me get the phone before I answer that.”

“What?!,” she said, after she answered the phone. “I am so sorry. My helper must have delivered the wrong one by mistake. I’ll send him back right now.”

“Did you even look at those floral arrangements that you delivered?” she asked, when she got off the phone.

“Uh, ... No. But I thought I took them to the right places. What’s wrong?”

“You just delivered a floral wreath to a restaurant grand re-opening that says OUR SINCEREST SYMPATHIES.”

“Are you sure?”

“I’m sure. But that’s not the worst part. What’s worse is that at the funeral they said, BEST OF LUCK IN YOUR NEW LOCATION.”

“There are more television sets in the United States than there are people in Japan.”

*Another word for the human thumb is “pollex.”

*Besides Earth, only Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune have known magnetic fields.
We are turning heads...

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RAMON’S VILLAGE - Enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner in a Mây an atmosphere or on the veranda overlooking the Caribbean Sea. Coconut Drive. Phone 226-2071.

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BLUE WATER GRILL - Island cuisine with a twist! Wood-fired Oven Pizzas, Sushi & more! Open daily. Happy Hour 4 to 6 p.m. 226-3347.

SAN PEDRO FITNESS CLUB - A/C Gym, Fully-equipped. Open to the public. Tennis Courts, Lap and Family pools, A Qua Fitness and Toning Classes. Open 7am Daily, 8am Sundays. 226-2683.

CAYE COFFEE - Take a taste of our locally roasted fresh coffee back home. A wonderful cup of coffee makes such a great difference in your day. Try it and ask for more. 226-3568.

THE GREENHOUSE - Fresh Produce & Seafood. Belizean and imported specialty. Fresh herbs, cold cuts, chilled goods plus an exciting selection of groceries. A/C local on Barrier Reef Dr. 226-2084.

CAYE INTERNATIONAL BANK - Offering Demand Deposit Accounts, Loans, Savings A/C accounts, etc. cibl@btl.net or phone 226-2388.

PROVIDENT BANK & TRUST - Offering a full range of International Banking Services. phone 226-5698 services@prot identbank.bz

GRANIEL’S DREAMLAND - Locally made furniture & accessories from all Belizean exotic hardwoods & Mahogany. On Pescador Drive, opposite Rock’s. Call 226-2632, ext. 18 or 226-2938. Open Mon-Sat 8:30-12:00 noon & 1:00 to 9:00 p.m. & Sun 10-12 noon.

BELIZEAN ARTS GALLERY - Local art!


PINGUINO BELIZE - Fine Wine. Gourmet Olives, stuffed olives and spreads. Exclusively in Belize. Free Tasting! 226-2930. pinguino@belize.com

LIQUOR BOX - Wholesale and Retail on local and imported liquors. Delivery available! Case of Belikin Beer, Ice Cold - only $60Bz! On Buccaneer Street, open 7 Days a week 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. 226-2475 or 626-7331.

FOOTPRINTS - Crocs shoes, Reef shoes, and fun beach accessories. On Barrier Reef Drive, open Monday through Saturday from 9am - 6pm. 226-2689.

BAREFOOT BOOKS - Over 9,000 new, used and well loved books available. All titles and subjects, we buy your books. Located at Pescador Drive; call 226-3563. www.barefootbooks-belize.com.


SAN PEDRO FITNess - A/C Gym, Fully-equipped. Open to the public. Tennis Courts, Lap and Family pools, A Qua Fitness and Toning Classes. Open 7am Daily, 8am Sundays. 226-2683.

BAYSIDE BAR - On the water, south of Tropic Cargo. Friday Night Movies - kids watch while you enjoy drinks! Happy Hour: $3.50 beer and $15 pitcher beers. Take the stairs to our third floor Bayside Restaurant. Enjoy the amazing view of San Pedro while dining in style! Call for Reservations: 226-2147.

HIDEAWAY BAR AT PINKY’S MOTEL - Everyday specials. $4 Belikins & local rums and $6 Guinness. Saturday is fight night: come watch televised boxing and UFC while you enjoy 2 for 1 tequila shots. Bar customers enjoy the swimming pool. Located in San Pablo; call 226-4655.

THE HOLIDAY HOTEL - Every Wednesday, live music and a fabulous Beach Barbeque 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Barrier Reef Dr. 226-2014.

PALAPA BAR AND GRILL - The Coolest Place, North of Bridge. Drink & Dine out over the Caribbean waters with cool breezes and no mosquitoes. Specialty is a BBQ, Slow Smoked, Pork Sandwich and Fresh Caught Fish Tacos. Open 7 days, Happy Hour Drinks 4 - 6 226-3111.

EL DIVINO RESTAURANT at BANANA BEACH - Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner from 6 a.m. - 10 p.m. Book your party or banquet today! Phone 226-2444.

PORTOFINO RESTAURANT AND GREEN PARROT BEACH BAR - Meet our boat at 6:30 p.m. at Fido’s Dock for a complimentary ride to one of the best culinary experiences you will have while in paradise. For reservations, call 220-5096.

SUNSET GRILL - Offering local and international cuisine. Open 7 days a week for lunch and dinner. Located on the lagoon side. 226-2600. Come by at sunset and help us feed the tarpons!

RENZEOUS RESTAURANT AND BAR - The most romantic spot in town featuring award winning chefs. Thai and French cuisine blended to make paradise taste like heaven, or so our customers say. Free Renzoeous Wine tasting from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fermented, blended and bottled here on the property. Open for lunch and dinner. Call 226 3426 for reservations and transport options.

CASA PICASSO TAPAS + MARTINIS - Small plates, big pastas and fantastic desserts! “Hippies martini spot”-Frommer’s. Nightly 5:30pm, closed Sundays. reservations 226-4507.

BEACH ‘N’ KITCHEN - Open Tuesday to Sunday, from 7:30am - 3:00pm. Saturday and Sunday Brunch - choose delicious Eggs Benedict, stuffed French toast or continental breakfast! North of the bridge, near Palapa Bar. Call 226-4456.

RICO’S SURFside RESTAURANT - A truly unique dining experience on the beach at B’anyan Bay. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. Phone 226-3739 ext. 135.

BLUE LOTUS LUXURY DINING - Delight yourself with Indian cuisine at San Pedro’s newest water-top restaurant. Spectacular views of San Pedro at night! Complimentary water taxi service. Call 501-610-BLUE (2583).

MOJITO BAR & TAPAS - Serves a wide variety of Mojitos, pitchers of Sangria, Margaritas and beer! Enjoy delicious homemade breakfasts and snacks. Located at the Sunbreeze Suites, on the beach across from Belize Bank. Open daily: 7 am - 10 pm.

FRENCH BAKERY - A taste of France. All products are made in the traditional way with only natural ingredients. Open from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Phone: (604) 0748 or (624) 5880.

HIDDEN TREASURE - Discover great food in an enchanting setting! Featuring Latin American and Caribbean Cuisine, and the Island’s Best Martinis & Mojitos! Open for Lunch and Dinner. For Reservations, please call 226-4111.