



Fandango Celebrates 23 Years of Fun and Food

Pierre and Marietta Bain have the enthusiasm and graciousness reflecting a true love of their vocation. For 23 years, the Bains have owned Pacific Grove's Fandango restaurant, a popular spot for both locals and visitors, featuring Mediterranean food and a homey atmosphere.

Pierre had been at Club XIX in Pebble Beach for 20 years and the Bains had been married for 10 years, Marietta says, when the opportunity came to purchase Fandango from the Georis family. The Bains took over with partners Rita and Al Shugart, who were customers and friends from Club XIX.

"Pierre immediately fell in love with it," Marietta recalls. "The restaurant spoke to him and his past." It's a past that includes a 250-year family ownership of a hotel and restaurant in France, where Pierre learned the business working with his siblings and relatives. "We really are a foodie family," Pierre says. The Bains' own son and daughter began arriving to the restaurant after school at ages 9 and 7, where they would get their homework done and work various shifts.

"Our family life was here," Marietta says. "They are in their 30s now and have the best work ethic."

The menu reflects Mediterranean items like spaghetti Siracusa, paella, calamari steaks, Croque Monsieur, sand dab filets and rack of lamb. A popular Sunday brunch ranges from French toast and cheese blintzes to hamburgers, salad Nicoise and pasta dishes. An impressive wine list accompanies the broad menu of Basque, French, Spanish, Italian and North African influences.

"When I was at Club XIX, I was doing very classic things," Pierre says. "Here we returned to the basics with comfort food and traditional regional dishes." At the happy, bustling restaurant, people rise from tables to give hugs and call out hellos through the seven rooms.

"The customers become family," Marietta says. "You've seen them, you've seen their children, and you've seen their children have children."

"For me it is my whole life," Pierre says. "It is very important to me, fulfilling and satisfying. I like food and being around people. I am doing exactly what I

want to do.”

Fandango is located at 223 17th St. in Pacific Grove. 831/372-3456 or go to www.fandangorestaurant.com-- Brett Wilbur CARMEL MAGAZINE - SPRIN/SUMMER 2010 Marietta and Pierre Bain are the owners of Fandango, located in Pacific Grove, which just celebrated 23 years in business.