

## Marietta & Pierre Bain

It is heartening to meet a real local—someone who was born and raised and stayed, no matter where home happens to be. Marietta Bain from Monterey is one of those people. “My mom was from here. My grandparents came from Sicily out of the fishing trade that came out to Monterey.”

Marietta’s husband, Pierre, however, hails from the South of France, and there is something equally heartening about that— the person who sets off to cross the globe for opportunity or love. In this case, it happens to be a little bit of both. While his own family has a 250-year history in hotel and restaurant ownership and operation back in France, Pierre knew he wanted to see more of the world before he settled into the family business. After stints in Bermuda, New York, and San Francisco, Pierre did settle in; he just happened to do so here in Monterey, as the first and some twenty-year manager of Club XIX at The Lodge at Pebble Beach. In 1975, he met and married Marietta.

When husband and wife decided to go into business together in 1986, Pacific Grove restaurant Fandango was available and, over the years since their purchase, has become a home away from home for locals and out-of-towners alike. And the space, built into a two-bedroom cottage (since expanded to accommodate terrace and banquet space) couldn’t be more apt. The Bains sustained and developed a loyal following, raised a son and daughter who grew up in the restaurant, and have been married for 34 years. “That’s really like 70 years because we work together; I like to times it by two,” Marietta says with a goodnatured laugh.

Family is very much what the Bains and their business are all about. “When you open a restaurant, you put everything into it and make everything else work around it,” Marietta says. “Your patrons become your family.” They have even employed the same head chef, Pedro De La Cruz, for the past four decades, as he started working with Pierre when he was all of 15. The majority of the rest of the crew has been with the Bains for at least 18 years as well. They, too, are family. And this is one family who makes their cannelloni from scratch—make that everything on their Southern European regional menu from scratch (including a book about their restaurant adventures!).

And trust that the Bains are staying put. “The Monterey Peninsula is hugely

important to both of us, the integrity of the Peninsula, the beauty of the Peninsula,” says Marietta, who sits on the boards of the Monterey County Hospitality Association and the Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau. “There are certain things we need to fight for in our industry or community. We all find tourism is a clean resource and industry that adds to the richness of the Monterey Peninsula.” •- JENNIFER MASSONI

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