

THE VILLAGE AND CARIBBEAN RESTAURANT

Whenever someone spoke of Native Restaurants, the term 'native' seemed to conjure special thoughts many down-to-earth Bahamians were familiar with.

The Village and Caribbean Restaurant, on Queens Highway, Freeport, manifests what its name implies.

Of course depending on which part of the Bahamas you're in, the type of native restaurant will vary. For example in Nicholls Town, Andros, the setting includes a beautiful beach, with Sandpipers pacing up and down; the soft murmur of the tropical breeze blowing through fronds of coconut palm; and helpful children rushing to aid their mother, the hostess.

In Bimini the scene is more social, the people enjoy talking freely to strangers. Harbour Island is the same.

Never mind. One thing is certain, in native restaurants the customer is king!

This traditional feeling comes alive often at the Village and Caribbean Restaurant. Patrons are comforted by the subdued interior designs, which suggest a fishing village, representative of so many Bahama Islands.

Regular customers walk in with a familiar smile and ask for "Miss P." Miss P, is a reppy, dark-skinned woman, with a self assuring grin, she knows how they like their food prepared. She knows that Okra Soup and Barefoot Rice; Curry Chicken or Steam or Fry-fish will seduce their discriminating appetites.

And she knows that steam conch and peas soup and dough are traditionally favourites. On weekends especially, every dish is boiled. Boiled fish, pig feet sauce and sheep tongue.

Miss P provides the essential ingredients for a relaxed atmosphere. But she modestly insists that the customers are friendly.

On weekends the Village comes alive with live band music, played by the electrifying group "Impact", led by Bob Adams of the famous Lou Adams family.

The weekday luncheon crowd find their way back, to complete the experiences of the Village and Caribbean Restaurant. They dance into the wee hours of the morning to island music, interspersed with rock and disco.

When Monday comes around again the Restaurant resumes her quiet and self respecting role, serving lunches and favourite cocktails to the local working people who discovered the unique pleasure of dining there.

Once they find out, they keep going back!

DOLLY MADISON

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