

EAST COAST ICONS

Divine dining from New York to Florida

'21' New York City

★ Walk in the footsteps of Bogie and Sinatra at the legendary '21' restaurant and its cool, new Bar '21' & Lounge.

"We started during Prohibition in 1929, and we've stayed contemporary throughout," says marketing manager Avery McClanahan. "But it still feels like New York . . . Dining here is like being a part of the city's history. There's something special in the air."

That something special is evident from the imposing gated entrance crowned with vintage jockey statues, an ode to the former horsey crowd. But now a new crowd of sleeksters is posting up at the bar for a quick lunch and after-work or pre-theater drinks.

For the first time in 80 years, patrons can order beer on tap. And chef John Greeley (right) has created lighter lunch fare, with appetizers and entrees for \$21 and under. At 4 p.m., gourmet snacks run from \$8 to \$18.

"My favorites are the spicy buffalo shrimp with cucumber and goat cheese sauce — our take on wings — and the warm pretzels in three seasonal sauces," Greeley says. "It's such a New York thing."



Meanwhile, formal dinners can still be had in the famous Bar Room and at the elegant Upstairs at '21'. It's one of the city's only restaurants to receive the *Wine Spectator* Grand Award. Expect more mature vintages, plus 21 wines by the glass and more than 125 bottles at \$60 and under.

Clearly, '21' is adapting to the times, but it's still very, well, '21.' Wait, is that Clooney at the bar? Yes, it is.

Bar '21' & Lounge
21 W. 52nd St.,
New York, New York 10019,
212.582.7200,
21club.com

PHOTOS COURTESY OF '21 CLUB

MICHAEL'S ON EAST *A Sarasota Staple*

★ A night at Michael's On East is a must when in Sarasota. One of only ten restaurants in America inducted into the Fine Dining Hall of Fame, the restaurant exceeds expectations with consistently fresh and versatile dishes that have kept folks coming back for a quarter century.

With a collection of 1,000 wines exclusively from handpicked *domaine*

estates and an "Epicurean Adventure" menu highlighting exotic fare from destinations such as South Africa and Spain, Michael's On East is

a sophisticated supper club with an emphasis on old-fashioned service, fabulous wine, and unforgettable food.

Their secret is simple: Michael. In the restaurant business for more than four decades, Michael Klauber has made his pas-

sion for wine and his dedication to freshness and superb fare into a labor of love, pleasing patrons for more than 25 years. He visits every table, every night, and keeps his love of freshness and variety alive at Michael's On East.

Favorite dishes, which will never come off the menu, include any of the aged steaks from Allen Brothers in Chicago, the broiled veal chop, and the signature bow-tie pasta.

Not into a sit-down dinner? Then just pull up a chair to the piano bar for a cocktail or ask for the special table (called "the dirty thirty"), which gives guests a backstage pass for making musical requests. It all adds up to an evening of fun times and fine cuisine.

Fly directly into Sarasota Bradenton International Airport or make your way over the Sunshine Skyway Bridge from Tampa International Airport.

Michael's On East is located at 1212 East Ave. South, Sarasota, FL 34239. For reservations and information, call 941.366.0007 or visit bestfood.com.

Michael's house calamari and (right) co-proprietors Michael Klauber and Philip Mancini

