

## Conch Characters / Around Town



Bartender Justina shaking it at Amara Cay; Martini Monday!



Rafael, Jose, Alana, Erik, Shannon, and Capt. Dana at Snooks on Cruisin Tiki on the water.



Marilee hitched a ride with Captain Corey on the Cruisin Tiki in Islamorada. A nice family from Indiana let her hop on!!



Mikey & Andreas at Big Chill.



Julie Botteri from TDC Marathon took this picture on a Florida Keys Food and Fun Tour in June.



Big Chillin' with bartenders (L-R) Martica Morfa and Shauna Shepard.



Live music from Travis at Shipwrecks.



Sunset paradise at the Big Chill.



Barefootin' Bill Todd's jazzy Oceanside tunes in the inside lounge at Amara Cay.

## Keys Friends Buy Costa Rica Eco Lodge & Retreat



It all started with a dream. Keys locals Sid Vandiver, a former restaurant manager, wife Michaelyn (Micha), a professional photographer, and Sharkey's Pub and Galley restaurant owner Paul Steigerwald made it happen. The Vandivers had been visiting the Pacific Edge Eco Lodge and Retreat in Dominical, Costa Rica since 2008, and dreamed of one day owning the breathtaking piece of paradise. In 2020 the previous owners offered to sell it to them. The time was right. "We talked it over with our kids and decided that chances like this don't happen often, if ever, so we decided to take a huge leap of faith and go for it. Why not buy a hotel during a pandemic? Some would say we were crazy but we knew if we didn't at least try this would always be one of our biggest regrets."



So Sid then reached out to Paul, his best friend of over 20 years, and sought advice from him. He recounts, "Paul asked us how serious we were and how would we go about buying it? We said we were ready to fully commit and do this and were ready to do whatever it took to make it happen. We were planning to sell our Keys home and use the rest of our savings as the down payment. Paul then proposed an offer that he would help us get started and we would all become equal partners in this eco

resort. We of course were blown away by his generosity and we happily said yes. We trusted him fully and so we all decided to partner up for this ultimate adventure together."



The resort reopened March 1, 2021 and has been busy with guests pretty much ever since. They are already booked through through to March of next year but they still have some availability, if anyone would like to go and check it out. "We are hosting and meeting people from all over the world, and



Sid, Kaiya, and Micha.



Photos by Costa Vida Photography



Micha, Paul and Sid.

we are truly enjoying this new chapter in our lives. We are looking to host small weddings and elopements, yoga and wellness retreats and family reunions. Sid, our daughter Kaiya, age 10 and I live in the owners home on the property and we have 4 cabins overlooking the Pacific Ocean 600 feet up the mountain," says Micha.



Check out their website [www.pacifiedgedominical.com](http://www.pacifiedgedominical.com). Rates range from \$119 to \$189 per night.

