News-Press.
PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

February 9, 2018

Things are poppin' at Mantra

The Naples Grande Beach Resort reopens its lobby bar with a new design and new name.

(Photo: Dorothy Edwards/Naples Daily News)

CONNECT | TWEET | LINKEDIN | COMMENT | EMAIL | MORE

The pop of a cork. Its sound does something amazing to people, even those who don't drink Champagne. It creates excitement. It's the promise of a celebration, of something good to come. And it's a sound you hear all night long at Bubble Q Happy Hour on Fridays at Mantra.

Mantra is the new bar at the Naples Grande Beach Resort. Hurricane Irma forced the posh Naples resort to close its doors for the first time in 31 years. When it reopened December 15, the lobby bar had been redesigned, reimaged and renamed.

The menu has an Asian flair with a sushi and ramen bar, and drinks that beg to be photographed and posted on social media. The Blood Harvest ($13) is one of them. The warming cocktail has Maker's Mark small batch bourbon whiskey, Solerno Blood Orange Liquor, lemon juice and house-made honey pepper syrup, garnished with a dehydrated blood orange wheel.

The White Dragon ($14) is a sexy smooth sake cocktail with Belvedere grapefruit vodka, Cointreau triple sec, lime juice, simple syrup and white cranberry juice. If you like a Mai Thai ($14), try Mantra's version, where locally distilled Wicked Dolphin dark rum is used for a flavorful floater.

The bar concept might be new, but the popular Friday Bubble Q has remained the same. Beginning at 5 p.m., Veuve Clicquot is a mere $5 a glass, Champagne that easily costs $20 a glass at other establishments.

At the turn of the hour, the lighting at the bar changes colors, and the price goes up one dollar to match: $6 at 6, $7 at 7, until 9 p.m.

Putting even more happy into the hour is a $10 barbecue dish of the day. For us it was tender slices of beef tenderloin with a skewer of shitake mushrooms and a honey sriracha sauce. The plate also had a delicious crunchy salmon roll.

Food and Beverage Director Eddie Thomas says, "We want the public to come in for some fun after a long work week." With live entertainment, superb, affordable food, and Champagne at jaw-dropping prices, no wonder Mantra is a Friday night hot spot.

Veuve Cliquot happy hour at The Naples Grande on Friday, Dec. 29, 2017. Dorothy Edwards/Naples Daily News