

GRANDEUR

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Celebrating the good life in Southwest Florida

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

ICONIC WINERIES AND RESORTS ARE READY FOR VISITORS DESPITE DEVASTATING WILDFIRES

SPOT ON

FASHIONABLE WAYS TO WEAR THIS YEAR'S COOLEST DOTTY TREND

Toasts TO 10

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WINE & FOOD FEST MARKS ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY WITH TOP CHEFS AND LUXURIOUS AUCTION LOTS.

SPLASHES OF COLOR

NAPLES HOME IS PERFECT BACKDROP FOR COLORFUL MODERN ART PIECES



A tower of Veuve Clicquot provides a popular photo op at Mantra.

grand | MAKE IT A DOUBLE



THINGS ARE POPPIN' AT MANTRA



Friday Bubble Q Happy Hour is a signature event at the Naples Grande Beach Resort

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





THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Bartenders go through dozens of bottles of bubbles at Friday's Bubble Q Happy Hour. • The Mai Thai at Mantra gets a floater of Wicked Dolphin Dark Rum before being served. • The White Dragon is one of Mantra's new sake cocktails. • A \$10 Friday night barbecue special of beef tenderloin and crunchy salmon roll. • The Big Kahuna sushi roll is a big hit at Mantra.

STORY BY GINA BIRCH | PHOTOS BY DOROTHY EDWARDS

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, reimagined 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. **G**



THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The Blood Harvest is a new bourbon-based cocktail, warming and festive. • Ramen is one of the new highlights at Mantra; you can interact with chefs as they prepare it. • The lobby bar at the Naples Grande has a new name, Mantra, and a new look. • Besides Champagne, try a range of premium spirits at Mantra.