



BY ROBERT WALDNER

GOOD TASTE

A LITTLE BIT OF THE BIG EASY

Ahh...October in the Ancient City. The perfect time for comfortable evening strolls along the bayfront to your favorite neighborhood eatery for some great food and...lively spirits?! In more ways than one, St. Augustine always seems to come alive just as the humidity begins to drop and people start talking about ghosts and goblins. Halloween is a custom tailored season for the historic streets of our little town.

One of the most spirited addresses in St. Augustine is 46 Avenida

Menendez, the longtime location of Harry's Seafood, Bar, and Grille. Charmingly situated overlooking the bay front, this little slice of the city has been witness to some of St. Augustine's most historic events. Legend has it that even certain original inhabitants have never felt compelled to leave. With the property's peaceful



botanical courtyard, St. Augustine's old southern charm similar to that of the Big Easy, and Harry's Louisiana-inspired cuisine like their scrumptious Shrimp Creole and mouth watering Catfish Pontchartrain, who can blame them? But don't let the spectral hosts discourage you from experiencing one of the area's true gems — they have never been

AT HOME IN THE OLDEST CITY



ABOVE:
RICH WOOD, WARM
TONES AND COLD
DRINKS

BELOW
N'AWLINS-STYLE
COURTYARD DINING

ACROSS
MMMMM...GUMBO



known to cause anyone harm. If nothing else, they may add to the ambience of your evening at Harry's.

The original building dates back to the mid-1740s. Originally a coquina structure, it was destroyed in the infamous fire of 1887 which ravaged the city's bay front, incinerating buildings from Cathedral Place to north along Bay street (present day Avenida Menendez). In 1888, the Harry's building was reconstructed of poured concrete, a new technology of the era.

Drawings of the house dating back to 1840 were referenced for the replication.

Since the building's reconstruction it has been home to some of St. Augustine's most prominent historical figures, like Bartolo Genovar, a Minorcan descendant and popular

city merchant, and later Sidney Harrison who was Secretary and Treasurer of the Model Land Company and Chief Clerk of The Florida East Coast Railway. It has also housed various restaurants and other businesses since its conversion to a commercial property.

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However, long before the original building's fateful demise, the story of a woman by the name of Catalina began at this very location. One of nine children

raised by the original owners of the property, Catalina's life began here and some say her afterlife continues at this address to this day. The late 1780s brought Spain's regained control of St. Augustine from the British. It was during this time that a now adult Catalina re-staked ownership of her childhood home with her husband Xavier Ponce de Leon. Tragically, Catalina encountered an untimely death six years after acquiring the house. Most notably it is she who is believed to still roam the bayfront property. Since Harry's opening, various patrons have testified to see or feel Catalina's presence during their dining experiences.

One thing remains consistent between all of the businesses that have inhabited the reconstructed house: visitors and employees from all have claimed to experience ghostly encounters. Some say they have seen

the ghost of Catalina while others claim to have seen an apparition in a wedding dress known as Bridget, who was a resident of the home in later years. The phantasmal ladies of the house are believed to be accompanied by the ghost of a man in a suit who presents himself from time to time.

While the supernatural activity at Harry's may pique your interest, the management and staff understand that it takes much more to keep their living guests coming back than it does their supernatural residents. Brothers Louis and Greg Saig opened the very first Harry's location at The Jacksonville Landing in 1987. Since that time, the Harry's name has become synonymous with top-shelf Louisiana inspired cuisine. The location at 46 Avenida Menendez opened in 1997 and is one of five locations all in the state of Florida.

Jesse Jabot knows his company's mission and success perhaps better

than anyone. He started with Harry's 20 years ago as a bartender and cook and has worked his way up to his current position as Partner. "We've taken the best of Cajun, Creole, and Southern flavors and infused them with a modern twist to create some truly unique and award winning dishes. With a great selection of seafood, steaks, chicken, pastas, burgers, po'boys, salads, and much more, Harry's menu is sure to have something for everyone," he proudly states of Harry's variety and quality.

For a dining experience with a little extra 'spirit', stop into Harry's today. In addition to great food and drinks, they also serve up nightly live entertainment. Visit them on the web at hookedonharrys.com for menu and location information or call 904-824-7765 for the St. Augustine location today.

