



the bohting company

Captain Jay's

Dock & Dine Guide

Premier Tampa Bay Waterfront Restaurant Navigation

This guide distills 25 years of active knowledge and thousands of guest experiences into the definitive dock & dine playbook. It includes docking instructions, seasonal timing strategies, backup options, and insider captain tips that elevate your waterfront dining experience.

Captain Jay's Perspective:

"The difference between a good dock and dine experience and a great one isn't just the food – it's knowing where to dock, when to arrive, and having three backup plans when the unexpected happens."

Oystercatchers at Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay

- GPS: 27.9158° N, 82.4469° W
- Reservations: (813) 874-1234
- Docking: Grand Hyatt Marina – 32 slips
- Depth: 8–12 ft MLW

Approach: From Tampa Bay main channel, head northeast. Landmark is the Grand Hyatt tower. Enter from the south, maintain 6+ ft until marina markers.

Seasonal Notes:

- Peak season (Dec–Apr): 48-hr advance reservations
- Summer: 24-hr notice usually fine

Tide: Outer slips drop to 6 ft at low tide. Draft >4.5 ft = dock at mid/high tide.

Captain Jay's Strategy: Request slips 15–20 for easiest access. Marina staff assist transient boaters. Seafood tower shines during stone crab season.

Backup: Westshore Yacht Club (members only) or Salt Shack on the Bay (10 min south).

Sandpearl Resort Restaurants (Caretta on the Gulf)

- GPS: 27.9728° N, 82.8287° W

- Reservations: (727) 441-2425
- Docking: Clearwater Beach Marina (15-min walk or shuttle)

Approach: Navigate Clearwater Pass center channel. Dock at marina, walk or request complimentary shuttle.

Captain Jay's Intel: Mention arrival by boat for shuttle service (4+ guests). Time docking for sunset dining—arrive by 6 PM in winter.

Backup: Frenchy's Rockaway Grill (direct docking available).

The Rusty Pelican

- GPS: 27.7676° N, 82.6384° W
- Reservations: (813) 896-2756
- Docking: Restaurant docks – 12 slips
- Depth: 6–8 ft MLW

Approach: From Tampa Bay, head south toward Gandy Bridge. Approach from the north, avoiding shallows near pilings.

Seasonal Notes: Always popular at sunset. Weekend reservations essential.

Captain Jay's Wisdom: Docks fill quickly, but staff will waitlist boats by name & cell. Sunset views make the wait worthwhile. Order the grouper.

Backup: Bahama Breeze Westshore (larger marina).

Westshore Yacht Club (*Members & Reciprocal Only*)

- GPS: 27.9089° N, 82.4523° W
- Reservations: (813) 254-5687
- Docking: Member & reciprocal slips
- Depth: 10–15 ft MLW

Approach: Deep-water, no concerns.

Captain Jay's Strategy: Hidden gem for reciprocal members. Legendary Sunday brunch and ideal overnight stay.

Bahama Breeze (Westshore)

- GPS: 27.9145° N, 82.4501° W
- Reservations: (813) 289-7922
- Docking: Westshore Marina (5-min walk)
- Depth: 8–12 ft MLW

Approach: Dock, then walk north along Westshore Blvd.

Captain Jay's Perspective: Reliable backup for families & groups. Marina rarely full. Outdoor seating = breezy bay views.

Salt Shack on the Bay

- GPS: 27.8956° N, 82.4398° W
- Reservations: (813) 247-7258
- Docking: Restaurant docks – 8 slips
- Depth: 5–7 ft MLW

Approach: Narrow channel south of Westshore.

Tide Warning: Depths drop to 4 ft at extreme low tide. Arrive rising/high tide.

Captain Jay's Intel: Casual vibes, excellent fish tacos. Call ahead in stone crab season—fresh from local boats.

Armature Works

- GPS: 27.9567° N, 82.4589° W
- Info: (813) 250-3725
- Docking: Limited slips, 6–10 ft MLW

Approach: Hillsborough River downtown. Watch tidal current near Platt Street Bridge.

Captain Jay's Strategy: Food hall = options for every taste. Unique city views, but plan around bridge openings.

Hula Bay Club

- GPS: 27.7845° N, 82.7234° W
- Reservations: (813) 839-3082
- Docking: Marina – 15 slips
- Depth: 6–8 ft MLW

Approach: From Tampa Bay channel, follow marked entrance.

Captain Jay's Wisdom: Tiki bar + sophisticated menu. Weekday docking easier than weekends. Coconut shrimp = must try.

Skippers Smokehouse

- GPS: 27.9890° N, 82.4456° W
- Info: (813) 971-0666
- Docking: Limited Hillsborough River slips (call ahead)

Approach: Best for shallow-draft boats (<3 ft).

Depth Warning: Deeper boats should arrive by land.

Ocean Prime

- GPS: 27.9145° N, 82.4467° W
- Reservations: (813) 874-7843
- Docking: Westshore Marina + taxi (10-min ride)

Approach: Requires marina + ground transport.

Captain Jay's Strategy: Premium dining—worth the logistics for special occasions. Book both restaurant & marina in advance.

General Navigation Notes

- Always call ahead with ETA & beam width.
- Tampa Bay storms change everything—have indoor seating backup.
- Never let a reservation push you into unsafe navigation.



Seasonal Dock & Dine Strategy

- Winter (Dec–Mar): Peak season; book early. Sunset dining 5:30–7:30 PM.
- Spring (Apr–May): Best overall season—great weather & moderate crowds.
- Summer (Jun–Aug): Afternoon storms; aim for early lunch or late dinner.
- Fall (Sep–Nov): Great weather, stone crab season begins.

About Anchor & Trade

Greater Tampa Bay | Florida's Gulf Coast

We provide premium charters, expert brokerage, and concierge boat buying services. The Boht Captain Network brings deep local knowledge to every experience.

 813-449-3464 |  contact@anchorandtrade.com  www.anchorandtrade.com

Note: Content created in September 2025. Water depth, businesses, restaurants, and market costs/trends change often. Always verify before you go out or purchase. Boating and monetary investments carry risk(s). Consulting a financial or legal advisor is recommended for decisions beyond general guidance.

The Bohting Company (TBC)
the services division of Anchor & Trade
www.anchorandtrade.com | 813.449.3464

