

## WAVES, WEDDINGS AND WINE

THREE NEW TAKES ON HAVING A GOOD TIME. BY BRIAN HUGHES PHOTOS BY NICK SCHWIER



**VOLUPTUOUS, POETIC WINE** ONE AFTERNOON WHILE VISITING RELATIVES IN VENICE (Florida), Cristina and Andrea Morara found themselves driving the streets of Sarasota, daydreaming about their future. They wandered in front of an old downtown bungalow on Bamboo Lane and watched a woman beating a rug in the front yard. "I said, 'Wouldn't it be wonderful if we lived there?'" Cristina remembers. A year later, the Moraras were buying the place. When visitors pass into the rustic sunlit osteria, it's immediately clear that this is a gathering place where socializing is the focal point, food and drink are the specialties and time is no object. The Moraras pride themselves on the authenticity of their Italian food, which they also prepare themselves. The Mortadella is imported from Bologna. The Pecorino flies in all the way from Sardegna. And the wines represent a sampling of the finest Italian varieties just catching on stateside. "We carry the most voluptuous and interesting wines," Andrea boasts, including Nero D'avola, Amaroné and Primitivo. The osteria is meant for quiet afternoons alone with your laptop or paperback, a stiff espresso and crisp biscotti. But it is also meant for business lunches over MareMare paninis and boisterous happy hours over Dom de Bertrio Prosecco (think Italian champagne) and a gorgonzola, pear and walnut bruschetta. "There just has to be poetry in it," Cristina says. "You've got to be moved by what you're eating and drinking." Ca'Rina, 1734 Bamboo Ln., Sarasota, 941-955-9434

### PLANNING FOR THE BEST WITH HER NEWEST ENDEAVOR, NK PRODUCTIONS,

**NICOLE KANEY** applies the event planning expertise she brought to her work at Whole Foods and Mattison's to the nonstop hullabaloo of wedding planning. Kaney bills NK Productions as a "boutique wedding planner," but also orchestrates intimate "hip, modern parties" for non-nuptial occasions. She walks her clients through every step of the planning process, from visiting potential venues to invitations, music, food, table settings and decorations, even the rehearsal dinner. This four- to six-month process all lays the groundwork for the big day, when Kaney becomes "point person," coordinating all the practical considerations so brides and grooms can focus exclusively on the magic of their ceremony and reception. With her calm, creative demeanor, it's easy to envision her putting even the most nervous couples (and their parents) at ease. Although Kaney is committed to keeping the business small (about a dozen events per year), NK Productions is eager to work with all budget levels. "You can have a beautiful wedding for a small budget," Kaney explains. "But you have to pick the right vendors." NK Productions, 941-504-2889



### TAKING TO THE SEAS AT THE NEW PHILLIPPI

**CREEK WAVES BOAT AND SOCIAL CLUB, YOU CAN ENJOY THE BENEFITS** of owning your own fleet, without the expense and hassle. "The cost to be a member here is probably less than half the cost to own a boat," explains owner Carissa Ellis. After factoring in private storage costs, upkeep, cleaning and insurance (not to mention the cost of the actual boats), Waves' \$2-4K annual price tag costs considerably less than the casual or weekend boater would pay to do it himself. And unlike private ownership, it costs no more to use any of Waves' several variety of vessels than to stick with just one. Waves offers several types of deck, pontoon, fishing and speedboats, all outfitted with Yamaha 250 four-stroke engines. Their location at the Phillippi Harbor Club provides near-instant access to intracoastal waterways, making it an ideal spot to cast off for a day of fishing in the bay or an afternoon of leisurely boating. Reservations need only be made on holidays and busy weekends. Just show up, and your boat will be bobbing in the water upon arrival, fully outfitted with fuel and safety equipment. All cleaning, maintenance and storage concerns are handled by Waves' staff. After a day on the water, simply turn around and go home. Waves Boat and Social Club, Phillippi Creek Marina, Sarasota, 3535 S. Tamiami Trl., 941-923-1616