

# Restaurants to Remember



## Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic  
By Bill Whitman



### 10 Years For Bill Fremont

Now that doesn't mean the way it might sound. It simply means that Bill Fremont will be observing his tenth year at his Matador Restaurant all this month.

And over this past decade, The Matador has gained a reputation of serving the finest authentic Spanish food on the Pacific Coast right there at 10948 West Pico Blvd.

Mr. Fremont dedicated himself away back then to educating Angelenos in the nuances of true Spanish cookery, and obviously his efforts have been rewarded, judging from the capricious crowds of appreciative patrons who frequent the Matador Restaurant.

Not only do Bill's patrons enjoy the authentic foods-of-Spain but the great wines and sherries as well, all from the Iberian peninsula.

In case you didn't know, Spanish dishes consist mainly of seafood, veal, poultry, lamb and beef and very mildly seasoned in most cases. Then of course, rice is one of the main staples.

One of the most popular dishes offered at The Matador is the Paella a la Valenciana which consists of chicken, clams, shrimp, lobster, Spanish sausages, pimientos, peas and rice, artfully tintured with herbs and saffron.

In addition to the far-flung fame The Matador enjoys for its delicious Iberian cuisine, there is also one of the finest Flamenco floor shows nightly, Tuesday through Sunday.

Despite the increased business during the past decade, Bill Fremont has managed to keep the same cozy, intimate atmosphere that The Matador enjoyed when it first opened.

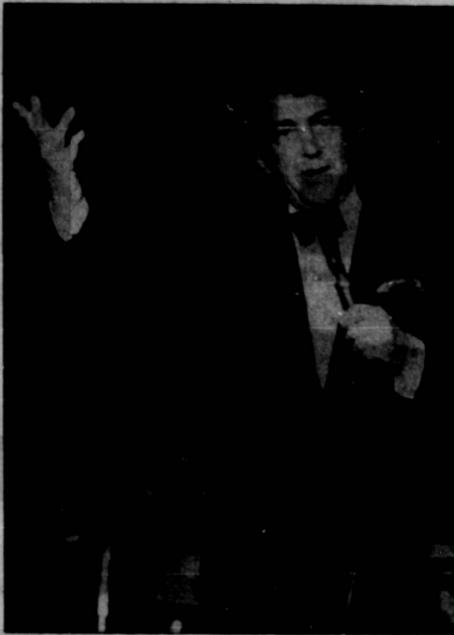
Conveniently located just a few blocks from either the San Diego Freeway or the Santa Monica Freeway, The Matador is open seven nights a week from 5 p.m. on, with dinners starting at the ridiculously low price of \$2.95.

As anyone who has ever visited the King's X Restaurant knows, it's always a pretty noisy and busy spot, what with the buzzing of conversation, tinkling of glasses, tinkling of a piano and the general noise that goes with a busy dinner house.

Well one night last week a wild thing happened over there. A positively lovely looking young lady made her entrance and walked through the place, apparently looking for a particular person.

Then, as if on cue — everything stopped! Completely! Even the regular noises that most bartenders make ceased!

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**DAZZLING DEBUT**... That's what it was when Dean Martin made his debut in the Versailles Room of the Riviera Hotel last week. He'll stay in for a 2-week stand and will be supported by the dancing Lomans.

And to a man (and woman, too) the heads turned to follow this striking creature. Even owner Tom Walley was at a loss for words. Just one of those things that'll happen once in a hundred years. Well, fifty years?

Anyway, the King's X is always a fun spot to visit, be it for a quick one, a good dinner or just for some conversation.

Whoever it is that's promoting that new Turtle Club at the Pen and Quill Hotel in Manhattan Beach knows his stuff. They haven't missed a bet.

They've got all sorts of gimmicks about turtles. Even those orange and black bumper stickers. And the bartenders all wear the little turtle tie tacks. These, too, are available to the general public at a nominal price. Something around a buck or so.

And that sandwich bar where you build your own for a dollar and a half! That's really something. They don't curtail you. If you feel like one of those Dagwood jobs — then just go right ahead and build. And the meats etc., are always fresh and delicious.

They don't hold the horses when they pour, either. You'll never have a complaint in that department. As a matter of fact, you'll have to hunt to find something to complain about at the Turtle Club.

There's music for dancing and listening, too. Currently it's the Bel-Aires who are most danceable. Visit this unique new club and be a turtle.

Dean Martin presents Dean Martin! That's the way the billing goes these nights up in Las Vegas at the Riviera Hotel where Dino's making his initial appearance.

Then, just up the strip a ways at the Hotel Tropicana, it's Pete Fountain, his clarinet and his famed New Orleans jazz troupe for a three-week stand. This will be in the hotel's famed Blue Room.

Fountain describes his music as "New Orleans Jazz" a two-beat mixture of orthodox Dixieland and progressive jazz. An interesting sound.

And for you jazz buffs, it'll be Eddie Miller on tenor sax, Nick Fatool on drums, Earl Vuioovich on piano, Oliver "Stick" Felix on bass, Conrad Jones and Mike Serpas, trumpets, with the slip-horns being handled by Jack Delaney and Joe Prejean. A good group!

Make it by the Onyx Club at 2916 W. Manchester yet? Been there for a thousand years, seems like as if! Well at least 20 years and still presenting the same fine cuisine. That prime rib is a true delight.

It's a daily affair at the Onyx Club, from 8 in the morning 'till 2 the following morning. Sunday they don't open 'till 4 in the afternoon. And if you're a reservation kind of a guy, try 753-7770 and nail down some space. And there's usually quite a bunch taking off from there for the races every day so if you happen to be a race track nut, you'll find a good gang of them at the Onyx Club. There's always someone going.

Dropped by the new spot over on Hawthorne Boulevard one night last week — Reuben-Coco — for a sip and a bite.

Well now, this is a truly delightful dinner house. Didn't even have to wait too long for a table and the service left nothing to be desired. Superb, both the service as well as the cuisine.

Had just time enough for a quick highball in the comfortably appointed cocktail lounge before we got our call and pretty little Faye very courteously carried the remains of our drinks to the table. Hostess Pattie was also most attentive to our needs.

Mrs. Whitman enjoyed a huge porterhouse steak that wouldn't quit! In fact she had to take part of it home in a doggie bag. (Huh! And we don't even own a dog!)

And the lobster tail was large portioned and delicious.

Cleaned up the plate, is exactly what happened to that lobster tail! Pert and efficient little Kathy was our charming little gal in that room.

Following the dinner we sat back to enjoy some fine music by Don Light on his guitar. Now not being too much of a guitar buff, didn't look forward to it with any great amount of eagerness but when that guy began to strum that thing in accompaniment to his own melodious voice, we were highly entertained.

So from here, it looks like the Reuben Restaurant will make the grade. However, when you do visit there, don't become confused and think the bartender is the owner... just because his name happens to be Reuben. He's a good bartender and has been around our area a long time. Make yourself known to him.

Here's a little something in advance but thought you might like to make your plans early.

That long-running Broadway musical "Carnival" is due to bow in at the Long Beach Civic Light Opera for a seven-performance stand beginning on July 10 so make your plans accordingly.

Lili will be portrayed by a new comer to the CLO, Dolly Boyd, a Torrance beauty. Carolyn Thomson, whom you'll remember as the vivacious lead in the CLO production of "Funny Girl" will play Rosalie.

Also included in this new show will be Dick Johnson as Paul, Phil Richards as Marco, Hal Lowe as Schlegel and Vince Trani as Jaquod. And that fine and sensitive artist, Bob McCaman will take over the directing chores.

There'll be five evening performances of "Carnival," July 10, 11, 12, 18 and 19. And there



**EVER POPULAR**... The drummer-artist in Ernie Menchune's aggregation is Hart Williams shown above with Ernie and the portrait he did of the popular entertainer. The Ernie Menchune Revue currently at the Trade Winds in Oxnard while Martin Denny holds down the stand at Latitude 20.

will be two matinees—one on Sunday the 13th and another on the 20th.

Tickets for this fourth and final production of Long Beach CLO's 21st season may be obtained by calling HE. 2-7926 or at all Wallich's Music City stores, and mutual ticket agencies.

It's certainly no new spot to the Torrance scene, having been there for quite some time but if you're in the market for

a quick bite of lunch, keep in mind Wally Botello's Wooden Shoe Coffee Shop.

In fact, you might even keep it in mind for breakfast or dinner, too. The Wooden Shoe is centrally located and easy to reach right there at 3720 Sepulveda Blvd. That's in the Del Amo area, y'know.

Remember a paragraph or two back that we mentioned a very talented buy by the name of Don Light?

Well we did a follow-up on him and find he's been signed into Sam Faila's San Franciscan Restaurant and Cocktail Lounge on Sepulveda at Crenshaw.

However, he's not doing a single here as he did previously. He's now a trio. In addition to his own guitar and vocals he's added drums and bass for a well-rounded little group for your entertainment at the San Franciscan.

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