

MAI-KAI: HISTORY AND MYSTERY OF THE ICONIC TIKI RESTAURANT BY TIM GLAZNER



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Review

If you have a passion, pursue it. And if you then share the results of that passion, its energy will transfer on the recipients of your work: Any true labor of love WILL find those who have eyes to see and hearts to feel that love. Tim Glazner followed the call of the Tiki to show and tell the story of one of America's most extraordinary Tiki temples, and the results will boggle the minds and widen the eyes of the readers, irrevocably casting the spell of America's mid-century god of recreation over them.

-Sven Kirsten, author *Book of Tiki, Tiki Modern, Tiki Pop*

The Mai-Kai is the quintessential Tiki bar. It encompasses every element of classic Polynesian Pop from a dramatic public opening to family ownership to celebrity history to longstanding traditions. It now stands as the lone preserved testament to the golden era of the Tiki restaurant and bar. Whether it's mixing a perfect tropical drink while wearing a cabana outfit or overseeing the precise production of replica Mai-Kai mugs, Swanky is a stylish fixture of the Tiki scene. He stands as the expert archivist of Mai-Kai history. His knowledge of details of Mai-Kai artifacts, personnel, and architectural elements is unmatched - even by the owners of the Mai-Kai!

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In 1956, a few brash young men created the Mai-Kai Restaurant and bar in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, by poaching key staff from Don the Beachcomber's, a Polynesian-themed Chicago restaurant. The Mai-Kai became the playground of celebrities and playboys, and the beautiful women working there used it as a jumping-off point for adventure and fame. Through first-hand stories and more than 400 images, this book documents the history, allure, and enduring legacy of the mid-twentieth-century Tiki era. Focusing on the period 1955 to 1971, it is the story of how the Mai-Kai and its iconic elements came to exist, and the men and women who shaped it and went on to shape the world. Now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Mai-Kai is the only place on earth that still serves the "Rum Rhapsodies" that kicked off that indulgent era.

- Sales Rank: #160026 in Books
- Brand: Glazner Tim
- Published on: 2016-08-28
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.60" h x .90" w x 11.40" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 176 pages

Features

- Mai Kai History and Mystery of the Iconic Tiki Restaurant

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Quintessential Mai-Kai Book (the only really!)

By RTAL

Time did a great job, the archival photos are awesome. Love the inside "stories"!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

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Highly recommended for Tiki enthusiasts.

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