



Blue Danube

111 W. Ave. Palizada, San Clemente
949.218.5186, www.bluedanube-usa.com

In San Clemente at the Old City Plaza is a very unique restaurant called the Blue Danube. There are many reasons why it's so unique. First of all, it houses the original San Clemente town jail, erected in 1928. You can actually have dinner in the jail's cells.

Owner of the Blue Danube, Chris Toufanpour is a famous European concert pianist. He and his wife Parvin, leased this historical building and renovated it. Oftentimes Chris will play for his guests dining in the evening — it's an especially nice treat. But "guests" are not how Toufanpour refers to his patrons. According to Toufanpour, "Everyone who dines in my restaurant is my friend. They can stay as long as they like. We don't give them the check until they request it."

The Blue Danube features an extensive menu blending German, Hungarian and Austrian cuisines using the freshest ingredients. It also includes a Café, bar and restaurant, not to mention a fantastic cocktail list, with concoctions like the Chocolate Mint Martini and the Watermelon Martini. The walls are decorated with Gustav Klimt, a famous painter in Germany.

The atmosphere is fabulous and the food is incredible. This is truly a special place to get together with a group of friends and spend the evening in conversation with a delicious variety of international foods and ambiance.

And, an added bonus, enjoy the live entertainment nightly!

— Leslie Stevens



Bonjour Café & Bistro

24633 Del Prado Ave., Dana Point
949.496.6368, www.bonjourcafe.com

When Pascal moved to the United States, he found one thing was deeply lacking, a French Bistro. Excellent fancy French restaurants existed, but not one that offered a casual setting with true French flavor in a laid back relaxed beach setting. Bonjour Café & Bistro is known to serve the best French breakfast and lunch in the Beach Cities.

Let's talk crepes. With eleven different fillings to choose from, there is sure to be a palette pleaser for you. I especially love the vegetarian, La Grecque crepes. For dessert, I need to satisfy my sweet tooth with La Crepe Éclair au Chocolat crepes. The ultimate breakfast that I turn all my skinny girlfriends on to is the ultimate French toast en Brioche.

If you're in a hurry, call ahead and have Pascal's staff prepare a French gourmet lunch box. Or if you have a crowd to entertain, I suggest a platter of sandwiches that are prepared on French baguettes.

The most superb part of having the best bistro in town is BREAKFAST IN BED ON A SILVER TRAY! There is always a time when you want to treat your special someone to a delicious breakfast in bed. All you have to do is contact Bonjour Café & Bistro 48-hours before and they take it from there. Many combinations are available with homemade quiches, fresh fruit salad and berries, homemade croissant and savory scones, omelets, champagne split, Mimosa, fresh flower and more...just call Pascal and he will make it exceedingly special!

— Margie Moore