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"Salmon Stravaganza" at Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf to Celebrate the Important Legacy of Salmon Fishing in Monterey

March 27, 2013. Monterey, CA. Did you know that it was heart-healthy salmon – not sardines – that put Monterey on the map? “Salmon Stravaganza” which begins on April 6th honors the history and importance of salmon fishing in the Monterey Bay by the restaurants on Monterey’s Old Fisherman’s Wharf. In fact, many restaurant owners and Wharf merchants have a multi-generational family history in the local commercial fishing industry.

According to respected Fisheries Historian, Tim Thomas, who conducts monthly “Wharf Walks” on the first Saturday of every month, F. E. Booth, the “Father” of the modern sardine industry, was in the salmon business along the Sacramento River before moving to Monterey around 1896 due to the large salmon landings then being made by mostly Japanese fishermen. Booth came here because of the large **salmon landings**--not sardine.

When he couldn't get contracts from the Japanese salmon fishermen, he began to experiment with the large sardines that would appear in the bay in later summer, early fall months. Around 1900, the City of Monterey leased the small piece of property next to the Monterey Wharf to a man named H.R. Robbins. On Mr. Robbins lease, it says: "For the purposes of sardine cannery, reduction plant and dance hall." Booth bought him out in 1903, got the salmon contracts from the Japanese fishermen and continued to can sardine as a secondary fishery until WWI.

In 1909, it was reported at the end of the three month salmon season at the time, there were 185 salmon boats working the Monterey Bay (about 145 of them were Japanese-owned). **They were catching an average of one million pounds of King Salmon in those three months.**

Also, it was sport fishermen and tourists from the legendary Hotel Del Monte that introduced fishing salmon with trolling lines and a rod and a reel that revolutionized the modern fishing industry. About 90% of that early salmon was going to Europe—mostly to Germany.

At Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf:

Many award-winning restaurants at Monterey’s Old Fisherman’s Wharf are participating in the special **“Salmon Stravaganza” at Monterey’s Old Fisherman’s Wharf** celebrating fresh King Salmon from the Monterey Bay. Recreational salmon fishing kicks off on April 6th and commercial salmon fishing starts on May 1st. In addition to salmon, locals and visitors can enjoy a wide array of delicious entrees at Old Fisherman’s Wharf including other fresh seafood, steaks, pasta and much more. Here are some delicious salmon entrees visitors to Monterey’s Old Fisherman’s Wharf that will be featured at the restaurants in the near future:

At Rappa's Restaurant (where there is the talented new Chef Alfonzo from Napa's Mustards Grill Restaurant):

Salmon Strudel -- Filet of Salmon in Puff Pastry: Fresh Cranberries, Wild Greens, Onion and Swiss Cheese, with a Beurre Blanc Sauce on top. Served with a Red and Golden Beet Salad with Goat Cheese, Walnuts, Blood Oranges and Organic basil Olive oil

At Old Fisherman's Grotto:

Pesto Parmesan Salmon: Wild Salmon baked with a Basil Pesto Parmesan Cheese crust, served with sautéed organic Vegetables and caramelized Onion Risotto.

At Café Fina:

Local king salmon, cooked over mesquite charcoal. then topped with a basil cream sauce and served with home grown vegetables from their own garden in Los Banos, CA and orzo pasta.

At Paluca Trattoria:

Grilled salmon with the Secret Sicilian Sauce and Salmon Picatta and Spaghetti with Salmon. Plus they will offer Smoked Salmon Chowder.

At Isabella's Italian Seafood Restaurant: (Chef Tene Shake)

Salmon and Figs with sweet potatoes, white rice and salsa

Recreational fishing trips can also be booked at Randy's Fishing Trips or Chris' Fishing Trips daily on Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf. The next "Wharf Walk" will take place on Saturday, April 6th from 10:00 Am – Noon at the launch of the Sport Salmon Fishing Season.

A visit to the beautiful Monterey Peninsula just isn't complete without a rendezvous with Old Fisherman's Wharf in downtown Monterey that was built in 1870 for regular passenger and freight service. Known as the "Whale Watching Capital of the World" and a top destination of visitors from around the world, Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf provides a wide array of award-winning dining, shopping, live theater, special events, whale watching, bay cruises, glass bottom boats, marine life, fishing and sailing, and strolling leisurely in a gorgeous setting overlooking the Monterey Bay. Savor delicious cuisine at a myriad of fabulous restaurants featuring stunning views and award-winning Italian food, sustainable seafood, steaks including the region's famous clam chowder and calamari.

Enjoy salt water taffy, homemade chocolates, caramel apples, cotton candy and many other yummy treats. View sea otters, sea lions, dolphins, whales, sea birds and other wildlife up close and personal that also share the Wharf. Watch people who have gone out and caught their own fish on the local and chartered fishing boats return with their own "catch of the day". Celebrate the first location in Monterey County where tender abalone was cooked and served in a

restaurant. Check out the many fun shops to find the perfect memento of your visit and a variety of unique gifts. Bring your friends, family, and dogs (on leash) for a wonderful visit from morning to evening. Enjoy the exquisite views and the “best place to walk and people watch” in Monterey County!

Monterey’s Old Fisherman’s Wharf has recently launched their “Enjoy the Wonders of the Wharf” free VIP Card promotion available on the website with 27 special offers. Situated near downtown Monterey, Old Fisherman’s Wharf is conveniently located along the Monterey Bay Recreation Trail and has plenty of nearby parking. For more information about Old Fisherman’s Wharf, go to www.montereywharf.com or call [831.238-0777](tel:831.238-0777).