

Takapuna is all about summer dining and we were thrilled to catchup with one of its famous eateries, Regatta Bar and Eatery, and owner Andy Ruzich this month.

A chat with ANDY RUZICH

– The person behind Regatta Bar & Eatery



Channel Mag: It's well known that you have developed Regatta Bar and Eatery to be famous for its seafood, fresh food and amazing views. What inspired you to create Regatta?

Andy Ruzich: I wanted to capture the essence of our great Kiwi lifestyle by featuring

our love for this coastal playground all while celebrating the amazing kaimoana right here on our door step. We had fun with the interior design playing with the iconic Kiwi bach feel, using wooden floors and hanging eel net and boat mooring lighting features through to white and teal tiling and a splash of marble to bring together the opulence of an upmarket bistro while still staying relevant to our roots – being authentic and not too flashy! I wanted the feeling of an escape to a resort-like location as you walk in that makes you feel like you are in the right place for a celebration while still being approachable from a walk on the beach to pull up a stool on the veranda in your flip-flops for a beer and the best fish and chips in town with your mates. This was a really important key focus and I think we pulled it off well.

CM: You have a new menu. Tell us about your favourite dish and why you love it?

AR: The line-caught snapper from Leigh Fisheries is an absolute winner and one of our highest selling dishes. It has amazing depth of flavour with just the right balance of acidity to complement the delicate pan-fried fish yet still with a crispy skin for some texture. And you can feel good eating it with confidence that you are eating a sustainably caught fish from right here in our own back yard.

CM: Regatta has so much outdoor seating and amazing views – tell us how you created this and who you worked with.

AR: We worked with Chris Stevens from Control Space. It was an awesome journey as he really took on my personal inspirations and brought them together with his experience and skill in design to land us with what he have today. In fact, Regatta was awarded Silver in the New Zealand Interior Design Awards that year which was testament to the hard work that was put in to getting it right.

CM: Hospitality has been a tough business with Covid19. How have you managed to keep the doors open and customer experience high?

AR: This pandemic has been the greatest challenge of my career to overcome and it continues to be so. I am very proud of the strength in the Regatta brand and all the support we have received from our local community. Our staff have been incredibly loyal and stood my me as well which I am extremely grateful for. I have an amazing team and they are a key reason we are so successful.



Andy Ruzich.



CM: What can the government be doing to better support the hospitality industry?

AR: Don't get me started! Let's just say that the 'one size fits all' approach to industry financial support simply doesn't work. They need to have a more tailored approach to different industries and how they are affected if they want to keep this economy afloat.

Regatta Bar & Eatery – Main Beach, The Strand, Takapuna Beach.
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