Best of 2003





HALL OF FAME WATERFRONT DINING Le Tub 1100 N. Ocean Drive, Hollywood, 954/921-9425

No other bar in South Florida is quite like Le Tub, and if one were, it'd be written off as a second-rate pretender that doesn't have enough sense to know originals only happen once. Built in 1955 from the remains of an old Sunocco station. Le Tub defies the current South Florida wisdom that says a waterfront bar should be bright, tropical and comfortable. Instead, Le Tub is as gritty and weathered as a bayou fishing comp that's seen too much hot sun, too many thunderstorms and too many 4 a.m. closing. The porcelain bathroom fixtures that serve as decoration (hence Le Tub,) the open-air seating and the panoramic view of the intracoastal are reasons to come here once. But Le Tub does not endure novelty alone. The food makes it a popular restaurant as well, with a dolphin sandwich and seafood salad that rate among the area's finest. Two pool tables provide casual gaming and a jukebox plays Tom Waits, Miles Davis, Joni Mitchell and Elvis Costello, among other originals — not derivative pop stars who have none of the staying power or adventurous spirit as the place itself.