

Craig Ling, owner of Sandbar and Grill, has been in the restaurant business for most of his life. He has owned seven different restaurants in various parts of the United States and finally decided to drop anchor in Monterey. Lucky for us, he did. It's been 19 years now and the Sandbar and Grill is still dishing out delectable meals. It's in the perfect location for grabbing a bite, a waterside kitchen looking out into the marina. Tourists flock here for the unique views and locals keep coming back for the friendly atmosphere and their favorite bites. You would think Craig was born and raised in a kitchen, but it was not how he started out.



Believe it or not, Craig began as an aviation mechanic. The job was not exactly enjoyable for Craig and he wanted to make a change. After catching up with a friend for some conversations and meals, the two decided to take a leap and co-own a restaurant together in Maryland. This was the start of a new life for Craig and it is one that brought him much more happiness.



From the start of his first restaurant, until present day, Mr. Ling has learned a lot about work and life. He said one of the most important lessons he has learned is, "You need to follow your passion. If you do something you love for your job, it won't feel like work. Find something that excites you and just do it. You don't need to wait around for someone to tell you to do it, just take the leap." He took the leap and hasn't looked back. At Sandbar and Grill, Craig spends his time overseeing the place, socializing, greeting customers and getting to know the regulars. He really is just enjoying this amazing life he built.

With Covid19 still looming over us, Sandbar and Grill has without doubt been affected. The location does not have an outdoor dining space, bringing in customers has become almost impossible. Craig has been fortunate enough to be able to keep the restaurant open and is waiting out the pandemic, so he can once again open the doors to awaiting diners. When asked about giving advice to business owners, Craig said, "Learn to do the numbers. You have to be able to do that to make the money. Learn from an accountant or a professional- learn the tricks and ideas you can use to understand things better- be smart about it." It seems that Craig has been very smart about running his business. Looking to the future, Craig sees himself still owning the Sandbar and Grill. He may not be there as often though, as he plans to continue with his travels around the world, golfing and eating until his heart's content.

THANKS

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