

## RESTAURANT REVIEWS

**With our beautiful beaches and bays, tranquil rivers and quiet lakes, it's no wonder Australians love eating by the water. Whether it's dangling our legs over the edge of a pier, pulling fish and chips out of newspaper wrapping, or dining in 5 star style at a harbourside restaurant, a view of the water and a great meal is a combination we can't resist. *PathWay* nominates a few of our favourites.**

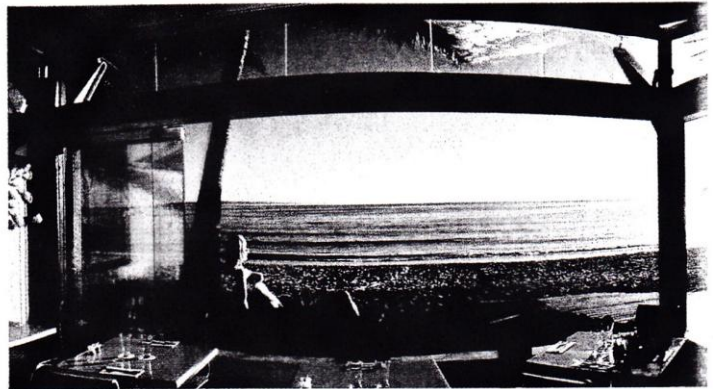
It's a particularly Australian dream, the picnic on the beach: superb food, a gentle breeze, white wine chilled to put a frost on your glass. Then there's the reality - that gritty, sand-between-your-teeth feeling strips the pleasure fairly rapidly from the best of food, the breeze is a wind whipping bits of hair into your eyes, and the wine is quickly knocked over to become yet another beachside puddle.

But there is good news. Berardo's on the Beach, a casual bistro offshoot of Noosa's stylish Berardo's Restaurant and Bar nearby, simulates the beach picnic without any of the annoying realities creeping in. Sitting at the front table, you are separated from Noosa's famous beach only by the boardwalk.

Serving modern Australian food, and with top quality produce combined to enhance the flavour of each ingredient, Berardo's offers a relaxed and stylish way to get into a Noosa frame of mind.

The sea's offerings feature prominently on the menu, with locally sourced seafood and other produce used extensively. The chef is Shane Bailey, whose CV includes a long stint at Donovan's in Melbourne, but also travel and influence from the Mediterranean. Combinations such as steamed black mussels, chorizo, tomato, chilli and green peppers, or perhaps grilled garfish, Sicilian dip, capers and red and yellow capsicum, are the refreshing result. To follow, the chocolate semifreddo with balsamic strawberries was our pick.

The food is sensational, and the open, beachfront atmosphere is complemented perfectly by Berardo's low-key white decor. The staff



are friendly and there is an attractive wine list. This restaurant gives the lie to the old adage about food with a view. I can't think of a better way to eat by the sea - without grit between your teeth.

**LOUISE MARTIN-CHEW**

### ***Berardo's on the Beach***

***50 Hastings Street, Noosa Heads, QLD***

***Tel (07) 5448 0888***

***Open: 8am til late 7 days a week***

***Cards: BC MC V AE DC EFT***

***About \$80 for two plus drinks.***