

1500 SOUTH RESTAURANT

Any guest seeking dishes that lend inventive international flare to entrenched Florida cooking traditions is likely to find what he or she looking for at 1500 South.

When Naples businessman Fred Pezeshkan bumped into [Chef Art Smith](#) at a Celebration of Reading event not long after the publication of the chef's New York Times bestseller, "Back to the Table," he had the feeling that they'd someday collaborate. But Pezeshkan never could have imagined that a decade later the chance meeting would result in a partnership that will end up injecting new life into one of Florida's top resort hotels — the Naples Bay Resort, owned by Pezeshkan — and revolutionizing the culinary landscape in Naples.



Chef Art Smith, a two-time James Beard Award recipient and executive chef and co-owner of six restaurants across the country renowned for their unique take on Southern American food, will soon launch 1500 South at the Naples Bay Resort. The venture will build on insights and skills that only a sixth-generation Floridian and accomplished chef could possess. Smith, who recently traveled to the World's Fair in Milan, says his new menu will be inspired by what he saw and tasted there. He intends to pair Southern American Food with Italian accents to deliver "a one-of-a-kind menu with a lot of surprises."

Chef Smith and a robust team of designers, architects and other creatives are hard at work on plans for the look and feel of the new restaurant. Though the plans will inevitably evolve, 1500 South at Naples Bay Resort will no doubt provide customers with a convivial environment offering lovely marina views and fostering bonds between family and friends.

“Food is love, food is diplomacy and food is power,” says Chef Smith. This is a topic on which he speaks with great authority — he’s authored several best-selling cookbooks that highlight the connection between family and food, and worked as a personal chef for both politicians (Florida governors Bob Graham and Jeb Bush) and top celebrities (Oprah). If his other restaurants are any indication, 1500 South will affirm the ability of food to impact the Naples community in a wonderfully positive way.