



Bars & Restaurants Playbook

Specific spots, best seats, and the Key West vibe translation

New rule: every spot gets a Key West translation. Not because Cape May is Key West, but because it helps you decide what mood each place serves.

Cape May spot	Key West vibe match	Best seat	Use it for
Harry's Ocean Bar	Schooner's Wharf Lite / rooftop version	Rooftop rail or ocean-facing edge	July 4 foothold, daytime drinks, ocean view.
Lobster House Dockside / Marina	Galleon marina + Schooner's people-watching energy	Water edge facing boats	Golden hour magic, seafood for the girls, sit-for-hours feeling.
Rusty Nail	Beach bar / laid-back live music cousin	Outside, side of the band	Music without being trapped in the crowd.
Boiler Room	Late-night Duval-ish energy, Cape May edition	Wall/edge/bar seats	One or two drinks if the night keeps going.
Blue Pig / Congress Hall	Classy historic resort cocktail energy	Patio/edge/corner	Polished lunch/dinner, people watching.
Mad Batter	Vacation brunch without the alarm clock	Porch/patio/edge	Late breakfast/lunch that fits your rhythm.
Carney's	Louder Duval-adjacent bar energy	Edge/bar, easy exit	Only if you want more nightlife and less polish.

Harry's - July 4 launch pad

Confirmed: Sat July 4 at 5:15 PM for 3.

Ask early about rooftop/sundeck/fireworks access. Do not wait until everyone else asks.

Best line: "If there is any way to transition upstairs or to the sundeck later, we are happy to wait and take care of whoever helps us."

Captain note: This is a foothold, not a guaranteed throne. Still a strong move.



Marina / Lobster House - the one I care about

Go late afternoon/golden hour. Sit outside on the water edge facing boats.

This is where Dee and Amber get seafood joy, and you get the Key West marina feeling without Key West July heat.

Captain note: If this hits, do not leave just because the itinerary says so.

General table moves

Ask for outside. Ask for edge. Ask for water/rail/street-facing.

Wait 5-10 minutes for the right table if the place feels important.

Tip energy: polite first, direct second, cash thank-you third.

Reference: Harry's promotes its rooftop/oceanfront setting; Rusty Nail is positioned as a beach-bar/live-entertainment spot; Blue Pig lists breakfast, lunch, and dinner service; Mad Batter lists late breakfast/lunch timing.