

REMINISCENT

the elbo room



BY BRUCE KASSOVER

It's no stretch to imagine that most people probably associate the Fort Lauderdale strip with youthfulness, but the real Big Kahuna on the beach is a vibrant 87-year-old: The Elbo Room.

Since its doors first opened in 1938, the Elbo Room has earned its place as the heart and soul of one of the world's most iconic shorelines.

It first gained popularity in the '40s as a watering hole for sailors stationed nearby, but it was in the '50s that the bar's reputation really skyrocketed – college students from around the country turned Fort Lauderdale into a spring break mecca, and no trip was complete without a stop at the Elbo Room. No wonder, then, that producers of the iconic 1960 film *Where the Boys Are* chose to put the bar front-and-center.

While the crazy party days of spring breaks past are well behind us, the Elbo Room remains a beloved institution for locals and visitors alike. Its two-story, open-air design gives patrons unbeatable ocean views, while live music fills the air with rock, country and, of course, Jimmy Buffett. And though the vibe nowadays tends to be more relaxed than raucous, there's still plenty of good, lively fun to be had – it is, after all, where the Florida Panthers came to celebrate their 2024 Stanley Cup victory!

CREDIT: History Fort Lauderdale
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