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LYSIELLE & JACQUES CARIOT



Jacques and Lysielle first met at a small café in Provence, France. Less than a year later, the couple married and started a family. While living, working, and raising their children in France, the Cariot family frequently vacationed in the United States. They continued to find themselves quite fond of the quaint little town of Naples, Florida, and each time they returned, they fell more in love with the area.

Back in France, after two very successful business ventures in the commercial food industry, Jacques and Lysielle decided to retire and relocate their family to Naples full-time in 1997. Their retirement did not last long. In 1999, they decided to embark on their third venture in the food industry while enjoying lunch at a small, eclectic sandwich shop in Crayton Cove called 'Mermaid at the Cove'. Several months into owning and running the sandwich shop, they decided to close its doors and complete a drastic overhaul. After renovations to the building were complete, Jacques and Lysielle reopened the doors introducing a completely different concept – something they knew best – a fabulous French restaurant. In the fall of 1999, Bleu Provence was born.

The namesake of the restaurant pays homage to where the couple met, and their mutual love of the sky, the sea, and the fields of lavender in Provence. Bringing the south of France to the south of Florida, Bleu Provence started off as a small 16-table restaurant. This dynamic duo's newest venture was a natural pairing of Jacques' passion for fine wines and Lysielle's love of French cuisine and the culinary arts.

Over the years, Bleu Provence has gone through several major renovations, vastly increasing its original size. Today, Bleu Provence houses a Wine Spectator Grand Award-winning wine collection of over 5,520 varietals and 60,000 bottles located in The Cave, and a retail wine store, Bleu Provence Fine Wines, featuring over 2,500 varietals available at discounted rates. In the restaurant, there are three main dining areas including a beautiful outdoor garden, The Crayton Room overlooking Crayton Cove, and a view of the kitchen from the main dining room. For more intimate occasions, guests may reserve the Wine Room for private parties and events.

When Jacques and Lysielle are not busy making continuous improvements to Bleu Provence, the couple can be found spending quality time with their grandchildren. Particularly passionate about children's causes, the couple actively supports many organizations in the local community and has been a supporter of The Naples Children & Education Foundation via the Naples Winter Wine Festival since its inception in 2001. In 2022, Bleu was especially honored to be a part of the record-breaking top lot, "A Million Dollar Meal – All for the Kids."

Every year, Jacques and Lysielle travel to different places in the world, taking in and experiencing new destinations, cultures, wines, and cuisines – always returning with more ideas!