



## Racing's North Turn

BY KEN WILLIS + PHOTO BY LOLA GOMEZ



Dinner with a view at the Racing's North Turn in Ponce Inlet.

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### NOTEWORTHY RESTAURANTS IN THIS CATEGORY INCLUDE:

– *Funky Pelican*: 215 State Road A1A, Flagler Beach; 386-439-0011; [funky-pelican.com](http://funky-pelican.com)

– *Golden Lion Cafe*: 500 State Road A1A, Flagler Beach; 386-439-3004; [goldenlioncafe.us](http://goldenlioncafe.us)

– *The Grille at Riverview*: 101 Flagler Ave., New Smyrna Beach; 386-428-1865; [thegrilleatriverview.com](http://thegrilleatriverview.com)

– *Top of Daytona Restaurant*: Peck Plaza, 2625 S. Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach; 386-767-5791; [topofdaytona.com](http://topofdaytona.com)

The scenery at Racing's North Turn restaurant begins before you enter the front door. Old race cars greet you as you walk from the parking lot across South Atlantic Avenue.

Once inside the front door, there's more. The walls are adorned with old photos and print articles substantiating the "Racing" in the establishment's name.

If you didn't know before you entered, you soon learn of the site's historic geography – it sits alongside the old north turn of NASCAR's beach-and-road course, where stock cars and motorcycles would leave the hard-packed beach surface and make the hard left turn up onto the asphalt of South Atlantic Avenue and then motor 2 miles south before beginning the other half of the round trip.

But you tend to forget all that once you reach your table on the large back deck. Once there, all you know is that you're suddenly seated atop the dunes, right against the Atlantic Ocean. Yes, the North Turn also has an indoor dining room, but come on ...

"The dining room is overflow," says Lars Bienemann, the North Turn's general manager. "Everybody is here for the view. It fills up fast out there. If somebody is just here to eat, and they don't want to wait, they'll eat inside. Otherwise, they wait outside."

Bienemann laughs when asked if he'd like a dollar for every time dining guests snapped photos of their group, with the white sands and blue ocean as backdrop.

"Often it's that classic talk ... 'All my family and friends are up North, look where I'm at right now; this is my view for lunch,'" said Bienemann. "We get tagged a lot on social media. That's great."