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## Punta Gorda marina adds giant seafood restaurant

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**PUNTA GORDA:** Punta Gorda's newest restaurant is set to open Wednesday, and it's already creating quite a buzz.

The Lashley Crab House will anchor the marina at Lashley Park along the downtown waterfront. Owners built the giant bar and restaurant on land rented from the city.

With 550 seats and 16,000 square feet of kitchen and dining space, it's believed to be the largest eatery in Southwest Florida.

The interior features hand-carved wood from Tennessee, and a 1931 Chevy doubles as a bar-back.

The biggest conversation piece, though, may be the 20-foot crab sculpture dangling from above the bar.


"We're very proud of this, and we think we have a world class restaurant with world class service and world class employees," co-owner Bruce Lashley said.

The Crab House will serve five kinds of crab, including Alaskan kings flown in daily.

Lashley says some of them will be caught from the fleet of "Deadliest Catch" on the Discovery Channel.

By [Grant Boxleitner](#)


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