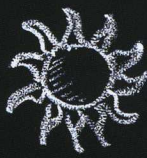


# Orange Coast CHEAP EATS

*great*  
25 Meals Under \$25



*fine*  
\$10  
*wine*



*breakfast*  
*burrito*  
*taste test*

*happy*  
*hour*  
*steals*

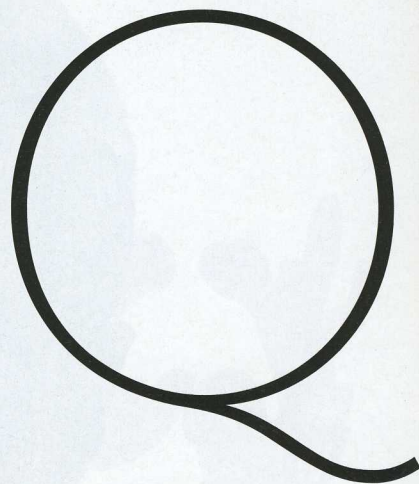
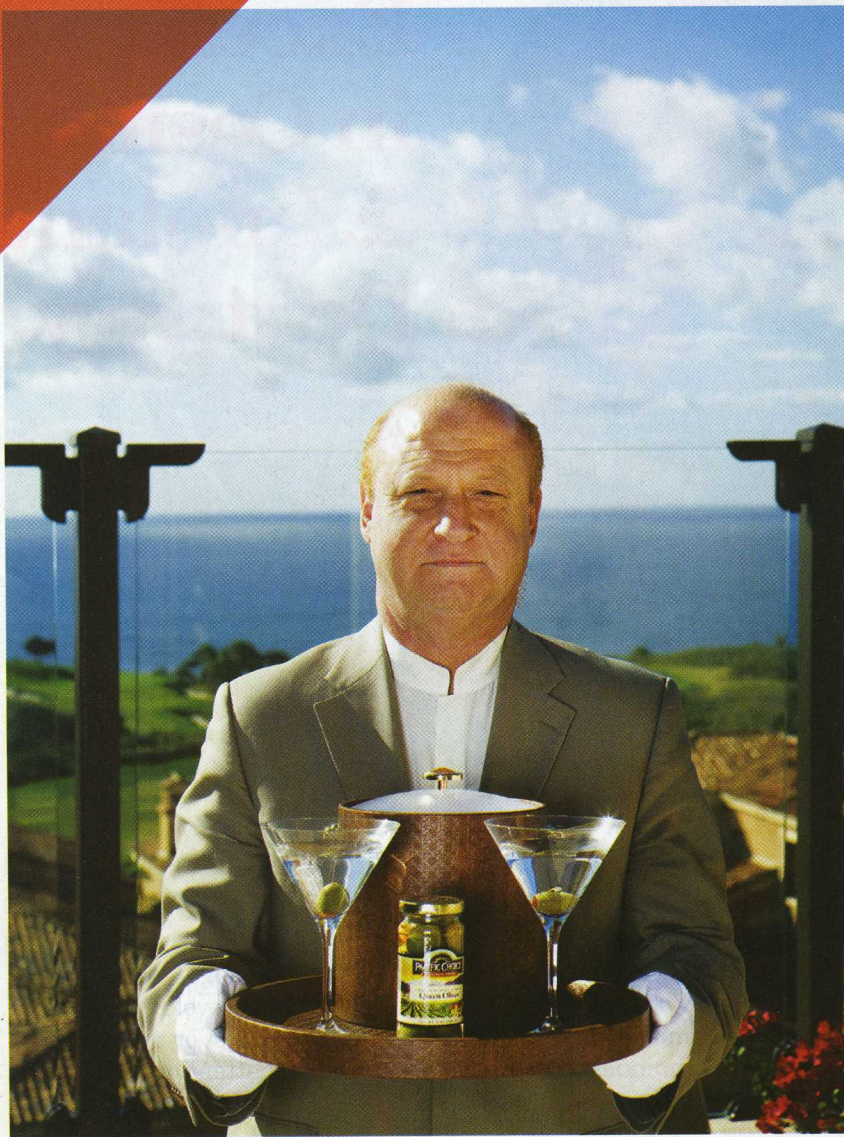


*roasted organic*  
*chicken only*  
*\$14 at Nick's*  
*Laguna Beach*

FEB 2009 \$4.95



**PLUS** Secrets of  
a Pelican Hill  
Butler



## At Your Service

**JAMAL DIAB** is in the vanguard of service pros, reviving a profession more often spoofed than practiced. He's a butler. No, he's not like Bruce Wayne's Alfred Thaddeus Crane Pennyworth or other pompously proper servants of TV fame. The 51-year-old Syrian native and seven others at the new Resort at Pelican Hill in Newport Coast are trained to be friendly, yet respectfully attentive to villa guests. Serving the travel elite at Pelican Hill may seem like a career leap for the trilingual (Arabic, French, and English) Diab, who studied civil engineering at Cal State Long Beach. But he learned the trade from his family, who he says has served the Saudi royal family for 50 years.—*Valli Herman*



THE RESORT  
AT PELICAN HILL  
22701 PELICAN  
HILL ROAD S.  
NEWPORT COAST  
949-467-6800  
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HILL.COM

### What does a butler do?

We anticipate what the guests want. We have a butler coordinator who asks them questions ahead of time, so we know a lot about them beforehand.

### Ever been stumped by a request?

No, but once the royal family asked me to buy a classic car. I flew to an auction in California and bought the car—a 1967 Mustang—and shipped it to Dubai.

### Anything you wouldn't do?

Anything that is illegal or unethical.

### How do you keep your gloves so white?

I go through about four or five pairs a day. I always keep an extra pair in my pocket. You never know when you're going to get them dirty.

### What else is in your pockets?

A wine opener, because you have to be ready. And a notebook—in case I get a request, I can write it down immediately.

### What's your specialty?

Middle Eastern cooking. Recently, a guest saw my name and asked if I knew how to cook Arabic and Persian food. Of course! So I cooked a meal of lamb, rice, and eggplant for her in the villa. We call it "tip over," because you cook it, tip the pot over, and put some roasted pine nuts and almonds on top. She couldn't believe it. She said, "I'm coming back here."

### True that you can't get good help these days?

There are only certain people who can do this job. I believe I am one of them. ●