

Portrait of a Florida Restaurant Employee



Hello, my name is **Anne Rollings**

- Anne has worked in the restaurant industry for over **20 years**.
- She began her professional career as a paralegal in corporate law at a global architecture & engineering firm.
- Anne's first restaurant position was "back-of-house" in a tiny, family-owned café in SARASOTA, Fla.

Anne Rollings works at Gecko's Hospitality Group in SARASOTA, Fla.

*"While earning my degrees at the University of Florida, I worked in two wonderful—also family-owned—stores; The Wine & Cheese Gallery and Leonardo's 706. **Those were busy, fun, tough days where you juggled your schedule, the personalities, and for me, a multi-disciplinary education.**"*

What skills have you learned while working in the restaurant industry?

Kindness, empathy, costing sense, natural forces as they relate to your bottom line, the importance of consistency in your fare and your brand, balance, and of course...the importance of knowing how to make an authentic Mint Julep from scratch.

What do you enjoy most about working in restaurants?

The rush you share with your team after a hard day's work that went really well; the smiles on your guests' faces when they loved their experience that you helped create for them; serving my internal clients (my BOH and FOH teams and my Owners) in ways they hadn't known I could help them; participating in our community as an active leader in promoting well-being.

What are your future career goals within the industry?

The sky is the limit. I set my table every day with anticipation.

FLORIDA RESTAURANT INDUSTRY AT A GLANCE

899,000 Floridians In 2014, restaurants account for 899,000 jobs in Florida — 12% of employment in the state.

Every **\$1 Million Spent** in Florida's restaurants generates an additional 24.4 jobs in the state.



1 in 3 Americans Begin Their Working Careers in the Restaurant Industry



1 in 2 Adults Have Worked in the Restaurant Industry