

St. Elmo Steak House

Timeline 1902-2012

- 1902: The 248-foot-tall Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument is dedicated May 15th on the Circle in downtown Indianapolis. Later that summer, Joe Stahr opens his tavern and buffet restaurant just two blocks south of the Circle on Illinois Street.
- 1903: The Indianapolis Star debuts in June with daily morning editions of the city's news.
- 1904: The Indianapolis Traction Terminal opens at Market and Illinois Streets, three blocks north of Joe Stahr's restaurant and tavern. With its interurban electric railway service to every city in the state, the Terminal brings thousands of visitors and salesmen downtown every day.
- 1911: The first Indianapolis 500 is run at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.
- 1914: Karl Burch was hired on as a waiter at St. Elmo Steak House. Karl would complete his 54 year career with retirement at the age of 89!
- 1918: Crowds throng the bar at St. Elmo to celebrate the news of the November 11th Armistice ending World War I.
- 1933: St. Elmo Steak House celebrates the end of Prohibition. Draft beer is .10 cents a glass for most of the next 20 years.
- 1941: Japan attacks the American fleet at Pearl Harbor on December 7th, thrusting the United States into World War II. St. Elmo opens for breakfast during the war years to serve the huge numbers of soldiers and sailors passing through Union Station.
- 1945: World War II ends, and Joe Stahr sells St. Elmo Steak House to Burt Condon, who in turn sold to brothers Sam and Isaac "Ike" Roth merely six months later, in 1946. Third brother, Harry, joins the business in June 1947.
- 1946: Terre Haute businessman Anton "Tony" Hulman purchases the rundown Indianapolis Motor Speedway from war hero Eddie Rickenbacker.
- 1947: St. Elmo's signature appetizer is the Shrimp Cocktail. A small order (3 shrimp) costs .30 cents. A large order (7 shrimp) costs .60 cents.
- 1950: St. Elmo's offers fried, whole walleye dinner for \$1.99, including soup, salad and potato.
- 1955: Izzy Rosen joins Harry Roth as a partner in St. Elmo Steak House. The two men reluctantly decide to stop serving lunch in order to concentrate on the evening steak trade.

- 1961: Jet service from the Weir Cook Airport in Indianapolis begins in April when Trans-World Airlines (TWA) inaugurates daily service to and from New York City.
- 1967: The Indiana Pacers join the American Basketball Association and open the 1967-1968 season in the Indiana State Fairgrounds Coliseum.
- 1969: Willie Kelly started working at St. Elmo Steak House. Through the years, Willie will bartend, place food orders, serve as prep-cook and perform office tasks such as bank deposits for the restaurant. Willie would complete his 41 year career retiring in 2010.
- 1970: Harry Roth and Izzy Rosen purchase the Braden Building, home to St. Elmo Steak House for 68 years. The neighboring Army Navy Surplus store was then converted into what is now the Tiffany Dining Room.
- 1972: Roth's and Rosen's bet on the future of downtown Indianapolis two years before is justified when the Indiana Convention Center opens at South Capitol and Maryland Streets, just around the corner from St. Elmo Steak House.
- 1974: St. Elmo's faith in downtown is brightened considerably when Market Square Arena opens September 15th at Market and Alabama Streets. Then the 5th largest sports arena in the United States with more than 19,000 seats, MSA is the new home of the NBA's Indiana Pacers.
- 1976: St. Elmo Steak House is the place to see and be seen in Indianapolis, The Jumbo Cocktail sells for \$3.95, and the most popular item on the menu is the New York Strip Sirloin at \$9.50.
- 1976: Lorenzo Acuna joins St. Elmo Steak House. Over the years Lorenzo becomes the embodiment of professional service and he is currently the longest tenured employee with over 35 years of service.
- 1978: Indianapolis residents hunker down for the worst blizzard of the 20th century. The January storm packs 60 M.P.H. winds and paralyzes the city with nearly 16 inches of snow, piling up drifts of more than 10 feet. Downtown Indianapolis is deserted for three days.
- 1984: Representatives of the Capital Improvement Board and Robert Irsay cement the deal to build the Hoosier Dome and bring the Baltimore Colts to Indianapolis over shrimp cocktail and steaks at St. Elmo Steak House.
- 1986: Veteran restaurateur, Steve Huse has a vision and purchases the Braden building and the St. Elmo business from Harry Roth & Izzy Rosen.

- 1986: Union Station is reborn when the 276-room Holiday Inn Union Station opens on Jackson Place in the 19th century train station. The hotel and its railroad later changes hand and becomes the Crowne Plaza Union Station.
- 1993: Tony Hulman George of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway inaugurates the Brickyard 400 and brings NASCAR stock car racing to Indianapolis. Seven years later, George would add a third race to the Speedway's calendar with the inaugural running of the U.S. Grand Prix.
- 1995: The city celebrates the opening of Circle Centre Mall, one block north of St. Elmo Steak House. The dazzling new mall brings Nordstrom's and Parisian to downtown, replacing the recently departed William H. Block and L.S. Ayres department stores and revitalizing the downtown retail sector.
- 1997: Steve Huse passes the torch of leadership to his son, Craig Huse, who takes over day-to-day operations. Craig becomes a full partner in 2000.
- 1997: Construction began on the latest expansion into the Deschler Building, adjacent to the current location of St. Elmo Steak House. Mark Pi's China Gate is converted into the Tony Hulman Room, the Wine Cellar and the Director's Room.
- 1997: The Capital Improvement Board and the Indiana Pacers announce an agreement to build the new Conseco Fieldhouse at Georgia and South Pennsylvania Street within walking distance of the St. Elmo Steak House. The Fieldhouse replaces the aging Market Square Arena, which is demolished in 2000.
- 1999: Conseco Fieldhouse opens as the new home of the Indiana Pacers. Market Square Arena is demolished two years later.
- 2002: St. Elmo Steak House kicks off its yearlong centennial celebration with several special events to mark the anniversary of the city's oldest downtown restaurant.
- 2007: The first Harry & Izzy's opens on the same block as its sister restaurant, St. Elmo Steak House. This upscale American grill was created in honor of Harry Roth and Isadore "Izzy" Rosen, St. Elmo owners from 1947 to 1986.
- 2008: The RCA Dome closes and is demolished due to the opening of Lucas Oil Stadium, the new home of the Indianapolis Colts.
- 2008: Harry & Izzy's opens a second location at the newly constructed Indianapolis International Airport.
- 2008: Indianapolis is announced as the host city for Super Bowl XLVI. St. Elmo sent their world-famous St. Elmo Shrimp Cocktail® to the selection committee, helping to secure the 2012 bid.

- 2009: St. Elmo Shrimp Cocktail gains global recognition by winning world's spiciest food award from well-known food critic and blogger, Alison Stein Wellner and the Travel Channel. It also earned a spot on the Food Network show 'The Best Thing I Ever Ate; Spicy Food Edition.'
- 2011: In preparation for the Super Bowl, Indianapolis undergoes a major city remodeling project. The last expansion of the Indiana Convention Center is completed and Georgia Street becomes a pedestrian friendly avenue where the Super Bowl Village will be hosted.
- 2011: St. Elmo Steak House runs out of space to expand horizontally and renovates the second floor above St. Elmo, calling the space the 1933 Lounge. Harry & Izzy's expands on its' continued success and opens its third location on the North side of Indianapolis.
- 2012: Indianapolis hosts the Super Bowl and St. Elmo Steak House is center stage for the 6 days leading up to the game. Shaq, Jimmy Fallon, John Travolta, Adam Sandler and countless other stars enjoy a great meal in the iconic steakhouse.
- 2012: St. Elmo Steak House is honored with a James Beard Americas Classic Award and also named one of the top 10 classic restaurants in the world to visit by Forbes.com. St. Elmo Steak House begins bottling and selling its world famous cocktail sauce.
- 2019: The second 1933 Lounge by St. Elmo opens at The Yard in Fishers, Indiana. Dining options include unique appetizers, St. Elmo Shrimp Cocktail, sushi, steak, impressive seafood options and trendy cocktails.
- 2020: The newest concept for Huse Culinary, HC Tavern + Kitchen opens at The Yard in Fishers, Indiana. The HC Tavern + Kitchen is a classic American grill the offers unique appetizers, sandwiches, fresh salads, steak, seafood, and beer, wine, and cocktails.