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### Weather

#### CURRENTLY

87° , Partly Cloudy,  
Humidity 65%

#### TODAY'S FORECAST

89° , Isolated T-Storms

#### TOMORROW

Isolated T-Storms

High: 89° , Low: 77°

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#### Today's News Poll

### What do you think about O.J. Simpson moving to S. Florida?

See the latest story and talk about it on our message board. Or, see past survey results.

- Roll out the red carpet 5%
- Stay in California 62%
- He 3%

## Eatery owner held in theft of \$992,000

By JEFF SHIELDS

Web-posted: 11:54 p.m. Aug. 11, 2000

**HOLLYWOOD** -- The owner of Estrella del Mar, a fashionable downtown eatery and nightclub, is sitting in the Miami-Dade County Jail with little prospect for bail, accused of stealing nearly \$1 million from her day job to finance her restaurant.

Gail Marie Winer, 45, will be charged with 16 counts of grand theft at her arraignment Aug. 21, Assistant State Attorney Jeffrey Lynne said. She also faces a civil lawsuit that has frozen Estrella del Mar's assets and blocked any sale of the business.

Winer was arrested July 28 at her apartment in Hollywood, a week after her employers discovered discrepancies in their books and called in the Bay Harbor Islands Police Department in Miami-Dade County.

Winer, who worked as a cash manager for Harbor Realty Advisors in Bay Harbor Islands, would cut checks from one of the company's accounts, make them out to Estrella del Mar, then deposit them in the restaurant's account, according to an arrest affidavit filed by Bay Harbor Islands Police Officer James Smith.

Winer also made out checks to herself, Harbor Realty claims in a lawsuit filed the day she was arrested.

Winer's attorney, Bradford Cohen, said he could not comment before his client's arraignment. She will plead not guilty, he said.

Cohen did say he was shocked Thursday when Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Ronald Dresnick boosted Winer's bail from \$27,500 to \$500,000, calling her a flight risk.

"The fact of the matter is, someone could go out and pistol-whip someone and get less bond," said Cohen, adding that Winer does not have the assets to make that much bail. "In essence, it's tantamount to no bond at all."



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- Fort Lauderdale
- Lauderdale-by-the-Sea
- Oakland Park
- Wilton Manors
- Broward Northeast
- Deerfield Beach
- Lighthouse Point
- Pompano Beach
- Broward Northwest
- Coconut Creek
- Coral Springs
- Margate
- North Lauderdale
- Parkland
- Tamarac
- Broward Southeast
- Dania Beach