

Miami



By Miriam Cain

Miami is so popular it earned itself the nickname 'the magic city' because its population grew so rapidly. In little more than a century its original 1,000 residents made way for a further five and a half million, and they all brought with them their fair share of character and culture. As such, Miami has many faces: its pace can be fast or slow, its venues hip or classic, its social life poolside or penthouse. From the arty boutiques and galleries of the Design District to the edgy Art Deco area of South Beach to the affluent waterfront residences of Bal Harbour and the festival hub of Little Havana, Miami throws together every style and vibe with accomplished ease.

Traditionally used by East Coast yachtsmen as a place to winter their yachts, Florida is now a year-round home to the boating community and a fantastic stop-over at the beginning or end of a charter.

Pillow talk

Biltmore Hotel

This elegant classic is a National Historic Landmark. Opened in 1926, and renovated in 2007, it has a Mediterranean-revival style and its own spa and golf course.

Fontainebleau Miami Beach

In its heyday this was an iconic Rat Pack hangout. Although it has undergone significant renovation over the years, the original chandeliers and marble floors still remain as reminders of its past glory, but its new super-sized scale is 21st-century Miami showmanship all the way.



Hotel Victor

Another hip haunt on South Beach, Hotel Victor has a second-floor infinity pool and V Bar, which both attract a younger crowd. Pushing the boundaries of sensual styling, the rooms are bright and colourful with Art Deco style furnishings.

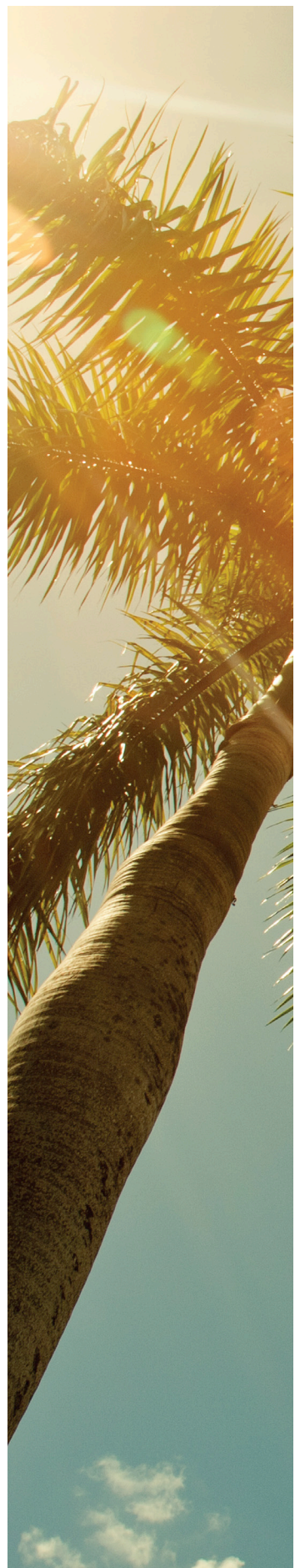
Delano Hotel



The renovated Delano is a haven for relaxation. Surrounded by palm trees, the garden blends seamlessly with the interior and has an art-gallery vibe, with full-length mirrors, lamps swinging from trees and curtained cabanas.

The Setai, Miami Beach

This infamous property is a celebration of Art Deco and contemporary Asian design. Guests can relax by one of the three fantastic pools or head out to one of the world's most famous beaches.







King & Grove Tides South Beach

Sophistication and service are bywords of this property, which combines 21st century luxury with a combination of Art Deco and upscale beach-club styling. The sleek Coral Bar is a great place to begin your evening.

W South Beach

With a cool New York restaurant – Mr Chow – along with a nightclub and spa, two infinity pools, a wide swath of beach, and cabanas with flat-screen televisions, this sleek W Hotel has become a firm favourite for the jet-set crowd that descends on Miami.

Eat, drink + dance

Edge

For some of Miami's best Latin-Asian fusion cuisine try the Four Seasons' Edge restaurant. Enjoy a poolside drink before heading up to the restaurant on the 7th floor of the hotel.

Begin with a lobster cocktail before indulging in one of the signature steaks, burger or fish dishes.

The Royal

A must-visit establishment, if only for breakfast, The Royal at The Raleigh Hotel is the place to head for a leisurely morning accompanied by eggs over-easy under the shade of trees. The restaurant is also perfect for early evening cocktails before a night out on the famous South Beach.

The News Café

The News Café has been a South Beach institution since it opened in 1988. Make a beeline for a table on the buzzing terrace.

Joe's Stone Crab

Another Miami Beach institution is Joe's Stone Crab. Celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2013, Joe's was there long before South Beach became hip. Fresh stone crabs are its speciality.

Prime 112



For the best steak in Miami, book a table at Prime One Twelve. Its cuts of USDA prime steak are fantastic and the service equally impressive.

Smith & Wollensky

Located on the waterfront at the southernmost point of Miami Beach, this is the best place to view the yachts that come in and out of Miami. It is an outpost of the popular New York based chain and its menu combines fresh fish and meats. It has an impressive wine list to boot.

Mr Chow

The W Hotel South Beach is the fifth outpost of the famed Mr Chow restaurant. The show-stopping space is as much a draw as the cuisine and attracts the jet-set crowd who come

At a glance

Best travel time

Traditionally regarded as the place to be during winter months, Miami's season now extends throughout the year. The region enjoys a subtropical climate with the temperature hovering around 25 degrees.

Currency

US dollar (US\$)

Language English

Vibe A sassy, cool, 24-hour party zone

to sample classic Beijing dishes served with an innovative twist.

SET

This offers high-class nightlife in a cavernous neon-lit space. Its design is inspired by the grand Hollywood homes of the 1930s and 40s. Expect Pucci fabrics and lots of leather.

Mokaï

Cherry-red, black lacquer and candy-pink combine in eye-popping décor, with staff suited up à la *La Femme Nikita* or in *Mad Max* inspired uniforms for VIP table service. Tom Cruise, Cameron Diaz and Lenny Kravitz have come here for the hip hop, rock and house vibes.

SkyBar at Shore Club

Special guest DJs, speciality cocktails, tropical gardens, fountains, pergolas and a lacquered steel pool table are just a few of the highlights. Also popular is its Rumbar with 75 different rums served between its two pools.

— **FDR**

For early evening drinks the Delano Hotel on South Beach has several cocktail bars, including its FDR lounge, a lobby bar and pool bar.

— **Nikki Beach Restaurant and Bar**

This is perfect for an outdoor Sunday brunch or daytime cocktails as you lounge on sun beds in the sand.



— **Do + discover**

— **Art**

One of the major art capitals of the world, Miami is a hotbed of galleries and exhibition spaces. In fact, the city itself is one giant exhibit. The Art Deco district is packed with restored Art Deco architecture, the Design District and the Wynwood area are the best places to see cutting-edge design and art by top local artists, while the upscale galleries of Coral Gables showcase more traditional pieces. Miami also hosts the annual Art Basel Miami Beach.

— **Sport + relaxation**

From soaking up the sun on South Beach to leisurely a morning stroll along the boardwalk, Miami is all about being outdoors. Head to the end of Key Biscayne to swim, or cycle along the bike paths of the Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park. For more relaxing distractions, head indoors. Miami has

several award-winning spas, including the spa at the Mandarin Oriental, the Standard Spa Miami Beach, and the Canyon Ranch spa.

— **Culture**

Head to Downtown's Adrienne Arsht Center — home to the Miami City Ballet, the Florida Grand Opera and the New World Symphony. Every February the city hosts the Miami Carnival, with Latin music, sporting activities and culinary competitions. The event closes with the Calle Ocho Festival in Little Havana.

— **See + shop**

— **Lincoln Road**

This vibrant street is perfect for people-watching and shopping.

— **Cape Florida Lighthouse**

Take a tour to the summit of the oldest building in Miami. From the top you'll get 360-degree views over Biscayne Bay and the Keys beyond.

— **Everglades National Park**

Two hours' drive inland is the Everglades National Park, with more than a million acres of mangroves and marshland filled with alligators and birdlife.

— **The Villa by Barton G**

The historic estate of the late Versace has been transformed into a boutique hotel. Stop by for afternoon tea in Art Deco surroundings.

— **Boutiques**

Don't miss Curve, Alchemist and The Webster. Further afield, the Bal Harbor shops and The Village of Merrick Park are worth a visit.

Insider guide

— **Profile**

Julie Keyes is a curator and gallerist in New York City. She travels to Miami for the local art scene on a regular basis. Here she provides her top tips on what's hot right now



Premier gallery representatives from across the globe, collectors and curators gather in this fantastic city every year for trade shows, but the Miami art scene is vibrant year-round. The Wynwood Art District has some of the best galleries and studios in the country. A guided tour of the district takes place on the second Saturday of the month and is perfect for art neophytes. Visit www.wynwoodartwalk.com to sign up.

A must-see is the Rubell Family Collection (RFC) (<http://rfc.museum>). It is housed in a repurposed Drug Enforcement Agency facility, and you get the refreshing opportunity to witness modern art in a well-curated home. The collection features well-known artists the likes of Jean-Michel Basquiat, Keith Haring, Damien Hirst, Jeff Koons, Cindy Sherman, Kara Walker and Andy Warhol.

The RFC also actively acquires, exhibits and champions emerging artists working at the forefront of contemporary art. The foundation has been recognised as a pioneer in what is often referred to as the "Miami Mode" whereby private collectors create a new independent form of public institution.

Another highlight is the Primary Projects gallery (www.primaryprojectspace.com) which was voted the best Miami art gallery by the *Miami New Times*. The exhibitions here are always alternative and controversial. Last year, they displayed Edouard Nardon's collection of jailhouse shivs and earned media attention when the Korean-American artist Miru Kim appeared naked. While the artwork may not be for everyone, it is always worth a look.

Julie Keyes gallery and signature shows are also worth catching as they reflect new and tilted perspectives of the art world. Visit www.juliekeyesart.com for more information.