

Ports of call:
BIENVENIDOS A MIAMI

*LOUD AND PROUD, THE COSMOPOLITAN PARADISE OF MIAMI SWAYS TO A LATIN REMIX OF SENSUALITY AND SOUTH BEACH STYLE. IF YOU FANCY A BIT OF A TAN, RAINBOW ART AND SWAYING PALMS, HEED **LEO BEAR'S** BUCKET LIST AND HIT UP SUNNY FLORIDA*



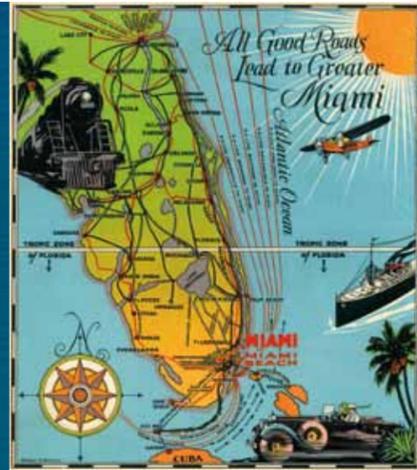
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Jogging down Miami's famous boardwalk, I stop to catch my breath at a palm-shrouded wooden gate with a wonky umbrella propped up against it. A man appears wearing dark glasses and an earpiece, and doesn't look too pleased to see me. It turns out this inauspicious doorway is the back entrance to Soho House Miami, where upwardly-mobile media types congregate for dirty martinis and midnight skinny dips.

In a city known for its unabashed 'loud and proud' mentality, this glimpse of European restraint gives an inkling of a new Miami. A more refined Miami.

The image change comes in large part thanks to Art Basel Miami. Now in its 13th year, the international art fair has transformed what was once a pleasure-seeking metropolis into one of the coolest urban hubs in the northern hemisphere. Brit artist Tracey Emin has recently put down roots, buying a home on the waterfront, and the unveiling of the Perez Art Museum designed by Swiss duo Herzog & de Meuron at the tail end of 2013 has had every artista from New York to New Delhi clawing for wall space. Year on year the roll call of A-list art fair attendees gets more distinguished and the VIP parties harder to get into. But that's not to say modern mariners can't join in the fun.

Race-savvy readers will know that Miami's peak sailing season is November to March, but visit during the summer months (which is low season) and you'll experience a quieter, more relaxed Miami. For more than two decades, the city's port has been accommodating some of the world's largest cruise ships, and Cape Florida and Biscayne Bay are a mecca for sailors with a winning combination of scenic city views, sandy beaches and sea-grass studded dunes.



IN A CITY KNOWN FOR ITS UNABASHED 'LOUD AND PROUD' MENTALITY, THIS GLIMPSE OF EUROPEAN RESTRAINT GIVES AN INKLING OF A NEW MIAMI. A MORE REFINED MIAMI.



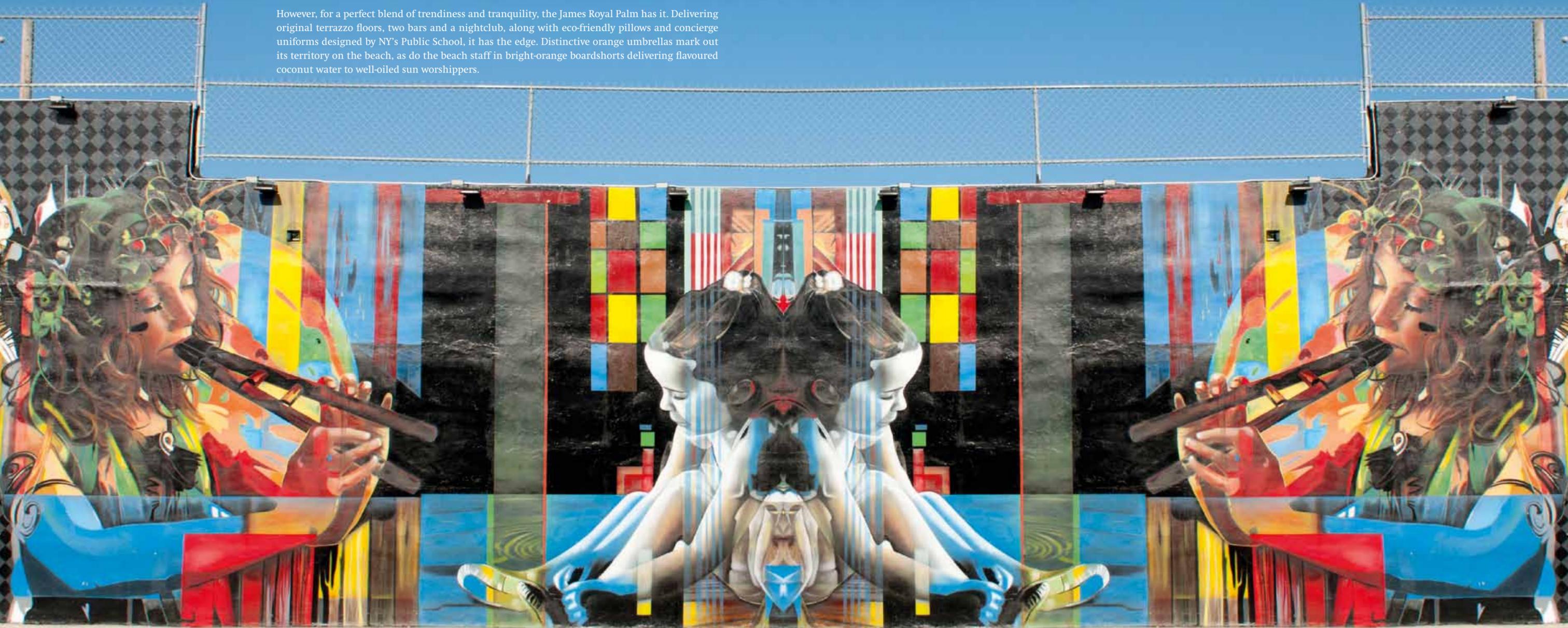
The living is certainly easy on board, but it would be criminal not to sample the hospitality on offer in Miami. From the plethora of slick marinas in which to drop anchor, Coconut Grove and Key Biscayne offer the best long-term docking, and the Coral Reef Yacht Club is ideal for a quick visit, with easy access to downtown Miami.

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On dry land, check into one of the five-star hotels on South Beach's Collins Avenue and you're in for a treat. Standing shoulder-to-shoulder, each comes with its own private beach club, poolside cocktail lounge and gaggle of pretty doormen, and, of course, there are those billion-dollar Atlantic views to consider: 8.5 miles of golden sand stretching as far as the eye can see.

Many of these high-style havens occupy original 1920s buildings, and the Setai, no exception, is looking particularly ravishing at the moment following a multi-million-dollar facelift. Alternatively, there's the Delano or the W administering their own brand of tongue-in-cheek party chic. Taking a hard line, Como Hotels intends to provide an antidote to all the hedonism with a new cocoon-like retreat, which opened in March. As well as a top-flight rooftop spa and snazzy seafood restaurant, it will also boast its own marina (with a 12-foot height restriction).

However, for a perfect blend of trendiness and tranquility, the James Royal Palm has it. Delivering original terrazzo floors, two bars and a nightclub, along with eco-friendly pillows and concierge uniforms designed by NY's Public School, it has the edge. Distinctive orange umbrellas mark out its territory on the beach, as do the beach staff in bright-orange boardshorts delivering flavoured coconut water to well-oiled sun worshippers.



THE ART DECO DISTRICT COMPRISES A SQUARE MILE OF SUN-DRENCHED BOULEVARDS LINED WITH LOW-RISE PASTEL BUILDINGS AND PALM TREES, RIPE FOR FREEWHEELING



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Beyond the boardwalk, Miami has the highest density of art deco buildings in the world. Pick up a bicycle (or skateboard) from your hotel lobby, or from automated bike stations on the street, and get pedaling. The art deco district comprises a square mile of sun-drenched boulevards lined with low-rise pastel buildings and palm trees, ripe for freewheeling. Buildings of note include the Lincoln Theatre (now an H&M), the Jackie Gleason Fillmore Theatre, a handful of quirky hotels on Ocean Drive, and Jerry's Deli – unchanged since 1939: booths, columns, chandeliers and all. For professional guidance, Art Deco Tours provide highly knowledgeable chaperons.

Alternatively, you can explore by boat. Miami's canals provide excellent waterways for admiring the skyline – try Water Taxi Miami's nippy new six-seater, which functions much like a regular taxi, except on water.



Whatever your mode of transport, Joe's Stone Crab is a must-visit. Serving fresh local stone-claw crab and steamy clam chowder since 1913, the tavern has become something of a Miami Beach institution. Its 'no reservations' policy means lunch or an early dinner are the best options. Otherwise Catch, an outpost of the smart New York eatery, Zuma or Meat Market are excellent choices.

For later on, there is no shortage of organ-jangling clubs. Currently LIV at the Fontainebleau hotel and SET on Lincoln are the places to be seen. Or, a much better idea: avoid the hangover so you can spend the day delving a bit deeper into Miami. Downtown, in the design district, there are chichi furniture and antiques shops to rival any boutique in Paris or Milan. And the Wynwood art district, formerly a stagnant area of vacant warehouses, pulses with the same intrinsic attitude found in New York's Soho or London's Shoreditch. It's here that Miami's shows its true colours.

Wynwood Walls, a small gated area devoted to street art and graffiti, lies at its heart. Over the years it has attracted internationally renowned artists such as Retna, who counts Hermès and Louis Vuitton among his clients, and the result is an explosive mix of bold and distinctive murals; absolutely nothing grungy about it. Wander around solo or join a guided walking tour (these take place every other Saturday) and huge

swathes of spray art, op art and roll art – entire buildings providing canvases in some instances – create breathtaking vistas. No surprise then that art galleries are springing up faster than you can say 'spray can'. At the last count, there were about sixty. Of these, the Rubell Family Collection is one of the largest private displays of modern art in the USA, and the Bakehouse Art Complex, occupying a former bakery, provides studio space for more than 65 up-and-coming artists, who'll welcome you in and show you around.

What's remarkable is that Wynwood's ascension from down-and-out to downright cool has taken place in less than a decade. Miami, as a whole, has a knack for reinventing itself: in the seventies it was the cocaine capital of the world, known for drive-by shootings and cars blowing up by the side of the road. Later came a spell as 'God's waiting room' when kooky retirement settlements prevailed. Today it's embracing an edgier arty style. For culture-lovers, there is no better time to go – if only to baggy a table at Verde, the sexy waterfront restaurant located in the new Perez Art Museum. With sweeping views of Biscayne Bay, you can start planning your next nautical adventure, and if you're lucky, catch a glimpse of your own mast blinking in the midday sun...

INSIDER /

*Hotels & Beach clubs***Soho Beach House**

4385 Collins Ave, Miami Beach, FL 33140
+1 786-507-7900
sohobeachhouse.com

Setai

2001 Collins Ave, Miami Beach, FL 33139
+1 305-520-6000
thesetaihotel.com

Delano

1685 Collins Ave, Miami Beach, FL 33139
+1 305-672-2000
morganshotelgroup.com/delano/delano-south-beach

W

2201 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach, Florida 33139
+ 1 305-938-3000
wsouthbeach.com

Metropolitan by COMO, Miami Beach

2445 Collins Ave, Miami Beach, FL 33140
+1 305-695-3600
comohotels.com/metropolitanmiamiibeach

The James Royal Palm

1545 Collins Ave, Miami Beach, FL 33139
+1 305-604-5700
jameshotels.com/miami

*Restaurants and nightlife***Jerry's Famous Deli,**

1450 Collins Ave, Miami Beach, FL 33139
+1 305-534-3244
jerrysfamousdeli.com

Catch – St.James

1545 Collins Ave, Miami Beach, FL 33139
+1 305-604-5700
jameshotels.com/miami/catch-miami

Zuma

270 Biscayne Blvd Way, Miami, FL 33131
+1 305-577-0277
zumarestaurant.com/zuma-landing/miami

Meat Market

915 Lincoln Rd, Miami Beach, FL 33139, United States
+1 305-532-0088
meatmarketmiami.com

Joe's Stone Crab

11 Washington Ave, Miami Beach, FL 33139
+1 305-673-0365
joesstonecrab.com

LIV

4441 Collins Ave, Miami Beach, FL 33140, United States
+1 305-538-2000
fontainebleau.com

SET: Miami

320 Lincoln Rd, Miami Beach, FL 33139, United States
+1 305-531-2800
setmiami.com

Verde – Pérez Art Museum Miami

1103 Biscayne Blvd. Miami, FL 33132
+1 305-375-3000
pamm.org/dining

*Cultural attractions***Lincoln Theatre**

1120 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach, FL
+1 305-674-6766

Fillmore Miami Beach at Jackie Gleason Theater

1700 Washington Ave, Miami Beach, FL 33139
+1 305-673-7300
fillmoremb.com

Art Basel Miami

artbasel.com

Perez Art Museum

1103 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33132
305 375 3000
pamm.org

Art Deco Weekend

artdecoweekend.com

Cape Florida

Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park
1200 S. Crandon Boulevard
Key Biscayne, Florida 33149
+1 305-361-5811
floridastateparks.org/capeflorida

Key Biscayne

+1 305-365-5511
keybiscayne.fl.gov

Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau

701 Brickell Avenue Suite 2700
Miami, FL 33131
+1 305-539-3000
Water Taxi Miami
401 Biscayne Blvd, Miami, FL 33132, United States
+1 305-600-2511
watertaximiami.com

The Wynwood Walls

NW 25th St, Miami, FL 33127, United States

Bakehouse Art Complex

561 NW 32nd St, Miami, FL 33127, United States
+1 305-576-2828
bacfl.org

Tourist board and visitor info:

miamiandbeaches.com
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collinsavenuemagazine.com
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