

NIGHT+DAY MIAMI



Ins and Outs

Noteworthy Additions, Changes, and Closures
from publication date through December 31, 2008

Key to Night+Day Symbols


Restaurants

Singles-friendly

-  Communal table
-  Food served at bar




Nightlife

Includes bars, clubs, and entertainment

-  Cover or ticket charge (otherwise, entry is free)

Restaurants + Nightlife

Prime-time noise levels

-  Quiet
-  A buzz, but still conversational
-  Loud

(G) Gourmet destination

Venues followed by an asterisk (*) are those we recommend as both a restaurant and a destination bar.

Key to Pricing

Hotels

Best deluxe room

- \$ \$ \$ \$ \$100–\$199
- \$ \$ \$ \$200–\$299
- \$ \$ \$ \$300–\$399
- \$ \$ \$ \$ \$400 and up

Restaurants

Main course

- \$– less than \$10
- \$ \$ \$10–\$19
- \$ \$ \$20–\$29
- \$ \$ \$ \$30–\$39
- \$ \$ \$ \$ \$40 and up

Attractions

Entry or service

- \$– less than \$10
- \$ \$ \$10–\$19
- \$ \$ \$20–\$29
- \$ \$ \$ \$30–\$39
- \$ \$ \$ \$ \$40 and up

The Night+Day promise

Night+Day writers and editors use the same high standards in selecting and researching venues to be included in our Ins and Outs updates as we do for our books. Our local correspondents determine which new hot spots are the real deal and which are simply hype—just as you'd expect from Night+Day—to provide the kind of reliable information you need to make the best possible choices.

NightandDayGuides.com

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The critics are talking about Night+Day's Cool Cities series ...

“Extraordinary detail, itineraries organized by theme, and a unique up-to-the-minute black book of what's hot provides readers with the ultimate guide.” — **Forbes.com**

“Opening chapters set the spirited tone ... a host of food-focused entries accommodate all tastes.” — **Travel + Leisure**

“Focus[es] their information to attract vacationers who don't want cookie-cutter itineraries.” — **Wall Street Journal**

“Well-written, cleverly organized ... remarkably comprehensive.” — **Passport Magazine**

“The most enjoyable feature may be the various three-day itineraries ... I don't know that I'd want a manicure and a martini at the Beauty Bar around 10pm on a Friday night, but I'm delighted to know it's possible.” — **New York Times**

“Perfect for the business person or jet-setter who's in town for a few days and has little time to research a visit. But area residents can pluck a few gems from its pages, too.” — **Sacramento Bee**

“Numerous three-day itineraries to mix and match to your heart's delight.” — **Chicago Tribune**

“Your one-stop guide to shopping, nightlife, restaurants, hotels and other attractions in the city.” — **DC Style Magazine**

But it's your opinion that counts.

Let us know what you think at NightandDayGuides.com

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Clásico Miami Hotels

Fontainebleau Miami Beach • Mid-Beach • Timeless (1,504 rms)

What happens when the grande dame of Miami Beach resorts gets a billion-dollar face-lift? Gaudy embellishments are replaced with tasteful natural stone and water features throughout its 22 acres; 11 restaurants and lounges open, along with hot nightclub LIV; and old-school Hollywood names like Elvis and Sinatra give way to Diddy, Paris Hilton, and Gwyneth Paltrow. Even the glamorous kickoff event—the Victoria’s Secret Fashion Show—tells you it’s a whole new Fontainebleau. Some grand details, like the lobby’s famed staircase to nowhere, remain, but guest rooms have been completely revamped and include iMacs, custom bedding, and marble baths. Other enhancements: a stunning poolscape and sleek cabanas; the two-level Lapis spa; and high-profile restaurants Gotham Steak, Scarpetta, and Blade Sushi Bar, to name just a few. For all-out glamour, this is the place. \$\$\$\$ 4441 Collins Ave. (44th St.), 305-538-2000 / 866-548-5670, fontainebleau.com

Clásico Miami Restaurants

Cohiba Brasserie • Coral Gables • Eclectic

While Cohiba Brasserie showcases Cuban artwork and live Cuban music Thursdays through Saturdays in an Old Madrid setting, don’t let the name fool you—this is no cigar joint. *Cohiba* means “excellent” in Cuba’s native Taino language, and the eclectic cuisine of chef Roberto Ferrer is worthy of the superlative. The menu dazzles with original pastas like saffron risotto paella and fresh cannelloni stuffed with shredded oxtail stew, savory steaks, and seafood (the plantain-encrusted Chilean sea bass is sensational), and a small but special selection of desserts, including an outstanding coconut crème brûlée. Cohiba is popular with Latinos, but foodies of all backgrounds are discovering this place, so reservations are suggested. *Mon–Thu 11:30am–3pm and 5:30–10pm, Fri 11:30am–3pm and 5:30pm–midnight, Sat 5:30pm–midnight, Sun 11:30am–3pm and 3–10pm.* \$\$\$ 📍 1930 Ponce de León (Majorca Ave.), 786-999-1330, cohibabrasserie.com

La Goulue Christian Delouvrier • Bal Harbour • French Bistro

Why shouldn’t the exclusive Bal Harbour Shops—home to Chanel, Hermès, and Dior—also boast a designer bistro? Christian Delouvrier, from New York City’s Lespinasse and Alain Ducasse at the Essex House, is the driving force behind this chic Parisian bistro, serving escargot, steak, and frites to ladies who lunch and an impeccably dressed and quite cosmopolitan clientele looking for a sophisticated leisurely dinner, either alfresco or inside the elegant oak façade. Tradition abounds here, both in the décor—mosaic floors and paper-topped tables—and the cuisine, which includes mainstays like mussels and fries, croque monsieur, tarte aux oignons, and chocolate soufflé. The impressive wine list is heavy on the French, as you might expect. All in all, it’s the perfect accompaniment to a day of serious shopping. Try to snag an outside table amid the stylish greenery for the best people-watching. *Daily 11:30am–11pm.* \$\$ 📍 9700 Collins Ave. (96th St.), 305-865-2181, lagouluebalharbour.com

Gansevoort South Hotel • South Beach • Modern (334 rms)

Manhattan moves to Miami Beach with the debut of the long-anticipated Gansevoort South on a whole city block in the up-and-coming luxurious north end of South Beach. There’s a huge DavidBarton Gym + Spa, a sceney rooftop pool, and a grown-up playground, boutiques INCA, Big Drop, and Cutler, and hip restaurant STK. But it’s unmistakably Miami too, with a 50-foot shark tank in the lobby, teepees and fire pits on the palmy beach, a spectacular infinity pool overlooking the Atlantic, a lounge from the Opium Group, and the Cafe Bustelo lounge for all your cafecito needs. Interior designer Andi Pepper and architect Stephen B. Jacobs have given the ultramodern lobby whimsical touches, like rainbow-colored lighting and massive armchairs, while oversize rooms feature gray suede walls with hot pink accents and, in most cases, large balconies overlooking the ocean or bay. \$\$\$\$ 2377 Collins Ave. (23rd St.), 305-604-1000 / 866-932-6694, gansevoortsouth.com

Mondrian South Beach • South Beach • Trendy (335 rms)

Jet-setters, welcome: from the folks who brought you Delano and The Shore Club comes Mondrian, an arty extravaganza on the quieter residential end of South Beach, but minutes from the action. Designed by Marcel Wanders, this hotel’s whimsical elements—chandeliers encased in oversize gold bells, a water-front bar beneath an enormous ruffled lampshade, lots of black-and-white motifs—set the stage for fun and fantasy. Bright, open rooms overlook the bay and the ocean and feature upscale niceties like down comforters, TiVo DVR, and Bose iPod speakers. Best bet: Sunset Lounge and pool area, where greenery-covered cabanas, secret pathways, and “kissing corners” are sure to attract paparazzi. \$\$\$\$ 1100 West Ave. (11th St.), 305-514-1500 / 800-697-1791, mondrian-miami.com



Hot & Cool Miami Restaurants

Andu Restaurant Lounge • Brickell • Mediterranean



Located in the still-up-and-coming condo canyon dubbed “upper Brickell,” this restaurant/lounge delivers refined Mediterranean cuisine in a futuristic setting, with lots of glass, high-backed banquettes, and dangling floor-to-ceiling glass bubbles that make it look pricier than it really is. Young professionals, locals, and folks fed up with South Beach attitude are discovering this friendly spot. Signature dishes include milk-fed veal parmigiana and goat cheese-cruste lamb loin, but you could make a meal on appetizers such as Moroccan spiced calamari and Yukon Gold potato gnocchi. Save room for unusual desserts—Florida orange-glazed doughnuts with white hot chocolate are a standout. *Mon–Wed noon–11pm, Thu–Sat noon–midnight, Sun 10am–3pm (bar Sun–Thu noon–2am, Fri–Sat noon–5am).* \$\$ 📍 141 SW Seventh St. (SW Second Ave.), 786-871-7005, andurestaurant.com

Asia de Cuba • South Beach • Latin-Asian

The shiny white restaurant inside the fairy-tale castle that is the Mondrian, this South Beach outpost from the China Grill team is already buzzing with a cosmopolitan see-and-be-seen crowd: A-Rod, Ivana Trump, and Marilyn Manson were among early celeb guests. On the menu are trendy—and pricey—Asian-

Cuban dishes, like *ropa vieja* of duck, Cuban BBQ chicken with Thai coconut sticky rice, and sides of panko-crusting crispy plantain. The generous servings are meant for sharing, the service is top-notch, and the dramatic waterfront setting is ideal for a romantic dinner or a celebration. *Sun–Thu 7am–3pm and 6–11pm, Fri–Sat 7am–3pm and 6pm–midnight.* \$\$\$\$   [Mondrian South Beach, 1200 West Ave. \(11th St.\), 305-514-1940, chinagrillimgt.com](#)



Badrutt's Place • Brickell • International

Swiss finesse comes to Brickell in the form of this Euro-chic restaurant/lounge from the owners of the Badrutt's Palace Hotel in St. Moritz. The vibe is one of upscale luxury—cognac and Champagne, caviar, a Davidoff Cigar Lounge, and cozy leather banquettes to cuddle in. For meals, look for rich dishes like veal Pojarsky, tortelloni stuffed with porcini, and New York strip steaks, all impeccably prepared. Badrutt's has also brought back a fine tradition, the three-martini lunch: a brasserie meal, accompanied by three signature martinis. Yikes. A good-looking crowd includes local professionals, bankers, and business types, plus beautiful women tired of South Beach mayhem. *Mon–Fri 11:30am–3am, Sat 6pm–3am.* \$\$\$   [1250 S. Miami Ave. \(Coral Way\), 305-415-0070, badrutts-place.com](#)

Blu la Pizzeria de Sole • Brickell • Italian

Part of the bustling Mary Brickell Village, Blu brings much more than a buzzy bar scene—the food is simply terrific. Choose your favorite pizza or panino, baked in a wood-burning oven, or try house-made pasta dishes, antipasti, fish, or veal. While everything tastes authentically Italian (the executive chef was born near Rome), there are some unusual healthy options: All pizzas are available with crust made from organic soy flour, and no trans fats are used. Still, it's easy to overindulge in this convivial stone and wood space. Sidewalk and outdoor dining is especially appealing on cool evenings. *Daily 11:30am–midnight.* \$   [7201 SW 59th Ave. \(Sunset Dr.\), 305-666-9285, blurestaurantsgroup.com](#)



Bourbon Steak • Aventura • Steak House

Acclaimed chef Michael Mina brings his considerable talents to Aventura's Fairmont Turnberry Isle Resort & Club in the form of a modern American steak house. As at Mina's Las Vegas outpost, Stripsteak at Mandalay, center stage is a wood-burning grill for prime meats like American Kobe and Japanese A5 (the highest designation) Kobe, which are first poached in butter. Specialties like duck-fat French fries, butter-poached lobster, and roasted whole foie gras appetizers fill your fat quota for the next decade or so. A stunning glass-box entry welcomes guests, who can dine in the mirrored dining room or the casual tavern and bar area. Ask for table 101, a cozy banquette in the back, for the best view of the sea-and-be-seen guests dressed to the nines. This destination restaurant is a 45-minute drive from downtown or South Beach. *Sun–Thu 5:30–10:30pm, Fri–Sat 5:30–11pm.* \$\$\$   [The Fairmont Turnberry Isle Resort & Club, 19999 W. Country Club Drive \(199th St.\), 786-279-6600, michaelmina.net](#)

Christabelle's Quarter • Coconut Grove • Cajun-Creole

This Big Easy hot spot in good-times-lovin' Coconut Grove is up and over the top, with a massive stained-glass ceiling dome, wrought-iron railings, lavishly carved bars, a grand staircase, gaslights, and gaudy chandeliers. The Cajun-Creole cuisine—oysters, crawfish, gumbo, seafood, and steaks—is more

Level 25, Conrad Miami • Downtown • Global

Business travelers—especially those staying in the Brickell financial district—can get the most bang for their buck with a visit to Level 25, Conrad Miami's sky-high dining and entertainment venue. The newly renovated space includes Atrio, with progressive global fare like lavender-dusted rack of lamb and pomegranate and molasses-glazed squab, paired with wines from the Wine Attic. But it's the bar that makes this high-rise worth a visit: Make your way through the specialty-cocktail menu while snacking on Spanish small plates, and gaze out at gorgeous Biscayne Bay and the glittering city skyline along with your cosmopolitan companions during happy hour. Inside and out, the views are breathtaking. *The Bar and the Wine Attic daily 6:30am–11pm. Atrio Sun–Thu 6:30am–10:30pm, Fri–Sat 6:30am–11pm.*   [1395 Brickell Ave. \(SE 14th St.\), 305-503-6500, conradmiami.com](#)

Outdoors Miami Attractions

C Madeleine's • North Miami • Shop

Where do fashionistas go when they crave a 1970s Missoni floral palazzo pantsuit or a shoulder-padded Thierry Mugler suit from the '80s? Why, C Madeleine's, of course. Madeleine Hirsh has been hand-picking some of the finest vintage pieces from top designers—Yves St. Laurent, Galanos, Halston, Ungaro, to name-drop just a few—for the *Sex and the City* folks, Naomi Campbell, and Gloria Estefan, among many others. Poke through her 10,000-square-foot store for fashion, accessories, jewelry, and decorative design from some of the finest names in the biz. *Mon–Sat 11am–6pm, Sun noon–5pm.* [13702 Biscayne Blvd. \(NE 135th St.\), 305-945-7770, shop.cmadeleines.com](#)

Key West Express • Virginia Key • Catamaran

In the same time it takes to make the drive from Miami to Key West—about four hours—you could cruise there aboard a 155-foot jet-propelled catamaran, watching dolphins from one of the three roomy decks with a tropical drink in hand. Equipped with flat-screen televisions, a full galley and bar, and indoor and outdoor seating, this new ferry launches from the Miami Seaquarium, taking the scenic water route to the Key West docks, a short walk from the historic city center. You can come back the same day, or return on a different day and beat the traffic that often plagues the Overseas Highway, the only road into the Keys. Ferry service also runs between Key West and Fort Myers and Marco Island in season. Reservations aren't necessary, but are a good idea around peak times. *Departs Miami 8:30am, departs Key West 5:30pm.* \$\$\$\$ [Miami Seaquarium, Rickenbacker Causeway \(Key Biscayne\), 305-361-5326 / 866-593-3779, seakeywestexpress.com](#)

chips. Watch pappardelle and ravioli being made in the dining room. Osso buco, veal dishes, and Dover sole are on the extensive and expensive menu. An extravagant wine list and rich desserts round out the experience. *Mon–Fri noon–3pm and 5pm–11pm, Sat 5pm–11pm.* \$\$\$ 📍 335 S. Biscayne Blvd. (SE Third St.), 305-373-0063, ilgabbianomiami.com

Maison d'Azur • South Beach • French Seafood

If South Beach is America's Riviera, then Maison d'Azur is the elegant and impeccable hideaway where you and your sweetheart settle into a cozy garden nook to dine on caviar sliders, Brittany sardines, and whole Dover sole. Located at the chic Angler's Resort, this gem features Anthony Bourdain protégé Gwenaél Le Pape, from Brittany, at the helm. In addition to unexpected seafood flown in daily, you can expect wonderful mussels with frites, splendid bouillabaisse, perfect tarte tatin, and a memorable crème brûlée. Foodies and South Beach glitterati have discovered this enchanting new dining hot spot. Sure, it's spendy, but service is friendly and professional, the ambience is charming, and Maison d'Azur should be high on your must-visit list. Ask for an outside table. *Mon–Wed and Sun 7am–1am, Thu–Sat 7am–4am.* \$\$\$ 📍 The Angler's, 660 Washington Ave. (Sixth St.), 305-534-9600, maisondazur.net

Por Fin Restaurant & Lounge • Coral Gables • Spanish-Mediterranean

Por fin means “finally” in Spanish, and it did take a while to get this Spanish-Mediterranean restaurant off the ground. The anticipation paid off. Diners have been flocking to the sprawling and elegant two-story building for authentic Spanish comfort food with a few surprises. Try the fried eggs, served with potato cream, potato crisps, Serrano ham, and truffle oil, or the pear *fiocchi*—sweet pear pasta served with crumbled walnuts and sauce made with a bold Asturian cheese. Other highlights include Catalan-style seafood rice and Catalan cannelloni, made daily with pork and chicken. A nice touch: You can order full and half portions. The lounge is warm and inviting, and has become a hot spot for an upscale Latino crowd. *Sun–Tue 11:30am–3:30pm and 5:30–10pm, Wed–Thu 11:30am–3:30pm and 5:30–11pm, Fri–Sat 11:30am–3:30pm and 5:30–midnight.* \$\$\$ 📍 2500 Ponce de León Blvd. (Andalusia Ave.), 305-441-0107, porfinrestaurant.com

Outdoors Miami Nightlife

Heathrow Lounge • South Beach • Live Music

Thank goodness this Washington Avenue club is not patterned after the London airport lounge. Rather, the huge space has rooms reflecting some colorful British-themed icons, including the Wilde Manor and Hyde Park, and a room called the Milk Bar, inspired by *Clockwork Orange*. In the back, the dimly lit Spy Bar features Bond girls serving martinis to canoodling couples on leather couches. Aside from a buzzing dance floor, Heathrow hosts shows (retro soul artist Jamie Lidell paid a recent visit), fashion shows, and indie parties including the long-running Poplife. The crowd is young and beautiful, and likes to party late into the night. *Fri–Sat 10pm–5am.* 📍 681 Washington Ave. (Seventh St.), 305-534-7614, heathrowlounge.com

touristy than haute, but the fun-loving crowd is here to *par-tay*, and the place is packed nearly every night from 9pm on with tourists and professionals getting their drink on. Best bet: Eat elsewhere in the Grove, then head here after dinner for drinks and live jazz. *Daily 5:30pm–midnight.* \$\$ 📍 3157 Commodore Plaza (Grand Ave.), 786-517-5299, christabellesquarter.com

Cita's Italian Chophouse • Coconut Grove • Italian

It's just what the Grove needed: an upscale, fine-dining restaurant that's elegant but informal enough to take advantage of the area's laid-back charm. Cita's fills the bill nicely, serving good pasta, prime steaks, and market-fresh seafood, and drawing a friendly and appreciative crowd. Diners start out with a decidedly un-Italian (but delicious) popover. The expansive menu lists antipasti and carpacci; risotti and pastas, including homemade fettuccine and ravioli; and prime steak from all-natural, hormone- and antibiotic-free livestock. The house specialty: a 32-ounce Tomahawk rib eye. In true Grove style, there's sidewalk seating plus a stylish interior with white leather banquettes, but your best bet is a seat in the candlelit garden patio. *Mon–Thu 5–11pm, Fri 5pm–midnight, Sat 11am–3pm and 5pm–midnight, Sun 11am–3pm and 5–11pm.* \$\$ 📍 3176 Commodore Plaza (Grand Ave.), 305-446-2207, citasitalianchophouse.com

DeVito South Beach • South Beach • Italian


Actor Danny DeVito is the star power behind this South Beach hot spot that's attracted celebs like Rosie O'Donnell, Andy Garcia, and the cast of *The Sopranos*. It's also become an instant favorite of local high rollers dressed to impress, who order \$22 truffle martinis at the lively downstairs bar. Amid lush 1940s-inspired elegance, Venetian chandeliers, and Italian marble tabletops, DeVito serves pricey Italian chophouse cuisine, with sophisticated dishes like porcini gnocchi and lobster risotto playing alongside sublime steaks. These include the signature extravaganza, the Global Steak Flight: premium Kobe steak from three different continents, at a cool \$325 (though it serves two or three). Finish off the meal with cannoli. Choose an outside table—you'll feel like a *principessa* in a palazzo. *Mon–Fri noon–3pm and 5–11:45pm, Sat–Sun 5pm–1am.* \$\$\$ 📍 150 Ocean Dr. (First St.), 305-531-0911, devitosouthbeach.com

Ishq • South Beach • Indian


When you walk past this small but stylish restaurant on Ocean Drive, the irresistible perfume of Indian spices is too enticing to pass up. *Ishq—love* in Urdu—serves chic Indian fare under big umbrellas on the terrace, and in the cozy inside dining room. Start with a specialty cocktail (the Diwana, with gin, fresh mint, and cucumber, is especially refreshing) and move on to appetizers: samosas, spicy kebabs, and crisp pakora (fritters). You'll also find excellent fresh seafood, traditional vegetarian dishes, meats and kebabs cooked in tandoor ovens, and eclectic creations like Bombay baby back ribs and Taj trout with cilantro pesto. It's romantic, exotic, and well worth a visit. *Mon–Fri 11:30am–3pm and 6–11pm, Sat–Sun 11:30am–4pm and 6pm–midnight.* \$ 📍 530 Ocean Dr. (Fifth St.), 305-532-4747, ishqsouthbeach.com

Kobe Club • South Beach • Steak House


From the China Grill folks comes the Miami outpost of their hot Kobe Club in New York, delivering hundreds of samurai swords, red-hot star power, and sizzling steaks. American, Australian, and Japanese wagyu plus American prime

are available alone or in “mix and match” smaller portions, and starters and sides are equally extravagant: grilled foie gras “steak” and lobster and Parmesan truffled french fries. The space is small—52 seats—and seductive, and don’t be surprised when you spot pro athletes dining out here. There’s an outdoor lounge area, and a handy late-night menu available Thu–Sat 11:30pm–2am. *Sun–Wed 7–11pm, Thu–Sat 7pm–2am.* \$\$\$  404 Washington Ave. (Fifth St.), 305-673-5370, chinagrillmgt.com


La Marea • South Beach • Mediterranean

The pale, elegant restaurant at the austere Tides has relaunched under the guidance of executive chef Pietro Rota, an Italian native who has brought fresh seafood flown in daily and sprightly Mediterranean flavors to this stylish venue. Imported loup de mer, fresh sardines, and whole dorade are filleted tableside and served with rare salts and olive oil, while pasta dishes include such specialties as bigoli (whole wheat pasta) and paccheri (artisan rigatoni) with pork cheeks and porcini mushrooms. Ideal for a romantic evening, it’s pricey, special-occasion dining that will be even more memorable if you get a table on the terrace, where lush shrubs provide privacy from noisy Ocean Drive. *Daily 7–11am, noon–5pm, and 6–11pm.* \$\$\$  1220 Ocean Dr. (12th St.), 305-604-5070, tidessouthbeach.com

Loftin’s 1116 Ocean • South Beach • International

You can’t ask for a more stunning setting than Casa Casuarina. The one-time Versace mansion was bought in 2000 by businessperson Peter Loftin, who restored Versace’s extravagant vision. As a private club, Casa has hosted celebs such as Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes and the Clintons; it’s also a tiny boutique hotel with 10 luxurious suites. Now open is the 120-seat restaurant, serving opulent menu items with a backdrop of splendid mosaics, gilded flourishes, and elaborate frescoes. There’s foie gras, lobster, and black truffle, and a Kobe strip loin goes for a heart-stopping \$175. Other entrées, such as black bass and veal chop, are more reasonable, and sides, ranging from parsnip puree to braised shiitake, are large enough to share. Go ahead and splurge—the over-the-top elegance is breathtaking. *Mon–Sat 7–11pm.* \$\$\$\$  1116 Ocean Dr. (11th St.), 305-672-6604, casacasuarina.com


Meat Market • South Beach • Steak House

Yes, another steak house, but it’s well done, South Beach style. From the talents who created the celebrated fare at now-closed Touch, this Lincoln Road restaurant has a loungey raw bar and an extensive seafood menu in addition to steaks. And let’s talk about those steaks: they’re presented in a three-tiered format, starting with simple à la carte selections, moving to ultrapremium cuts, and culminating in house creations like buffalo tenderloin steak with a chili and espresso rub or tropical braised fatty brisket with coconut and mango. Also on the menu: house-made sauces and butters, plus sides like truffle creamed corn, summer squash cobbler, and bacon and onion creamed spinach. *Mon–Thu 5pm–midnight, Fri–Sat 5pm–1am.* \$\$\$\$  915 Lincoln Rd. (Jefferson Ave.), 305-532-0088, meatmarketmiami.com

Ola at Sanctuary • South Beach • Latin American

High-profile chef Douglas Rodriguez has taken his OLA—Of Latin America—concept to several Miami venues. The latest has landed at the chic hideaway the

The Vagabond • Downtown • Club

One of the latest entries to the Overtown club scene, The Vag’s now hosting the popular Back Door Bamby—the long-running party that’s included guests like Madonna, Björk, *NSYNC, Ice T, and various New York City club kids over its eight-year run. Despite all the cool kids, it’s completely unpretentious. On Fridays, DJs spin indie, rock, electro, and classics, and there’s live music too. Twenty- and 30-something hipsters have embraced this venue and its friendly backyard patio complete with tiki hut. Parking’s tough in this dicey neighborhood; a taxi might be your best bet. *Thu–Sat 10pm–5am.*  30 NE 14th St. (N. Miami Ave.), 305-379-0508, thevagabondmiami.com

Arty Party Miami Attractions

Art & Design Night • Design District • Art Gallery

It’s taken years, but finally the Design District has grown into the hip, stimulating neighborhood we knew it could be, thanks in part to half a dozen outstanding restaurants/lounges and the gentrification of surrounding neighborhoods. This monthly open house is a great opportunity for exploring the 18-block neighborhood’s art galleries, decorative design showrooms, boutiques, and cultural happenings. First, make your dinner reservation well in advance for 9pm or later, at Michael’s, Pacific Time, Brosia, Domo Japones, Grass, Fratelli Lyon, or Sheba. Plan to arrive at 7pm, so you’ll have time to wander around and pop in on Art & Design Night events along with the hip crowd. *Second Sat of the month 7–10pm.* N. Miami Avenue and NE 40th St., 305-573-8116, miamidesigndistrict.net

Monsieur • Coral Gables • Spa

Even hard-core *Dirty Jobs*—watching, extreme-fighting aficionados deserve a hot-lather shave and a sports massage in a masculine, earth-tone setting. At least that’s the thinking of the two sisters who opened this day spa for men. Here, guys can get pampered with their choice of spa services—hair cuts and color, beard trimming, waxing, massage, airbrush tanning, facials, and foot and hand treatments—in Zen-tinged, manly serenity. This also means flat-screen TVs tuned to ESPN, free drinks, and personalized service from an all-female staff. For the guy on the go, the express packages—a 30-minute Swedish massage and a rejuvenating mini-facial—offer a quick escape during a hectic business day. *By appointment only Tue–Fri 10am–7pm, Sat 10am–6pm.* 3143 Ponce de León Blvd. (Santander Ave.), 305-774-2931, monsieurspa.com

Outdoors Miami Restaurants

Il Gabbiano • Downtown • Italian

Serious Italian cuisine served with water—Biscayne Bay—makes this place a favorite for power lunches, expense-account dinners, and special events. Il Gabbiano, Italian for “seagull,” is a worthwhile splurge, offering impeccable service, contemporary décor, and a spectacular outside terrace. On the menu: traditional pasta and risotto dishes, meats and seafood, and extras such as complimentary bruschetta and Parmigiano-Reggiano, crusty bread, and zucchini

Arty Party Miami Nightlife

Bin No. 18 • Downtown • Bistro

Staying downtown and looking for a great sandwich or salad? This is the place to go. Don't be deterred by the industrial look and the location in the condo-construction corridor of Biscayne Boulevard near the Carnival Center for the Performing Arts. You are not here for ambience (although the fat barrel tables, quirky chandeliers, and bold paintings scream artsy hangout)—you're here for lusty tapenade, earthy chorizo, and garlicky marinated olives, accompanied by a rustic red wine. Or try some tapas: warm figs brûlée stuffed with blue cheese and topped with balsamic vinegar. It's sophisticated stuff that hits the spot, and the local urban pioneers who hang out here for wine and tapas shouldn't mind some visitors. *Mon–Sat 11am–2pm and 6–11pm.* ☎ 275 NE 18th St. (NE Second Ave.), 786-235-7575

Circa 28 • Downtown • Lounge

This hipster hangout in the up-and-coming Wynwood art district nicely fits the bill, with eclectic décor reminiscent of a Victorian library. With unusual books, a gallery, and oddball music, it's the sort of ambience where you can get a Stella and chat up your hot 20-something neighbor. Head upstairs to the disco-ball dance floor and boogie to live music: indie rock, electro, funk, old and new. It's the opposite of South Beach—affordable drinks, no cover, accessible, and intellectual—and locals would like to keep it that way. *Tue–Wed 9pm–3am, Fri 5pm–5am, Sat 9pm–5am.* ☎ 2826 N. Miami Ave. (NE 28th St.), 305-722-1858, circa28.com

O Asian Grill and Noodle Shop* • South Beach • Restaurant Bar

Combine Asian noodles and grilled foods with a thriving nightlife scene from veteran South Beach party promoters, and you'll get a good idea what this fun restaurant/lounge is all about. After dinner, join the masses congregating around the bar downstairs, which gets progressively busier—and noisier—as the evening progresses. *Sun–Wed 6pm–midnight, Thu–Sat 6pm–1am.* ☎ 330 Lincoln Rd. (Washington Ave.), 305-531-2811, oasiangrill.com

The Red Bar at Maxine's Restaurant and Lounge • South Beach • Lounge

Savvy locals have deemed this the best bar for model-watching, thanks to its huge picture windows and proximity to ultrahip hotels The Delano, The Raleigh, and The Sagamore. But really, this two-level lounge is known for its friendly, accessible vibe and its nightly parties, including Tuesday's karaoke night, Saturday's free salsa lessons, and Sunday pool tournaments. Beautiful folks (and, of course, models) chill with fruity margaritas and caipirinhas in the white-and-red contemporary lounge, or hang out at the Zen Garden outside. Traveling with your Westie? Then head to the Sunday Must Love Dogs brunch for free doggie treats and some delicious challah French toast for you. *Daily 9:30am–3am.* ☎ Catalina Hotel, 1756 Collins Ave., 305-674-3527, catalinahotel.com

Sanctuary, a tiny boutique hotel hidden off Lincoln Road, where the intimate space provides a sleek Zen backdrop for bold dishes like plantain-crust mahimahi and crackling crispy pork. Douglas' creative flair elevates typical Latin specialties like ceviches and empanadas to something close to sublime, thanks to the inventive fusion of Latin American ingredients with Asian, Peruvian, and Mediterranean flavors. Indulge your sweet tooth with the dessert tasting menu, featuring such extreme sugar highs as chocolate tres leches or churros—sweet fritters—with Venezuelan chocolate sauce. Of course, no authentic Latin meal would be complete without a premium hand-rolled Dominican cigar. There's a small bar, but folks are here for the food and the festive ambience. Expect to see a lot of New Yorkers and an older professional crowd in this cozy venue. *Mon–Fri 6:30–11pm, Sat–Sun 6:30pm–1am.* \$\$ ☎ The Sanctuary Hotel, 1745 James Ave. (17th St.), 305-695-9125, sanctuaryso.com

Paradigm at Neomi's • Sunny Isles Beach • Fusion

Wildly creative experimental cuisine, such as the molecular gastronomy made memorable at Chicago's Alinea, seems out of place in touristy Miami. So two chefs, craving the chance to push themselves, have set aside one night a week at Neomi's for Paradigm, a restaurant within a restaurant. For 10 people, the test kitchen presents a menu of 10 to 12 courses, subject to their invention. Menus have featured dishes such as “corn split” (baby corn with butter, corn espuma, truffled huitlacoche, popcorn, and corn nuts) or pulled tongue with Tootsie Roll barbecue sauce. In this intimate setting, chefs talk with diners about their techniques and inspiration. Reserve early for your chance to be a guinea pig. *Thu nights only, by appointment.* \$\$\$\$ ☎ Trump International Resort Hotel, 18001 Collins Ave. (178th St.), 305-692-5604, trumpmiami.com

Rosa Mexicano • Downtown • Mexican

For those who wonder just how upscale Mexican food can be, just try the guacamole and chips at Rosa Mexicano: the dip uses perfectly ripe avocados, the tortilla crisps are crunchy without a trace of grease. And it gets much, much better at this popular new Miami outpost in Mary Brickell Village, stylishly anchored by a stunning interior water wall with statues of hundreds of tiny cliff divers suspended in front. Young professionals and neighborhood condo residents make a packed singles scene every night, and dinner reservations are a must for specialties like tacos with marinated baby goat and delectable cochinita pibil. This is also the place to enjoy tequilas, including the reposado (rested), añejo (aged), and some of Mexico's finest specialty tequilas. *Mon 11:30am–3pm and 5–10pm, Tue–Wed 11:30am–3pm and 5–11pm, Thu–Fri 11:30am–3pm and 5pm–midnight, Sat noon–3pm and 5pm–midnight, Sun noon–3pm and 5–10pm.* \$\$ ☎ Mary Brickell Village, 900 S. Miami Ave. (SE Ninth St.), 786-425-1001, rosamexicano.com

Santo • South Beach • Modern American

One of Lincoln Road's sceniest new restaurants, Santo goes from sidewalk lunch-and-cocktail lounge to dinner spot to partygoer paradise. Early on, it's popular with clusters of pretty young things on cell phones who gather under umbrellas al fresco. This scene gives way to the dressier, more upscale dinner hour. Asian- and Latin-influenced cuisine—seafood, steak, and pasta—is served in a warm rust and ochre dining room with high ceilings, rock walls, and wood floors. And finally, Santo

gets its dance on, with hip-hop, Latin, and R&B events that have attracted Lindsay Lohan, Trick Daddy, and Scott Storch, among other A-listers. *Mon–Thu 11:30am–5:30pm and 6–11pm, Fri–Sat 11:30am–5:30pm and 6pm–midnight, Sun 11:30am–5:30pm and 6–11pm (lounge 11pm–5am).* \$\$\$ 📍 430 Lincoln Rd. (Washington Ave.), 305-532-2882, santomiamibeach.com

Sardinia Enoteca • South Beach • Italian

Bringing you specialties from the second-largest island in the Mediterranean (think imported flatbread with goat cheese and Sardinian honey), this stylish newcomer located in an off-the-beaten-path residential corner of South Beach has already attracted a devoted fan base of locals and in-the-know foodies. While you can eat at the bar, you'd be wise to choose a table—the convivial atmosphere makes this the perfect place to spend a solid couple of hours leisurely dining Italian style. What's on the menu? Malloreddus (teardrop pasta), braised rabbit with leeks, roasted baby suckling pig, desserts like blood-orange sorbetti or hazelnut fritters. Order the antipasti misti—you can choose an assortment of vegetables like olives with wild fennel flowers, roasted beets with pancetta, aged salami, and imported cheese. An impressive assortment of Italian wines is served by the glass. The décor—warm woods, stone, contemporary lines—adds an elegant touch to the splendid rustic cuisine. *Mon–Fri noon–midnight, Sat–Sun 6pm–midnight.* \$\$ 📍 1801 Purdy Ave. (18th St.), 305-531-2228, sardinia-ristorante.com

Hot & Cool Miami Nightlife

Bricks Nightclub and Sky Lounge • Downtown • Dance Club

No need to run over to South Beach for weekend partying—downtown Miami's Brickell Financial District now has its own nightclub for young professionals and business folk, which is particularly handy for visitors staying at nearby business hotels like the Four Seasons. Bricks Nightclub and Sky Lounge has three stylish rooms in which to dance and mingle the night away, plus a serious high-tech sound system for hip-hop and techno, and a dazzling color lighting system. If you need a break from the thump-thump-thump, head to the outdoor patio or sky lounge for excellent views of the skyline. *Fri 5pm–5am, Sat 10pm–5am.* 📍 66 SW Sixth St. (S. Miami Ave.), 305-371-6950, bricksnightclub.com

Cabana One Poolclub & Lounge • Coconut Grove • Hotel Bar

Why should South Beach have the monopoly on sexy rooftop pool bars? Coconut Grove's eclectic Mayfair Hotel & Spa has opened its own rooftop hideaway, with private, curtained cabanas equipped with sofas and flat-screen TVs, splendid views of the skyline and bay, and sounds spun by top DJs. A 35-foot bar serves up the usual libations, as well as some fruity signature cocktails such as the Miami Hurricane. Lest your lounging be too indolent, Cabana One is the only club featuring Nintendo Wii centers (with bottle service, natch) for a virtual workout. Look for Saturday and Sunday pool parties. *Sun–Wed 8am–1am, Thu–Sat 8am–3am.* 📍 3000 Florida Ave. (Virginia St.), 305-441-0000, mayfairhotellandspa.com

Philippe • South Beach • Chinese

Philippe is another facet of the Gansevoort Hotel, infusing New York chic into the fledgling north South Beach area. Chic Chinese it is, all black-lacquered floors with red and white accents over two dramatic levels and an astonishing 400 seats. Be prepared for a pricey evening: Specialty drinks start at 15 bucks (but the fresh blueberry-filled Midnight Mojito is worth it), and even simple satays and lettuce wraps can top \$20. Snag a seat near the glass-enclosed kitchen, and you can watch chef Wai Ming Cheng magically spin his handmade noodles. You can do takeout here, but then you'd miss the undeniable buzz of visiting celebs such as Dennis Rodman. *Sun–Wed noon–4pm and 6pm–midnight, Thu–Sat noon–4pm and 6pm–1am.* \$\$\$\$ 📍 Hotel Gansevoort, 2305 Collins Ave. (23rd St.), 305-674-0250, philippechow.com

The Smoking Rabbit • South Beach • British

The gastropub concept comes to South Beach in the form of this mellow hangout on Ocean Drive. You'll find upscale comfort food like macaroni and cheese, bangers and mash, and great burgers with fries. There's also a decent selection of beers, imported and domestic, in a setting that's cozy and woodsy. Prices are moderate, with plenty of bar snacks and small plates—a welcome addition on South Beach—and the Smoking Rabbit is attracting some scenesters on this otherwise touristy strip of Ocean Drive. Amazingly, the courtyard tables are charming and quiet, and feel far removed from the hubbub out front. *Daily 11am–1am.* 📍 510 Ocean Dr. (Fifth St.), 305-531-2100, thesmokingrabbit.com

Soya & Pomodoro • Downtown Miami • Italian

If you're downtown searching for an impressive business-lunch venue, skip the big-bucks steak houses and head directly to this skinny space wedged between discount jewelry and electronics stores. Soya & Pomodoro is simply a treasure. Locals love the Bohemian ambience of this historic bank building—arches adorned with painted flowers, mismatched sofas and bookcases, even brass elevator doors in the back—and the Italian food is impeccably prepared, from simple panini and salads to inspired pasta dishes and fish and seafood plates. It's expanding beyond the lunch hour, offering live music on Thursday and Friday nights. *Mon–Wed 11:30am–4:30pm, Thu–Fri 11:30am–11:30pm.* \$\$ 📍 120 NE First St. (NE First Ave.), 305-381-9511, soyapomodoro.com

Sra. Martinez • Downtown Miami • Tapas (G)

One of Miami's most renowned chefs, Michelle Bernstein of Michy's, is behind this trendy tapas bar located in a former post office in the Design District. Foodie fans turn out for sexy Spanish comfort foods. From simple pan con tomate to a crazy-rich pork belly topped with orange and fennel marmalade, Sra. Martinez focuses on small plates with concentrated flavors and—frankly—lots of satisfying fat. Think fried eggplant drizzled with honey, crunchy potatoes served with seasoned mayo, and duck and foie gras sausages with white beans. Menus are delivered in silly hand-addressed envelopes (it was a post office, get it?); service is casual but friendly; and every small bite is delish. *Mon–Wed 6–11pm, Thu 6pm–midnight, Fri–Sat 6pm–1:30am.* \$\$\$ 📍 4000 NE Second Ave. (NE 40th St.), 305-573-5474

while diners stick around for pork shoulder with cheese grits and local snapper with roasted fennel, and finish off with upscale comfort foods like caramelized banana upside-down cake. Dishes range from small plates to extra large, so you can graze or gorge. Tip: The extra-large portions can serve two. *Mon–Thu 11:30am–3pm and 5:30–11pm, Fri 11:30am–3pm and 5:30pm–midnight, Sat 6pm–midnight, Sun 5:30–10pm.* \$\$\$ 📍 130 NE 40th St. (NE First Ave.), 305-573-5550, michaelsgenuine.com

Mint Leaf Indian Brasserie • Coral Gables • Indian

Upscale Indian cuisine was largely unknown in these parts until this Indian-by-way-of-London brasserie opened in Coral Gables. It certainly fills a hole in the restaurant scene: a wide-ranging menu that includes chaat (Bombay street foods), South Indian specialties like dosa (rice crepes stuffed with savory fillings), and tandoori meats and breads. You'll likely see well-dressed Indian families alongside local curry junkies in this elegant, contemporary Asian space. Chicken, lamb, and seafood dishes are excellent, but the best way to go is to order repeated rounds from the extensive appetizers menu and dine tapas-style while watching the latest Bollywood videos and enjoying a cold Kingfisher beer. *Daily noon–2:45pm and 6–10:45pm.* \$\$\$ 📍 276 Alhambra Cir. (Salzedo St.), 305-443-3739, mintleafib.com

O Asian Grill and Noodle Shop* • South Beach • Asian

Combine Asian noodles and grilled foods and a thriving nightlife scene from veteran South Beach party promoters, and you'll get a good idea of what this fun restaurant/lounge is all about. During the day, a hip first-floor noodle counter efficiently dishes out hot soup noodles, stir-fried noodles, and chilled noodles with chicken, shrimp, or tofu toppings, a tasty stop if you're touring Lincoln Road. At night, the action moves to the back of the house, where a large bar gets hopping around 10pm or so. Upstairs, the Asian-chic restaurant features an open kitchen where chefs prepare Asian-style barbecue. Choose a table overlooking the bar below for prime people-watching. Begin your evening with a signature cocktail featuring Japanese shochu and infused with rare flavors: Naru-Kami, with tamarind and shochu, or perhaps a Juojin, made of muddled Asian-pear purée, shochu, and Champagne. Main dishes include grilled miso black cod and steamed sea bass, or choose from the kushiyaki dishes, which consist of skewered meat, seafood, or vegetables, cooked on a charcoal grill and served with dipping sauces. *Sun–Wed 6pm–midnight, Thu–Sat 6pm–1am.* \$\$\$ 📍 330 Lincoln Rd. (Washington Ave.), 305-531-2811, oasiangrill.com

Pacific Time • Design District • Regional/Asian

One of two more reasons the Design District is now Miami's must-visit neighborhood for foodies (see also Fratelli Lyon), Pacific Time is back, delighting its fans with eclectic, Asian-inspired dishes from local chef Jonathan Eismann. A favorite on Lincoln Road before closing in that location last year, Pacific Time—like stellar Michael's Genuine across the street—makes abundant use of seasonal items with Asian flavors, resulting in treats like sautéed grouper with red curry, bananas, and coconut water. Small plates let you taste more (but you can double servings if you want), and prices are refreshingly reasonable. Dine alfresco in the spacious courtyard, done up in casual urban chic with artsy Design District flair. *Sun–Thu 5:30–11pm, Fri–Sat 5:30pm–midnight.* \$\$\$ 📍 35 NE 40th St. (N. Miami Ave.), 305-722-7369

Cameo • South Beach • Nightclub

The former crobar has been reincarnated as the Cameo (and Vice, the VIP club inside), a mega-dance club inside a historic Art Deco theatre. It's ginormous—10,000 square feet of dance space on the main floor, plus a 6,000-square-foot glass-enclosed VIP area upstairs—and it's disco-delicious, with world-class DJs spinning from a disco ball. Celebs make Cameo a stop (K-Fed and Ashlee Simpson are recent guests), as do any and all partygoers who want to dance, dance, dance. The door can be tough, and the usual rules apply: get on the guest list (ask the concierge) and be a good-looking female. On weekends, get in before midnight when the action starts—after that, the line stretches down the block. *Thu–Sun 11pm–5am.* 📍 1445 Washington Ave. (15th St.), 305-532-1667, cameomiami.com

Club Nikki Coconut Grove • Coconut Grove • Lounge

Coconut Grove gets a long-overdue shot of chic with Club Nikki, part of the Nikki Beach Club empire, with clubs in South Beach, Marbella, St. Tropez ... well, you get the picture. Head here anytime to chill to tunes from European DJs, hang out at an exceptionally beautiful happy hour, or dine on Asian-inspired cuisine. The ambience is purely plush: white curtains, champagne beds, lounge chairs. While there's no beach here, the cool vibe neatly manages to neutralize the touristy scene that has hurt the Grove in recent years, and stars like Michael Jordan and his entourage have already hung out here. Make reservations for the languorous Sunday brunch, served 11am–4pm. Club Nikki is next to the Sonesta Bayfront Hotel and in the heart of the downtown district, and walking distance from Mayfair and the Ritz-Carlton. *Cafe 7am–11pm. Lounge 11pm–late.* 📍 2889 McFarlane Rd. (Main Hwy.), 305-476-3600, nikkibeach.com

The Florida Room • South Beach • Lounge

Debuting at Art Basel Miami 2007, The Living Room is Delano's hot lounge, designed by Lenny Kravitz's design firm and inspired by the piano lounges of the '50s as well as Kravitz's aunt's house. Located in a basement space that used to be the gym, the speakeasy includes crystal chandeliers, smartly attired wait staff, and fresh raspberry mojitos. It didn't take long for word to get out about this clubby hideaway—Jamie Foxx celebrated his 40th there, with Timbaland, Busta Rhymes, and Sean Paul joining him—and word is that Lenny Kravitz hangs out here, too. Look for live music during the early evening, and DJs spinning for late-night guests. Check with the concierge about getting in, since the space is limited to 200. *Daily 8pm–4am.* 📍 1685 Collins Ave. (17th St.), 305-672-2000, delano-hotel.com

Funkshion • South Beach • Dance Club

Just look for the clusters of leggy young women and hottie males lining up to get into this Lincoln Road fashion-and-art-themed restaurant/lounge. Its cool modern décor features images of models, and the Fashion Channel is shown on big-screen TVs. A young and fun-loving crowd turns out for funky music, fashion shows, and gay cabaret, while the restaurant serves fashionable fare—salads and pasta, Mediterranean dishes, fondue, and shabu shabu—in three menu categories: art, fashion, and music. Look for the Funkshion Fashion Week Miami Beach every spring, which hosts shows and events at the lounge and throughout the area. If you're in the fashion biz, you'll enjoy this trendy lounge, and if you're not, come for

the spectacular eye candy. There's no oppressive door policy here, but do dress to fit in with the fashionista crowd. *Sun–Thu 6pm–2am, Fri–Sat 6pm–5am.* ☏ 1116 Lincoln Rd. (Lenox Ave.), 305-673-0554, funkshionlounge.com

Halo Lounge • South Beach • Bar

A breath of fresh air for the South Beach gay scene, Halo is the polar opposite of the dark and smoky bar. Instead, you'll find a cigarette-free, minimalist décor with cozy seating, low-key lighting, and quiet music just right for conversations. A South Florida outpost of the Washington, DC, martini bar, Halo features unique signature cocktails made with fresh ingredients—like the watermelon purée-based Summer Crush, the Elderflower Fizz, or the Blackberry & Sage Sour, to name just a few—that seem downright healthy. Drinks are buy one, get one free during the daily happy hour (3–6pm), and every Sunday at noon it's the Bloody Mary Afternoon. Jeans and flip-flops are approved attire. *Daily 3pm–3am.* ☏ 1625 Michigan Ave. (Lincoln Rd.), 305-534-8181, haloloungemiami.com

Ink • South Beach • Dance Club

One of South Beach's newest nightspots, tattoo-themed Ink lures the usual A-list suspects—the Hilton sisters, rappers, sports stars—to its sexy ultralounge with fashion parties and celeb outings. The intimate space has two rooms where DJs spin a variety of tunes from house to hip-hop, and an expert tattoo artist is on hand to temporarily tat guests. Parties nearly every night of the week attract a loyal following, and the scene heats up after midnight. Have your concierge put you on the guest list, and make sure to dress up—the dress code is very strict. Or head next door to freshen up: Ink's own clothing line—Ink Angels and Ink Devils—is sold next door at I Boutique. *Wed–Sun 10pm–5am.* ☏ 717 Washington Ave. (Seventh St.), 305-531-4465, inknightlife.com

Karu & Y • Downtown Miami • Nightclub

This extravagant nightclub/lounge/restaurant complex opened to great fanfare on the outskirts of a dicey inner-city neighborhood and then closed down after a couple of years. Now it's risen from the ashes as a high-profile party palace. With A-list entertainment like DJ Samantha Ronson and GF Lindsay Lohan, *Girls Next Door* star Kendra Wilkinson, Tommy Lee, Akon, and Diddy, plus events like Studio 54 nights and the Official Playboy New Year's Eve Party, Karu & Y is serious about being a big player again. Five rooms, lush waterfalls, dramatic lighting, throbbing sound systems, and the cool outdoor Buddha Gardens are all good reasons to visit. *Thu–Sat 10pm–5am.* ☏ 71 NW 14th St. (NW Miami Ct.), 305-403-7850, karu-y.com

LIV Nightclub • Mid-Beach • Nightclub

Huge, loud, and over-the-top, LIV (pronounced “liv”) and representing the Roman numerals for 54, the year the Fontainebleau opened) is the fabulously revamped Fontainebleau's 30,000-square-foot nightclub. It's already celeb central – Beyonce, Jay Z, the Hilton sisters, Pamela Anderson, and Gloria and Emilio Estefan have partied here – and there's plenty of room for everyone, with three full-service bars, six private skyboxes, sexy dancers, pounding hip-hop, house and rock, and a voyeuristic design that lets you see and be seen from everywhere. If you want the ultimate Miami Beach club experience, don your sexiest duds and LIV a little. *Fri–Sat 10pm–close.* ☏ Fontainebleau Miami Beach, 4441 Collins Ave. (44th St.), 305-674-4680, livnightclub.com

polenta and warm octopus and chickpea salad. Look for a wide-ranging wine list, from affordable table wines to fine Amarones and Super Tuscans. *Mon–Wed 11:30am–9:30pm, Thu 11:30am–10:30pm, Fri–Sat 11:30am–11:30pm.* \$\$\$ ☏ 2506 NW Second Ave. (25th St.), 305-438-0488, joeyswynwood.com

Joley at Hotel Astor • South Beach • American

The low-key and impeccably stylish Astor has gone through fits and starts with its restaurant over the past several years, but it looks like it has hit upon the winning recipe with Joley. Chef John Suley, who has worked with Daniel Boulud, among other top chefs, prepares inventive American cuisine: roasted chestnut soup with smoked bacon, braised beef short rib with truffled white grits, and earthy roasted beets. The Astor has always attracted sophisticated and discerning guests, and Joley fits in perfectly. Opt for outdoor dining to complete this satisfying experience. *Mon–Thu 7am–11am and 6–11pm, Fri–Sat 7am–11am and 6pm–midnight, Sun 6–11pm.* \$\$\$ ☏ 956 Washington Ave. (Ninth St.), 305-531-8081, hotelastor.com

Le P'tit Paris Fine Bakery and Café • Coconut Grove • French

With its winding cobblestone streets, sidewalk cafes, and occasional street performers, the Grove has always had a bit of a Parisian air. Add this authentic cafe and crepe bar that turns into a lounge in the evenings, and voilà! Instant Paris, South Florida style. For breakfast, Le P'tit Paris really sparkles, serving buttery croissants and crepes, flaky pastries, and dark, rich café au lait. There's comforting quiche and sandwiches for lunch and bistro fare for dinner. On balmy evenings, when you're in the mood for laid-back lounging instead of hard-core clubbing, head inside. The warm red bar is the ideal place to nurse a Pernod and contemplate the crowd. *Daily 8am–midnight.* \$\$\$ ☏ 3464 Main Hwy. (Commodore Plaza), 305-445-7331, leptitparis.us

Lido Restaurant and Bayside Grill • South Beach • Mediterranean

Housed in the very cool Standard, this indoor restaurant features Scandinavian decor so retro hip that there are potted ferns dangling from macramé hangers. But head for the outdoor grill for extraordinary views of the bay. This idyllic setting is a splendid backdrop for inventive Mediterranean-inspired cuisine—small plates of fresh grilled green beans and asparagus, or beet carpaccio salad—or choose meat and fish marinated with olive oil and herbs de Provence, with side greens and grains to mix and match. Service is hip and efficient, catering to the youngish crowd looking for a laid-back alternative to noisy South Beach. After dinner, there's bingo in the lobby. *Mon–Thu 7am–4pm and 6–10:30pm, Fri–Sat 7am–4pm and 6pm–midnight, Sun 7am–4pm and 6–10:30pm.* \$\$ ☏ The Standard Miami, 40 Island Ave. (Venetian Causeway), 305-673-1717, standardhotel.com

Michael's Genuine Food & Drink • Design District • American

Miami's Design District—hip but sometimes deserted on weekends—got a welcome jolt of activity when this smallish bistro opened in Atlas Plaza, showcasing the unpretentious and utterly delicious food of chef Michael Schwartz. The space is modern and warm, with dramatic light fixtures and oversize paintings worthy of the neighborhood. But food is the star here, and the place buzzes with young and older sophisticates who love lusty flavors in dishes that celebrate local and organic ingredients. The happy-hour crowd enjoys snacks like crispy hominy dusted with chile and lime, and thick-cut potato chips with onion dip,

downtown workers, plus designers, architects, and artists who order meze plates, great burgers, and pasta (the unusual pappardelle with Maine lobster, mint, and fennel hits the spot). At night, the courtyard is perfect for tapas and white sangria. *Mon–Fri 8am–11am and 11:30am–11pm, Sat–Sun 5–11pm.* \$\$ ☒ 163 NE 39th St. (N. Miami Ave.), 305-572-1400, brosiamiami.com

Dolores But You Can Call Me Lolita • Brickell • Mediterranean

Its name a bit more than three steps down the palate, this restaurant with a dreamy open-air lounge surrounded by glowing high-rises is appropriately young and seductive. Housed in a historic firehouse located in the hot Brickell district, Dolores But ... serves mostly Spanish-inspired dishes like veal churrasco and pork tenderloin to a stylish clientele of after-work professionals, Latinos, and youngish residents of this newly popular hood. Two thoughtful details: an appetizer comes with every entrée, and desserts are crazy cheap—\$2.50 for tiramisu or coconut crème brûlée—making them a tasty temptation. *Mon–Fri 11:30am–3:30pm and 6–11:30pm, Sat 6pm–1am.* \$\$ ☒ 1000 S. Miami Ave. (SW 10th St.), 305-403-3103, doloreslolita.com

Domo Japonese • Design District • Japanese

Ever since Michael's Genuine started bringing regulars to the Design District every night, sophisticated nightspots have started sprouting up in the hood. One of those is Domo Japonese, a bistro located in a former 1920s post office glowing with historic charm, warm hardwood floors, and cozy leather booths. The sushi chef, formerly at Nobu, brings to the table outstanding sushi and sashimi, miso cod, and creative dishes using local ingredients. At Domo Japonese, you'll find foodies who are finding new reasons to rediscover this arts district and local scenesters hanging out at the ultrahip bar. *Mon–Wed noon–3pm and 6–11pm, Thu–Fri noon–3pm and 6pm–midnight, Sat 6pm–midnight.* \$\$ ☒ 4000 NW Second Ave. (40th St.), 305-553-5474, domojaponese.com

Fratelli Lyon • Design District • Italian

Another Lincoln Road expat of sorts (Lyon Frères et Compagnie was a '90s fixture), Ken Lyon and his Design District cafe are attracting Slow Food aficionados. Noteworthy is Lyon's dedication to sourcing artisanal and environmentally sound products, like sustainable seafood and grass-fed beef, and he has a water filtration system that provides still and sparkling waters for homemade sodas (including pomegranate and blood orange). The intensely Italian menu showcases antipasti, pasta, pizza, meat, seafood, sides, and desserts, all deliciously authentic. Another nice touch: It's housed in the design store Driade, which supplies the sleek Eurostyle fixtures and tableware. *Mon–Thu 10am–10pm, Fri–Sat 10am–midnight.* \$\$ ☒ 4141 NE Second Ave. (NE 41st St.), 305-572-2901, fratelliyon.com

Joey's Italian Cafe • Downtown Miami • Italian

The up-and-coming Wynwood Arts District, just south of the Design District, home to alternative art fairs during Art Basel, edgy galleries, and the Museum of Contemporary Art at Goldman Warehouse, now features its first new restaurant in years. Joey's, a Mediterranean bistro aiming to draw everyone from semi-starving artists to Art Basel high rollers, features classic dishes from Venice and other regions, with three-course prix fixe lunches and dinners and à la carte menu items. The menu spans basic pizzas to regional Italian fare like lamb chops with

Love Hate Lounge • South Beach • Lounge

From *Miami Ink* stars Ami James and Chris Nuñez comes this cozy bar and nightclub with a tattoo parlor theme that includes some motorcycle and car culture. Located in the trendy South of Fifth neighborhood, it's laid-back and friendly, with tattoo art, warm brick, and live music that goes from hip-hop to ska. The crowd is youngish, happy, and good-looking, and there's no attitude. Don't be surprised if you run into celebs like Ricky Martin. The Lonely Hearts party on Monday nights is especially popular. *Daily 9pm–5am.* ☒ 423 Washington Ave. (Fifth St.), 305-695-8616, lovehatelounge.com

Mokai • South Beach • Bar

This sizzling nightspot, named after a New Zealand canyon where *The Lord of the Rings* was filmed, isn't large, but it manages to pack megawatt celebs into its intimate, Polynesian-inspired space. Located in the north end of South Beach near the Setai and the under-construction W Hotel, this cozy ultralounge is meant for hanging out rather than dancing—there are only 22 tables and bottle service delivered by Hugo Boss-clad staff. Expect a tough door policy (women have a better chance of getting in, but everyone should dress to impress), but if you do make it past the velvet rope, you might spot the likes of Wilmer Valderrama, Lindsay Lohan, Scarlett Johansson, Justin Timberlake, or Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes. Best bet for entry: Ask your concierge to reserve you a table. *Tue–Sat 10pm–5am.* ☒ 235 23rd St. (Collins Ave.), 305-531-4166, mokaimiami.com

Parkwest Nightclub • Downtown • Dance Club

The largest addition to the downtown club scene is the massive Parkwest Nightclub, a 6,000-square-foot club for fashionable clubbers. With five bars, VIP areas, and lounge seating, the space is meant to dazzle—there's a huge LED wall, top-of-the-line sound and lighting systems, and other high-energy bells and whistles. The look is crimson and black, with stunning contemporary murals, fab chandeliers, and revolving environmental installations. It's open on weekends only—the popular weekly Stereo party on Fridays draws stylish 20-somethings. Check online for theme parties and concerts. *Fri–Sat 10pm–5am.* ☒ 30 NE 11th St. (N. Miami Ave.), 305-532-2667, stereomiami.com

Plunge Rooftop Lounge • South Beach • Lounge

Like its New York counterpart, the rooftop lounge Plunge is entertaining celebrities and beautiful South Beach types at the shiny new Gansevoort South. Eighteen stories above the ocean, the palm-lined 110-foot adults-only pool—used as a tennis court by 2008 Wimbledon champ Rafael Nadal and contender Serena Williams to promote the Sony Ericsson 2008 Open—is the central focal point, and sweeping views of the Atlantic and the Miami Beach skyline take your breath away. Or you can watch flat-screen TVs in colorful cabanas (reserve bottle service for these), or hang out on white couches drinking pricey cocktails while listening to DJs spin. It's a popular party venue: Former *NSYNC member Lance Bass celebrated his 29th birthday here. *Daily 6pm–3am.* ☒ 2377 Collins Ave. (W. 24th St.), 305-604-1000, gansevoortsouth.com

Segafredo Brickell • Brickell • Nightclub

The happening Brickell area gets more Euro-hip lounge space with Segafredo and its weekend nightclub, Spazio Nero. The huge resto/lounge/nightclub

includes a dark coffee bar with barstools, an indoor restaurant with signature red leather couches, and an outdoor cafe. There's a lot you can do here: Grab an espresso and pastry and take advantage of free Internet, enjoy a Negroni and cigarette at the patio bar, or have beer and a pizza while watching European soccer. At Spazio Nero, DJs keep the Euro sound going until 5am on weekends, making this one of the few joints in this 'hood to keep late hours. *Sun–Wed 10am–2am, Thu–Sat 10am–5am. Spazio Nero Thu–Sat 11pm–5am.* ☎ 1421 S. Miami Ave. (SW 14th St.), 305-577-9809, segafredobrickell.com

SET Night Club • South Beach • Nightclub

Elegant, snooty, and one of the toughest doors in town, this latest offering from the folks who brought megaclubs Opium Garden, Privé, and Mansion to South Beach promises and delivers glittering celebrities and nonstop glamour. On Lincoln Road, SET's set is dramatic light and sound, but it's the star power that dazzles: Simon, Paula, and Ryan hung out here when *American Idol* came to town; Anna Kournikova, Derek Jeter, and Gisele Bündchen party at SET; Britney's been here, too. Whenever there's a big event—Super Bowl, New Year's Eve, even Miami Fashion Week—this place is packed. Ask your concierge to get you on the guest list. Check out the popular party called Rotten Apples Thursdays for house music and upscale hipsters. *Thu–Sat 11pm–5am.* ☎ 320 Lincoln Rd. (Washington Ave.), 305-531-5535, setmiami.com

Hot & Cool Miami Attractions

Arrive Miami • South Beach • Shop

Let's be frank—a visit to Miami is all about looking beautiful. And while South Beach is not a major shopping destination, fortunately there are a few places here where you can outfit yourself head to toe effortlessly. Arrive Miami is one of the few prescient boutiques in town, catering to globe-trotters both male and female. We can drop a few names in fashion, shoes, apothecary, accessories, books, video, and music: Margiela, Sass & Bide, Malin+Goetz, Yohji Yamamoto, Visvim, Grey Ant, Tracey Matthews Design, Onitsuka Tiger + Tokidoki. You'll find cutting-edge stuff in a sleek environment here, and the store is involved in some of Miami's major fashion events, like Funkshion's Fashion Show each spring. *Mon–Thu noon–9pm, Fri–Sat noon–10pm, Sun 1–8pm.* 100 16th St. (Collins Ave.), 305-604-5818, arrivemiami.com

FedEx Miami Beach Polo World Cup • South Beach • Event

Only a few years old, this annual event captures all the allure of South Beach: glitz, glamour, over-the-top events at the most extravagant venues, sun, sand, and beautiful people. US and European jet-setters make up some of the players and partyers at this three-day event each April, when six three-player teams compete on the sands between 20th and 22nd Streets in front of the ultrachic Setai. Expect copious amounts of Champagne, caviar, and cigars at lavish cocktail parties, attended by celebs and high rollers. The first day's parade of Argentine polo ponies trotting on the sand is a spectacle of sorts, but, in true South Beach fashion, the highlight is the Saturday night party. Admission to the games is free, but buy tickets online for VIP treatment and party access. miamipolo.com

Sex &... • South Beach • Boutique

European lingerie. Jewelry. Evening apparel. Massage creams and oils. Champagne. Very, very high-heeled pumps. Canine couture. It's one-stop South Beach shopping at its finest at the aptly named Sex & ... This enormous luxury boutique includes many upscale brands that are hard to come by in the US, including Agent Provocateur, Lolita Pompador, Chantal Thomass, and Lala Rose, just to name a scanty few. With dimmed lighting, crystal chandeliers, and mirrors aplenty, this hedonist's paradise includes a Champagne bar and tearoom for sustenance. While the 6,000-square-foot space aims to be an exclusive oasis for women, male luminaries like Shaquille O'Neal have paid a visit. *Daily noon–midnight.* 743 Washington Ave. (Seventh St.), sexand.com

Arty Party Miami Hotels

Epic Hotel • Downtown Miami • Trendy (411 rms)

Beautifully located on the Miami River amid glittery new condo towers, the luxury Epic Hotel, part of the Kimpton chain, combines stunning vistas with understated chic. Spectacular views are part of the design—from the living room lobby, you can see the Tequesta Indian sculpture atop the arched bridge—and all rooms face the bay or river. Rooms start on the 18th floor and feature floor-to-ceiling windows and generous balconies, while the serene natural décor includes petrified wood accents, understated Frette linens, and spacious bathrooms. The Area 31 restaurant serves fresh seafood both inside and outdoors, and a spa and lounge are in the works for 2009. \$\$\$\$ 270 Biscayne Blvd. (NE Third St.), 305-424-5226 / 866-760-3742, epichotel.com

Arty Party Miami Restaurants

Abokado • Brickell • Japanese-Latin

Sushi gets spicy Latin *sabor* at this restaurant/lounge in Mary Brickell Village. The combination is convivial, and the fusion cuisine works well; highlights include picante ceviches with wasabi and soy; tiraditos (marinated ribbons of fish or beef); rolls that include cilantro, jalapeño, chipotle, and mango; and main dishes such as prawns with udon stir-fry and pasilla chile strips or tequila-miso-marinated chicken. Although the décor is sleek and pale green, projecting modern Zen calm, don't expect to find tranquility; Abokado, like the other establishments in Mary Brickell Village, has a thriving (and noisy) bar scene and inviting outdoor area that attracts sociable young professionals who work nearby or live in this burgeoning condo canyon. *Mon–Wed 11am–11pm, Thu–Sat 11am–midnight, Sun 11am–10pm.* \$\$ ☎ 900 S. Miami Ave. (SW 10th St.), 305-347-3700, abokadosushi.com

Brosia Restaurant • Design District • Mediterranean

Here's yet another reason to venture into the Design District: Brosia, a buzzing restaurant serving fine innovative Mediterranean fare under stately oaks and intense mosaics in a breezy courtyard. The indoor space is sleek and handsome, but you really want to dine alfresco. This hot spot is a lunchtime favorite for