

MIAMI HEAT

With its hot colour palette, bikini beach life and its reputation for a scorching after-hours scene, Miami boasts plenty of places to check out. The only problem is picking just one hot spot.



En-Vogue hot spots to see and be seen at

By Charley Larcombe

To See



Miami Design District

miamidesigndistrict.net

A total feast for the eyes, this is where design and art seamlessly meet high fashion. All the big names are here – the Christian Louboutin store is to die for – but so are some of the greatest artists and extraordinary architects like the late Zaha Hadid. This is so much more than shopping so be Instagram-ready and snap away to your creative heart's content. #MeinMMD

Wynwood Walls

thewynwoodwalls.com

The paint is barely dry from the 12 new murals adorning the Wynwood Walls in honour of Art Basel so now is the perfect time to take a wander around this living and breathing gallery of sorts. Formerly hotel warehouses and rundown lots, Wynwood was transformed several years ago into the hip hood of coffee shops, late night bars and delicious pizza and taco joints. However down to the oft-changing walls – urban artists include Shepard Fairey, Miss Van, Retna and more – there always feels like something new here.

MIMO

Think back to South Beach 40 years ago, before the developers moved in and the pricey real estate started to dwarf its Art Deco predecessors. MIMO (short for Miami Modern) is on the march, its gritty, and very much a work in progress. A stretch of Biscayne between Northeast 50th and 77th Streets once infamous for dilapidated motels renting rooms by the hour, a renaissance is afoot, and its restaurateurs and hoteliers who are leading the charge. For a unique Miami stay check into the Vagabond Motel, recently reopened as a luxury boutique hotel and neighborhood hangout, it is being opined as the catalyst for the area's redevelopment.

Bookmark Mark Soyka's 55th Street Station complex, and the specialty fresh market Flavorish which offers added features like wine tastings and a monthly dinner and movie night.



Little Havana

Just over from Downtown, a walk down the Calle Ocho stretch is to get a real vibe of Magic City. Order a super-sweet cortadito (coffee) from any hole-in-the-wall walk up; order a Cuban sandwich from the take-out window Café Versailles (make sure to stop for a chat); catch a Latin American movie at the historic Tower Theatre and play dominoes in Maximo Gomez Park.

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EXTRA, EXTRA! Don't miss out on these joints to taste and tipple.

Cecconi's

ceconismiamibeach.com

An easy Italian with a stunning interior, Cecconi's at Soho Beach House is an ideal place to meet for brunch, lunch, cicchetti or supper with friends.

KYU

www.kyumiami.com

This is a must do Wynwood eaterie, the cocktails are sublime and the menu is diverse, offering a delectable array of energetic flavours inspired by the many adventures and global travels of Chef Michael Lewis. This is Asian Fusion on speed!

Sweet Liberty Drinks & Supply Company

mysweetliberty.com

Just over from The Bass (Museum), this place is regularly on the "Best Bars in the World" lists. Start with a pisco sour and a swordfish taco and then be led down the extensive cocktail list for a great evening.

To Be Seen



The Delano

morganshotelgroup.com/delano

Just visiting The Delano is a must-do when in Miami. The heavens-vaulted ceilings of the lobby with the billowing muslin make it the place to see and be seen. By day, the pool is positively over-flowing with The "Beautiful People" in bikinis and after dark they're back in their cocktail finery. So stunning is the hotel, it's difficult to say which stars shine brighter. People watch from Umi, the sushi and sake bar; enjoy the theatre of drinks from roaming bicileras at the Argentine-inspired Leynia and go to the Doheny Room for a naughty nightcap, the most stylish anti-club.



EAST Miami

East-miami.com

Think of the Upper House in Hong Kong now travel 9,000 miles East and you will have arrived at their sister hotel in Miami. Designed with soul and character, it is situated on top of the newly opened downtown shopping mecca, the Brickell City Centre, it also gives ease of access to popular districts such as Wynwood, the Design District and South Beach. Their guestrooms are sleek and thoughtful staying true to the Asian minimalist ideals of the owners, with each room boasting a balcony with stupendous views of the Miami City Skyline. And if you want to talk hotel pools, this one has 4 plus a rooftop bar. So slip into your bikini, grab a cocktail and watch the hip and chic as they pass by; #atEast.

The Setai

setai.com

Staying here is a real experience, from the scent as you walk through the doors to the huge bowls of roses and the general awe of this Asian-Art Deco combination. The pool-side cabanas are ideal for big names trying to fly under the radar, so opt for light snacks at the Ocean Grill and pop between the playa and the pool for the afternoon. Cocktails in the courtyard usually spark interesting conversation with fellow guests and diners – just keep an eye on your watch as time can pass effortlessly here and you wouldn't want to miss your reservation at the delicious signature restaurant, Jaya.

Ora

oranightclub.com

This achingly cool Club marks itself out from other night spots of Miami. Its Brigitte Bardot's nonchalance, its Kate Moss' desire to always have fun, it's for those who remember how to party. Essentially this place is cool AF. Sit beneath an original Banksy and order a vodka martini shaken and stirred directly at your table. Sit back and enjoy, this is Miami nightlife at its best.



DELANO
SOUTH BEACH

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