



## MIAMI SOCIAL

*Never mind the beach bunnies and the nightclub nabobs of the mid-'90s, America's tropical party town has become a serious player in the worlds of design, fashion, food and culture. That doesn't mean the thrill is gone, of course. South Beach still sizzles — and now the action is heating up all over the city.* **BY SUZY BUCKLEY**

11  
HOURS  
IN THE  
SUN



**10 a.m.**  
Order a café con leche (sweet and dark, not favor) with a quiche and cheese pastelito at **David's Cafe II**, 1654 Meridian Avenue; (305) 672-8707; davidscfe.com.



**11 a.m.**  
Design and watch a cobbler assemble your own custom-made sandals at **Tucce di Capri**, 1630 Pennsylvania Avenue; (305) 534-5865; tucce-dicapri.com.



**12 p.m.**  
Rent a chair and umbrella from **Boucher Brothers** — look for steroids along the shore south of Fifth Street — and hit the beach; (305) 535-8777; boucherbrothers.com.



**2 p.m.**  
Have a grass-fed beef burger topped with Bal Paese cheese and a Shaved Pumpkinhead Ale at **B.O.L. Burger Bar**, 1080 Alton Road; (305) 397-8246; Boburgerbar.com.



**4 p.m.**  
Get a White Sand Body Peel and relax in the water lounge area at **Laple**, the spa at Fontainebleau, 4441 Collins Avenue; (305) 674-4772; fontainebleau.com.



**7 p.m.**  
Browse the labels at the **Webster**, then head to its David Kaspia restaurant for a Champagne cocktail, 1220 Collins Avenue; (305) 674-7699; thewebstermiami.com.



**9 p.m.**  
Dine at the larger-than-life **Prime One Twelve**, an elegant chophouse with a heavy side of scene, 192 Ocean Drive; (305) 532-8112; prime12.com.

PLACE MIAMI



## BRAND NEW HEAVIES

*In addition to real-estate-market chaos, Miami's construction boom also ushered in nine important new hotels. From boutique to behemoth, these new properties all have one thing in common: vacancies.*

**FONTAINEBLEAU MIAMI BEACH (F)**

4441 Collins Avenue; 305-538-2000; fontainebleau.com; doubles from \$309. **VIBE** A mammoth, Las Vegas-style resort — minus the gambling — in a classic Morris Lapidus building. **PERK** Eight restaurants, a nightclub and a spa mean you never have to leave.

**THE BETSY (Z)**

1440 Ocean Drive; 305-531-6100; thebetsyhotel.com; doubles from \$400. **VIBE** Get past the weird colonial-American facade and find a rare respite from tourist-laden Ocean Drive.

**PERK** Laurent Tourondel's BLT Steak in the lobby.

**CANYON RANCH MIAMI BEACH (Z)**

6801 Collins Avenue; 305-514-7000; canyonranch.com; doubles from \$450. **VIBE** Sporty, health-conscious and Zen, but far more glam than granola. **PERK** Unlike other Canyon Ranch outposts, this one serves alcohol.

**VICEROY MIAMI (E)**

465 Brickell Avenue; 305-503-4400; viceroymiami.com; doubles from \$156. **VIBE** Flush, turquoise and totally over the top — for Alices craving

a weekend in Wonderland. **PERK** The Philippe Starck water salon is breathtaking, rain or shine.

**W SOUTH BEACH (D)**

2201 Collins Avenue; 305-938-3000; whotels.com/southbeach; doubles from \$459. **VIBE** The W brand grows up, replacing whimsy with rich features and first-rate art.

**PERK** The Whatever/Whenever service includes chauffeured rides in an Acura MDX.

**EPIC**

270 Biscayne Boulevard Way; 305-424-5226; epic.hotel.com; doubles from \$259.

**VIBE** Sleek enough to fool business travelers into thinking they're on vacation. **PERK** The 12,000-square-foot Exhale spa offers daily Core Fusion classes.

**GANSEVOORT SOUTH BEACH**

2377 Collins Avenue; 305-504-1000; gansevoortsouth.com; doubles from \$295. **VIBE** A sexy spring-break feel 365 days a year (for better or worse). **PERK** Plunge, the buzzy rooftop pool lounge, has amazing views.

**RIVIERA SOUTH BEACH HOTEL**

2000 Liberty Avenue; 305-538-7444; rivierahotel

southbeach.com; doubles from \$275. **VIBE** Dorothy Draper-inspired interiors near the beach. **PERK** Lots of freebies, like beach chairs, happy hour cocktails and V.I.P. nightclub access.

**MONDRIAN SOUTH BEACH**

1100 West Avenue; 305-514-1500; mondrian-miami.com; doubles from \$210. **VIBE** Marcel Wanders does Sleeping Beauty's castle, in baroque curlicues and glossy black and white. **PERK** The landscaped pool deck with labyrinthine trails.

### SHOW TIME

The cultural swoop in every December for Art Basel Miami Beach, but what of the arts beyond the fair?

**MUSIC** Michael Tilson Thomas takes the podium and piano for the *New World Symphony's* "MTT Plays Mozart" program, playing and conducting the Piano Concerto No. 23, Jan. 8-10; Lincoln Theatre, 541 Lincoln Road; (305) 673-3331; mws.edu.

**DANCE** Miami City Ballet's "Program II" features Twyla Tharp's "The Golden Section," with 13 gold-clad dancers and music by David Byrne, Jan. 8-10; Zaff Ballet Opera House, 1300 Biscayne Boulevard; (305) 949-6722; arsbcenter.org.

**ART** "The Reach of Realism" at *Emergent of Contemporary Art* brings together artists (including Iceland's Ragnar Kjartansson, below, and Britain's Gillian Wearing)



whose works aim to represent reality in a time of manipulated mass imagery, Dec. 1-Feb. 14; 770 NE 125th Street; (305) 893-6211; mocanomi.org.



**CUBA LIBRE** Nowhere in Miami is the Latino flavor as strong as in Little Havana. The long, sometimes chaotic Calle Ocho (SW Eighth Street) is the neighborhood's heart — and not for the unprepared. Here's a primer.

**THE MUSIC** Wednesday through Sunday nights at 10:30, a salsa band takes the stage at **Hoy Como Ayer**, and the dance floor is packed with women dressed in almost nothing and the men who love to twirl them around. No. 2212; 305-541-2631; hoycomosyer.us.

**THE FOOD** Calle Ocho's most famous landmark, **Versailles Restaurant**, is an old-school Latin hangout where exiles gather to hash out island politics

and Fidel death rumors over caecitos. No. 3555; 305-444-0240.

**THE SMOKE** The tobacco factory **El Credito** claims to sell the closest thing to a genuine Cuban cigar as you can get without breaking the law. Ask for the Wavel from La Gloria Cubana. No. 1106; 305-324-0445; elcredito cigars.com.

**THE SHIRTS** **La Casa de las Guayaberas** stocks hundreds of Cuban shirts in all sorts of colors and finishes. If you still don't see

one you want, the owner, Ramón Fugé, will hand-cut and custom-tailor one for you out of Irish linen. No. 5840; 305-266-0663.

**THE CULTURE** On the last Friday of every month, **Cafe Ocho** turns into an open-air festival filled with artisans, musicians and vendors. More than a dozen galleries showcase work by Latin American artists, and the historic Tower Theater hosts special films and exhibitions. 305-543-0500; viamisculturales.org.