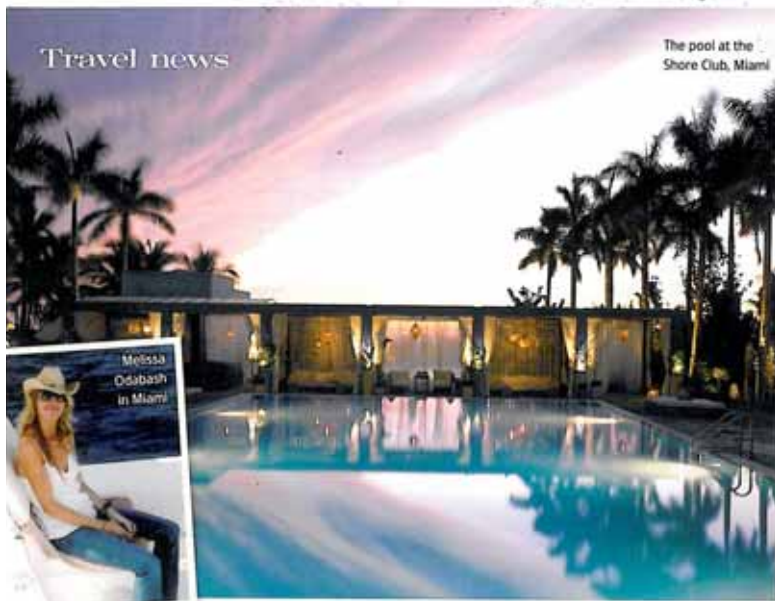


TATLER



Travel news

The pool at the Shore Club, Miami



Melissa Odabash in Miami

My own private... Miami

Swimwear designer Melissa Odabash dives into South Beach

How long have you been going to Miami? For about 20 years – my first modelling job was there. When I wanted to buy a house, my mother and I looked around and were offered Versace's villa on Ocean Drive before he bought it. It looked totally different.

Who owns the most beautiful house? One of my friends, the actress and socialite Marita Stavrou, has a place that is all glass and right on the water. The infinity pool runs into Biscayne Bay, there are oversized white sofas outside and it's just the coolest spot for partying. Marita is one of the most connected people in Miami, and she throws amazing parties with very eclectic guest lists.

Which hotel do you check into? The W South Beach. I think the interiors must reflect everyone's dream house. I'd love to do my next place in the same style as its modern tribal-art-filled lobby – it's so chic. The waiters look like top models, which is a bonus, and the spa is my favourite place to go after a 10-hour flight.

What's your favourite shop? Scoop and Intermix are two stores I never leave empty-handed. South Beach also has a really good collection of vintage shops. You can get classic

old Levi's and great little dresses.

Where do you hang out? Lincoln Road – there are no cars and it's filled with art galleries and restaurants. There is a diverse mix, from models to actors to dancers to crazy people.

Your favourite bar? It has to be the bar by the Shore Club swimming-pool. There are cabanas with Thai-style daybeds, flowing white curtains and beautiful lanterns. It gets going at around three in the afternoon; there'll be 200 people dancing in the water – it's a wild scene to watch. It's also right next to Nobu, so you can nip in for sushi or black cod afterwards.

The best restaurant? Casa Tua – it's like being in someone's house. The owner, Miky Grendene, is a friend of mine from Milan, so he knows good Italian food. I order the pasta of the day and rocket salad, and then we go up to the terrace for pudding.

What do you miss when you're not there? Everything – the good-looking people, the fun restaurants and especially the weather. I like wearing summer stuff, a pair of jean shorts or a kaftan and flip-flops. I can't bear the layering of winter clothes. I love swimming in the ocean every day – it energises me.



Vision on Acetate sunglasses, £200, by Jimmy Choo



Head girl Panama hat, £80, by Melissa Odabash



Vote tote Canvas tote, £40, by Jasper Conran, at Tripp

Sleeping beauty Italy

Babuino 181, Rome

The Eternal City has been given the Zaha Hadid touch. Her extraordinary and controversial building-as-sculpture MAXXI, Italy's first national museum of contemporary art and architecture, and the cutting-edge MACRO (Museum of Contemporary Art of Rome), in the old Peroni brewery, have hoicked the Roman art scene into the 21st century. For somewhere similarly slick to stay, try the newest kid on the block, Babuino 181. This little pied-à-terre is part of the natty Rome Luxury Suites stable and, like the other two (Mario de Fiori and Margutta 54), it's in a stellar spot between Piazza del Popolo and the Spanish Steps, surrounded by purse-squeezing designer studios, antiques shops and art galleries galore. Inside the immaculately renovated 19th-century palazzo are 14 suites with modern, masculine, slightly Scandinavian design, lots of blond wood, oversize anglepoise lamps; Prada lookbooks on the bedside tables; and swaths of ochre marble and black mosaic tiles in the great big bathrooms. Curl up on the little black cushioned window seat and take in the view of throngs of shoppers on Via del Babuino. *Double, from £205. To book, contact Chic Retreats (tel: 020 7307 2797; chicretreats.com).*



Babuino 181

NEWSFLASH: IT'S A RIGHT ROYAL RETREAT AT THE RAJIV, THE MAHARAJA OF JODHPUR'S NEW HOTEL, WITHIN THE BAMPARTS OF THE NAGPUR FORT. AT JODHANAHERITAZES.COM

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