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HOTELS

WHERE TO STAY AND WHICH ROOMS TO BOOK

Miami's best-known hotels stand on Ocean Drive and Collins Avenue, the latter with beach access. The scene begins at 17th Street with the Delano (see p030) and continues north with The Raleigh (see p062), The Setai (see p088), the W (opposite), the Gansevoort (2377 Collins Avenue, T 305 604 1000) and then a big jump to Soho Beach House (4385 Collins Avenue, T 786 507 7900) and the Fontainebleau (see p047). Ian Schrager and Marriott plan to fill the gap in 2013 with a remodelled Seville Hotel. Be warned: along this strip, don't expect Claridge's-style service. It's all about having fun – and that means turning a blind eye to a few faults, such as rooms that are more shabby than chic and surly staff. Still, there will be a vibey bar, a pool party, hip stores and branded restaurants. Quieter, boutique alternatives include the St Augustine (347 Washington Avenue, T 800 310 7717) and the Pelican (826 Ocean Drive, T 305 673 3373).

Downtown has more business-oriented hotels, many on Brickell Avenue, including the Four Seasons (No 1435, T 305 358 3535) and the Conrad (No 1395, T 305 503 6500), in the Banco Espirito Santo tower, and the swanky Mandarin Oriental (500 Brickell Key Drive, T 305 913 8288). A spate of 2009 and 2010 openings, such as the Epic (see p028), Viceroy (see p020) and Hotel Beaux Arts (255 Biscayne Boulevard Way, T 888 717 8858), in the JW Marriott Marquis with a DB Bistro Moderne, have improved the area's cachet.

For full addresses and room rates, see Resources.



W South Beach

Architect Costas Kondylis' W hotel is a new build on Collins that opened in 2009. The 408 rooms, with interiors by Yabu Pushelberg, are flooded with light and have sea-facing balconies (overleaf). Public spaces, such as the lobby (above), were designed by Anna Busta of Studio B and feature art contributed by co-owner Aby Rosen, including works by Keith Haring, Jean-Michel Basquiat and Andy Warhol.

You're unlikely to get bored here. There are five bars, a Bliss spa, a Sweat gym, a pool in a conceptual garden devised by Paula Hayes and 90m of beachfront. Then there's the happening Wall nightclub (see p068) and two top restaurants, Mr Chow (see p057) and Soleá, run by chef Marc Vidal, serving modern Spanish cuisine. 2201 Collins Avenue, T 305 938 3000, www.wsouthbeach.com

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24 HOURS

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Room 1222, W South Beach

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