Beaches
Beach Destinations and Itineraries

SPORTS
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Outdoors
STUNNING OUTDOOR TREASURES
The many beautiful outdoor spaces in Miami

Miracle Mile
Miracle Mile Bridal Boutiques
As travelers ourselves, we yearned for some kind of publication that informed and entertained us while also containing local information needed to help us see and enjoy all the things the locals know about. A magazine that engaged us and yet wasn’t too heavy on advertising in a way that many are.

From the start, Greydoor publishing had a desire to work closely with Les Clefs d’Or to produce a fabulous magazine for their Les Clefs d’Or member properties in North America and we were pleased to partner with them in 2016.

The crossed gold keys of this wonderful organization are more than just its symbol; they are the symbol of guaranteed quality service.

It is this philosophy that guides us in our desire to create a publication for each member hotel, which then becomes a valuable tool and addition to a guest’s stay.

A magazine portable enough not to hinder and yet full enough to guide and advise in a way that makes you feel you have the hotel concierge walking beside you.

With content approved and provided by the very team who are hosting you, it gives an insight into the secrets of the city in a way that hasn’t been available to a guest before.

We hope you enjoy it and that it helps to make your stay at this fabulous hotel even more memorable.

Travel Safe.

Alex & Steven
THE CONCIERGE

Cover image: The Biltmore Hotel

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The Biltmore Curators Program

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Dining out in Coral Gables

Cover image: The Biltmore Hotel
The key to a traveler’s every need

The only limit to a concierge’s abilities is your imagination.

Anything is possible!

Welcome

At The Biltmore, we take special pride in our friendly staff, luxurious quality, and full attention to our guests’ needs to ensure your stay is a pleasurable one.

The Concierge Magazine is intended for you to use during your visit in Miami. We hope you indulge in the many experiences The Biltmore Hotel has to offer including our award-winning restaurants, lavish spa & fitness center, grand pool with private cabanas, or our Donald Ross championship golf course as well as the many unique places that surround us. Whichever you choose, our conscientious concierges will make certain that you have a memorable experience.

I personally welcome you to the magnificent Biltmore Hotel and hope you enjoy your stay with us!

Sincerely,

Matthias Kammerer
Managing Director
Graced with effortless beauty and sophistication, The Biltmore Hotel is a national historic landmark located in the exclusive Coral Gables area, with close proximity to Miami Beach and downtown Miami.

The 273-room resort includes 133 suites and features spectacular Mediterranean architecture with classic Italian, Moorish, and Spanish influences spread over 150 acres of tropical landscape. A favorite of world leaders and celebrities since its opening in 1926, the hotel offers a restored Donald Ross 18-hole, 71-par championship golf course; tennis courts; the largest hotel pool on the East Coast of the United States with private cabanas; a European spa and a renowned fitness center.

The hotel’s dining destinations include the award winning Palme d’Or, recognized by Zagat as one of the best restaurants in the country; Fontana, a traditional Italian restaurant surrounding The Biltmore courtyard and fountain; the poolside Cascade, and the 19th Hole golf-centric restaurant. The hotel also recently unveiled its culinary academy offering an array of hands-on cooking classes for adults and children. The Biltmore is one of South Florida’s preferred sites for leisure and business travel, high-level corporate briefings and public policy conferences, and is an extraordinary wedding destination. The Biltmore is a member of the Leading Hotels of the World.

The Biltmore Hotel is situated within minutes of downtown Coral Gables and the illustrious Miracle Mile, where a large variety of renowned restaurants, boutiques and businesses are located. The hotel is also a short drive away from downtown Miami and Miami Beach, among other major Miami attractions.
Elegance
The legendary Biltmore sets the scene for the wedding of your dreams. The Biltmore Wedding Team is committed to ensuring that your wedding experience exceeds your expectations. Our personalized service combined with luxury resort amenities provide a rich and diverse canvas that can be customized to your needs. Whether you choose a ceremony under the stars, a romantic garden or a spectacular ballroom, the Biltmore offers picturesque venues for both indoor and outdoor ceremonies. The historic charm and Mediterranean architecture of the Biltmore Hotel is reflected throughout our elegant ballrooms with grand architectural ornaments such as Cathedral arches, decorative hand-painted ceilings, and intricate chandeliers. The Biltmore creates an idyllic and memorable setting for weddings and distinguished social events in charming Coral Gables.

In 1994, President Clinton hosted 34 heads of state from the western hemisphere at the Summit of the Americas held at The Biltmore’s Conference Center of the Americas, a world-class conference center with technologically advanced facilities. The Biltmore’s outstanding meeting facilities are ideally designed to accommodate groups without disrupting equally important leisure guests.

Meeting spaces in the hotel building are tucked unobtrusively out of sight and away from restaurants and other public spaces, offering extensive and elegant facilities and services for meetings large and small. The resort features 75,000 total square feet of function space, with an entire wing devoted exclusively to small meetings and breakouts in order to enhance productivity.

ACCOMMODATIONS
The Biltmore Hotel’s guest rooms embrace an atmosphere of luxury and traditional elegance with views of the magnificent city skyline, the hotel’s unique pool, and superb golf course. Welcoming and richly appointed with décor inspired by Mediterranean and Moorish influences, the accommodations convey a truly superior resort experience.

The hotel offers 273 guest rooms, including 133 suites, which range from Junior to Executive suites. The legendary Everglades Presidential Suite and the Merrick Penthouse Suite, named after the resort’s founder, George Merrick, are among The Biltmore’s most distinguished accommodations.

Luxury rooms and suites feature European feather bedding topped with 340-thread-count Egyptian cotton duvet covers, Jerusalem stone-tiled floors, balconies, flat-screen TVs, wireless high-speed Internet, minibars and safes, and luxurious essential bath amenities including Frette robes and plush bamboo orchid towels.

Two stately Presidential Suites, one of which features a two-story exclusive accommodation decorated with soaring hand-painted ceilings and a three-bedroom penthouse, are located within The Biltmore tower and include views extending to Biscayne Bay.

MEETING SPACES

An atmosphere of LUXURY AND TRADITIONAL ELEGANCE

WEDDINGS
The Biltmore Hotel

OUR HISTORY

Our History

Picture a dreamlike setting complete with exquisite, hand-painted frescos on barrel vaulted ceilings, brilliant travertine floors, fine marble columns, intricate leaded glass fixtures, carved mahogany furnishings and lavish gardens. Then picture this all in the shadow of a spiraling Moorish Giralda tower. Is it a Spanish castle or a grand Venetian palazzo?

Although The Biltmore in Coral Gables, Florida, does resemble the finest in classic Mediterranean architecture, it is neither an Italian palazzo nor Iberian castle. Instead, it is the centerpiece of George Merrick’s vision of Coral Gables as an elegant, stately suburb, which he called “The City Beautiful.” Combining his deep affection for lush South Florida landscape with a high regard for Italian, Moorish and Spanish architectural influences, Merrick realized his dream in the construction of his masterpiece. This is The Biltmore Hotel.

BUILDING A DREAM: 1924-1925

As the creator of Coral Gables, land developer George E. Merrick founded the University of Miami and developed the suburbs with strict building codes to ensure the beautiful surrounding. In 1924, young Merrick joined forces with Biltmore hotel magnate John McEntee Bowman at the height of the Florida land boom to build “a great hotel... which would not only serve as a hostelry to crowds which were thronging to Coral Gables but also would serve as a center of sports and fashion.” Bowman contracted with renowned architect Leonard Schultze and S. Fullerton Weaver, a contractor and developer. The team had already designed the Atlanta and Los Angeles Biltmores, New York City’s Grand Central Terminal, Miami Beach’s Nautilus Hotel (later the first location of Mt. Sinai Medical Center) and the famed Miami Daily News Tower (now known as the Freedom Tower).

On November 25, 1924, 200 of Miami’s business and civic leaders, as well as the press, gathered for a dinner to celebrate the new partnership. Bowman announced that the $10 million project would include a 400-room hotel, a country club, a service building, a championship golf course, polo fields, tennis courts and an enormous 225-foot swimming pool. The 18-hole golf course, designed by premier golf-course architect Donald Ross, debuted in January 1925.

Finally, on January 15, 1926, the Miami Biltmore Country Club debuted with a magnificent gala opening that promised to be the social event of the year. The leading socialites of the Northeast came down on trains marked “Miami Biltmore Specials.” As champagne flowed and guests fox-trotted to the strains of three orchestras, one led by famed bandleader Paul Whiteman, the Biltmore’s Giralda Tower was lit for the first time and could be seen from miles around. An overflow crowd of 1,500 guests attended the opening dinner-dance, and a landmark era in South Florida history began.

JAZZ AGE ICON: 1926-1942

The Biltmore was one of the most fashionable resorts in the entire country in its heyday, hosting royalty of both the European and Hollywood variety. The Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Ginger Rogers, Judy Garland and Bing Crosby were frequent guests. In fact, everyone who was anyone – from politicians like President Franklin D. Roosevelt to notorious gangsters like Al Capone – stayed at The Biltmore, where they enjoyed fashion shows, gala balls, aquatic shows in the 23,000-square-foot grand pool, elaborate weddings and world-class golf tournaments. With the Jazz Age at full cry, The Biltmore’s big bands entertained wealthy, well-traveled visitors to this American Riviera resort.

Challenged by America’s economic lulls in the late 1920s and early 1930s, The Biltmore thrived by hosting aquatic galas that drew crowds and kept the hotel in the spotlight. Up to 3,000 spectators turned out on Sundays to watch synchronized swimmers, bathing beauties, alligator wrestlers and the four-year-old boy wonder, Jackie Ott, whose act included diving into the immense pool from an 85-foot-high platform. Prior to his tree-swinging days in Hollywood, Johnny Weissmuller was a Biltmore swimming instructor and later broke world records at The Biltmore pool. The aquatic shows were extremely popular with families, who would later dress up to attend fashionable tea dances on The Biltmore’s grand terrace.

THE WAR YEARS: 1942-1968

With the onset of World War II, the War Department converted The Biltmore into a huge hospital, dubbed the Army Air Forces Regional Hospital. Adapting the building to its new use, the Army sealed many of the former hotel’s windows with concrete, and covered the travertine floors with layers of government-issue linoleum. Also the early site of The University of Miami School of Medicine, The Biltmore remained a Veteran’s Administration hospital until 1968. With the advent of the Eisenhower era, The Biltmore was converted to national use as The Biltmore Regional Hospital. In 1969, The Biltmore closed its doors to patients, although it continued as a conference and meeting center. The Biltmore received its historic landmark designation in 1972.

In the 1920s everyone who was anyone – from politicians like President Franklin D. Roosevelt to notorious gangsters like Al Capone – stayed at The Biltmore.
1983-1990

Following intense lobbying by Coral Gables officials and city residents for The Biltmore’s acquisition, in 1973 the City of Coral Gables was granted ownership of the hotel through the Historic Monuments Act and Legacy of Parks program. But the City remained undecided as to the structure's future, and The Biltmore remained unoccupied for almost 10 years.

Finally, in 1983, the City initiated a full restoration of the Biltmore to its former glory as a grand hotel. Nearly four years and $55 million later, The Biltmore re-opened on December 31, 1987, as a four-star hotel and resort. More than 600 guests turned out to honor the historic Biltmore at a black-tie affair. The hotel remained open for three years, but closed again in 1990 in the midst of the country’s economic downturn.

1992-Present

In June of 1992, a multi-national consortium led by Seaway Hotels Corporation, a Florida hotel management firm, became The Biltmore’s operators. Seaway, managed by Gene Prescott, is a hospitality organization that owns and manages quality hotels in Florida. In addition to The Biltmore Hotel, the company’s portfolio includes The Sheraton Sand Key in Clearwater Beach, Florida.

Seaway embarked upon a $40 million, 10-year renovation program restoring The Biltmore to its world-class excellence. The company invested in complete guest-room renovations and also built a state-of-the-art fitness center and spa. In addition, The Biltmore spent approximately $3 million to restore the historic 18-hole championship golf course in 2008. The Biltmore’s landmark swimming pool, one of the largest hotel pools in the continental United States, also underwent considerable refurbishment, led by noted landscape architect Emilio Fuster. The 85-foot high diving tower was transformed into a lush tropical waterfall, and private cabanas were built alongside the pool. The 600,000 gallon, 23,000-square-foot pool was emptied and completely resurfaced with polished marble.

At the 1926 gala opening of the Miami Biltmore Country Club, Dr. Frank Crane predicted, “Many people will come and go, but this structure will remain a thing of astonishment. Situated on the seventh floor, with panoramic views in all directions, it defines tranquility and relaxation.”

Hints of Zen traditions transcended through the aroma of Green Tea Citrus, the cascading water walls and earth-toned décor. A bamboo bridge and polished stones in rippling pools of water lead to a supremely inviting relaxation lounge.

Here in the contemporary elegance, basking the Biltmore’s distinguished past and new splendor, each therapist is driven by a deeply personal vision of well-being. The Biltmore Spa offers a wide array of nourishing and balancing personalized treatments from around the world and seeks to capture a connection with each guest.

Defining tranquility
THE BILTMORE SPA

SERVICEs

The spa provides the perfect ambiance for state-of-the-art treatments and services, including massage therapy, facial treatments, body treatments, body wraps, therapeutic spa baths and scrubs, lifestyle cures and signature rituals. From Aroma Swedish massages to Regenerating Facials to Volcanic Mud Wraps, The Biltmore’s vision of a luxurious wellness experience encompasses all aspects of life. Half-day and specialty packages for groups and couples are also available. Treatments are also offered in the hotel’s private poolside cabanas.

SALON

The beauty salon inside the spa offers manicures, pedicures, make-up application, hairstyling and hair treatments with Kérastase Paris Hair Care. The salon is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

BOUTIQUE

The spa’s boutique has a carefully selected collection of luxurious products for face, body, hair and well-being, as well as candles and apparel. Special occasion gifts and gift baskets are available.
Early in its storied history, The Biltmore Golf Course was host to The Miami – Biltmore Open, one of the richest prize purse professional golf tournaments of its time. In November 2007, the 6,800-yard golf course layout underwent a $5 million renovation by renowned golf course architect and Donald Ross design expert Brian Silva. Renovations included new Tifdwarf Bermudagrass putting surfaces, restoration of bunkers to their original designs, an enhanced irrigation system and preservation of the original playing characteristics. Since 1964, The Biltmore Golf Course has been the annual host site to the Junior Orange Bowl International Golf Championship. The Biltmore Golf Course is also the headquarters of the University of Miami Women’s Golf Team.

“Our historic Donald Ross, 18-hole, 71 par championship golf course was built in 1925 and has hosted a unique variety of celebrities and athletes throughout the years. At the Third Annual Biltmore Open, legendary professional baseball player Babe Ruth golfed in this course and enjoyed The Biltmore’s grounds with his family. Since then, The Biltmore has hosted numerous tournaments, including the annual Junior Orange Bowl International Championship, that celebrated its 52nd anniversary in 2015 with the top junior golfers from around the world and has had an impressive alumni list including current professional players Tiger Woods, Bubba Watson and Lexi Thompson.”

“In November 2007, the 6,800-yard golf course layout underwent a $5 million renovation.”

“The Biltmore Golf Course is an 18-hole, 71-par championship course designed in 1925 by legendary golf course architect Donald Ross.”

“Golf
THE BILTMORE GOLF

THE CONCIERGE | The Biltmore Hotel

The Biltmore Hotel

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**THE CLUB AT THE BILTMORE**

The Club at The Biltmore offers memberships for a comprehensive fitness program plus access to special privileges, resort amenities and special events at The Biltmore. Members enjoy a 20 percent discount at all restaurants and outlets on property, as well as complimentary valet parking. With full access to our award-winning and comprehensive fitness center, members can utilize the sauna, steam room and extensive collection of top-of-the-line machines, as well as participate in more than 100 fitness classes per week. Additionally, members are granted a discounted rate to special member social events such as dinners and monthly wine tastings.

**FITNESS CENTER**

The Biltmore's 10,000-square-foot state-of-the-art Fitness Center allows guests to maintain their fitness regimen while traveling. It features an area dedicated solely to cardiovascular exercise, and a second space with a comprehensive presentation of free-weight, plate-loaded and specialty resistance workout equipment. Cardiovascular equipment includes more than 30 Matrix Cardio machines, each equipped with a 15” touch-screen TV. Ranked by Men's Fitness magazine as one of the 10 best hotel fitness centers in the U.S., the center offers more than 100 weekly exercise classes including Pilates, Yoga, Zumba, Spinning, Body Sculpting and much more. A variety of aquatic classes are held in the hotel's landmark pool. The Biltmore also features a team of 20 personal trainers who are available for private sessions. Nested within the Fitness Center, The Biltmore's Juice Bar features refreshing and healthy juices and smoothies for guests.

**CULINARY ACADEMY**

In February 2009, The Biltmore Hotel furthered its longstanding passion for gastronomy and commitment to excellence in the culinary arts by opening the Biltmore Culinary Academy. As the only hotel with a recreational cooking school operating in North America, the academy has a dedicated learning area and fully equipped professional kitchen offering a variety of classes, workshops and teambuilding events, for both adults and children. Fun and educational, the Biltmore Culinary Academy is ideal for aspiring chefs of all levels.

**POOL**

One of the largest hotel swimming pools in the continental U.S., The Biltmore's pool measures approximately 23,000 square feet and holds 600,000 gallons of water. In the early days of the resort, it was the scene of spectacular Busby Berkeley-like water shows featuring Esther Williams, diving exhibitions, fashion shows and celebrity parties. Today, it has become the stylish setting for relaxation, outdoor recreation and dining. Enhancing the pool experience are nine private cabanas hidden away amidst palms, hibiscus and bougainvillea. Each is elegantly furnished with teakwood chaises and loveseats, banana leaf ceiling fans, lounge chairs for sunbathing, and outdoor rain showers, along with a host of amenities. Accommodating four to eight guests, the cabanas are served by attentive pool staff ready at any time to provide drinks and other refreshments. Available for daily rentals, doubles accommodate eight people maximum and singles accommodate four people maximum.

**BENESSERE AT THE BILTMORE**

Since ancient times, health and wellness have always been part of the Mediterranean lifestyle. In line with its heritage, The Biltmore presents its new wellness program, Benessere at The Biltmore” (benessere is Italian meaning well-being). Benessere at The Biltmore offers over 100 group exercise classes in our state-of-the-art fitness center, wellness-oriented treatments at our world-class spa, healthy menu choices at our award-winning restaurants, and healthy cooking classes at our culinary academy. Join us for a class or make a day of it with one of our Comprehensive Program Day Packages, available for individuals or groups. Benessere Corporate Breaks are also available for groups.

**LIFESTYLE & RECREATION**

The Biltmore Hotel offers chic amenities, a Fitness Center, Culinary Academy, and endless luxuries.
Delivering an unmatched level of quality and creativity with stunning presentations, The Biltmore team is overseen by Executive Chef David Hackett, who, along with his highly qualified culinary experts, creates some of the finest gourmet experiences in Miami. Whether you are seeking the warmth of a traditional restaurant interior or the bliss of dining al fresco, either formal or casual, The Biltmore Hotel transports you on an exceptional culinary journey in a stunning historic setting and offers myriad award-winning options. The Biltmore Hotel features four restaurants, each with its own distinct personality, as well as two bars and a classic afternoon tea service accompanied by live music.

**PALME D’OR**

The Biltmore’s stunning signature restaurant presents fine dining at its best. Helmed by Michelin-starred Chef Gregory Pugin, Palme d’Or received top honors by the 2013 Zagat guide. Overlooking the hotel’s famous pool, the intimate Palme d’Or dazzles the eye and the palate with beguiling cuisine.

**FONTANA**

Fontana offers Italian-inspired cuisine punctuated with local and seasonal ingredients and an exceptional wine list. The handsome rusticity of the restaurant’s stone and tile interior, with an open-air kitchen and wood-burning stove, flows into the lush landscaping of the fountain-centered courtyard, the site of Miami’s most romantic outdoor dining. Fontana mounts one of the country’s most celebrated and lavish Sunday Champagne Brunch buffets. Utilizing the restaurant’s handsome interior and courtyard, the brunch features an extensive array of selections including omelet, sushi, carving, pasta and tapas stations, plus decadent desserts.

**19TH HOLE SPORTS BAR & GRILL**

The most casual of the resort’s dining sites, the 19th Hole overlooks the golf course and offers light dining, inside or on the terrace. In the bar numerous flat screen televisions are continually tuned to sports programming.

**CASCADE**

The Cascade is an outdoor oasis tucked under a cascading 23-foot waterfall that overlooks The Biltmore pool. This alfresco restaurant, set in the colonnade-lined loggia, is perched at the edge of the swimming pool with views of the golf course and gardens. The casual fare with sophisticated flair includes daily spa cuisine specials, with an emphasis on local as well as healthy, organic ingredients.

**CELLAR CLUB BAR**

Located adjacent to Fontana in the Lower Lobby, the Cellar Club Bar is open early as a coffee shop serving coffee, tea, juice, and warm pastries until 11 a.m. In the afternoon the Cellar Club Bar is the perfect place to sit and read or enjoy a social beverage indoors. Boasting a unique and extensive variety of wines by the glass and happy hour specials, it doubles as a bar in the evenings.

**BILTMORE BAR**

Adjacent to Palme d’Or, this handsome, wood-paneled lounge offers a sophisticated atmosphere. The bar features an extensive selection of premium and vintage wines, liqueurs and wines as well as an assortment of draft and bottled beers.

**AFTEENOO TEA**

One of the few traditional English afternoon teas offered in the Miami area, The Biltmore’s is the only one that boasts such a grand setting – under the soaring vaulted ceiling of the magnificent lobby and in front of its majestically mantled fireplace. The tea is complemented by melodic harp music on weekdays and acoustic guitar on weekends.

**THE CONCIERGE**

Giuseppe Galazzi | Chef de Cuisine, Fontana
Gregory Pugin | Chef de Cuisine, Palme d’Or
PRIVATE DINING AT THE BILTMORE

Whether it’s a birthday, anniversary, business dinner or simply a gathering of friends and family, we will work with you to customize menus and private dining locations to create a unique and memorable experience for you and your guests.

CABANA ROMANCE

When a special occasion calls for the very best, The Biltmore Hotel offers a unique and exclusive dining experience in a tranquil, private setting. Nestled alongside the world-famous Biltmore pool, our private cabanas can accommodate up to eight special guests for the ultimate fine-dining pampering. Whether celebrating a special moment or enjoying an intimate dinner with family or friends, our staff will create an evening you will never forget.

Let our Executive Chef David Hackett, a professional member of the International Food and Wine Society Chaine des Rôtisseurs and a Lifetime Ambassador of the WACS Emirates Culinary Guild, personalize and prepare a custom menu unique to the occasion. Our delicious four-course cabana dinners start at $200 per person and must be reserved 72 hours in advance. Let the Biltmore Design Team enhance your cabana experience with flowers, live music or special decor. Cabana dinners for the entire family are also available upon request.

For additional information or to make a reservation, please contact The Biltmore’s Private Dining Staff at (305) 445-8066 ext. 2373

PALME D’OR PRIVATE DINING

The Palme d’Or has two private rooms. Private rooms are also available with the option for buyout.

FONTANA PRIVATE DINING

Fontana offers semi-private areas outside or inside, according to the number of people.

Plan your next special breakfast, lunch or dinner at one of the Biltmore’s restaurants.
INGREDIENTS

BESCIAMELLA SAUCE
• 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter
• 1/2 cup unbleached all-purpose flour
• 4 cups hot milk
• Fine sea salt to taste
• Ground white pepper to taste

FILLING
• 1/3 cup dried or frozen porcini mushrooms
• 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
• 1 cup fresh peas
• 1/2 cup minced onions
• 1 recipe besciamella sauce
• 1 pound penne rigate, cooked according to package directions
• 1/2 cup grated Parmigiano Reggiano Cheese
• Grating of nutmeg and truffle oil

PUFF PaSTRY

PORK & CHICKEN RAGU
• 1 celery stalk with leaves, washed and quartered
• 1 large carrot, scraped and quartered
• 1/4 cup flat leaf parsley, stemmed
• 1 medium onion, peeled and cut into quarters
• 1 tablespoon butter
• 1/2 pound ground pork and 1/2 pound ground chicken
• 1/2 pound sausage
• 1 teaspoon fine sea salt
• Ground black pepper

RECIPE

BESCIAMELLA SAUCE
In a large saucepan, melt the butter over medium-low heat; do not let the butter brown. Whisk in the flour and cook it until a uniform paste is formed and no streaks of flour remain. Slowly whisk in the milk in a steady stream. Cook about 10 minutes, stirring slowly until the sauce coats the back of a wooden spoon. Season with salt and pepper. Set aside until ready to assemble filling.

DIRECTIONS

If using dried porcini, soak 15 minutes and drain. If using frozen, dice them. Melt the butter in a medium size sauté pan, stir in the onions and cook just until the onions soften. Add the mushrooms and fresh peas and cook 1 or 2 minutes. Transfer the mixture to a large bowl and set aside. Return the sauté pan to the stovetop.

Mince the celery, carrot, parsley and onion together with a chef’s knife. Melt the butter in the same sauté pan used to cook the mushrooms. Stir in the celery mixture and cook over medium heat until it softens. Stir in the pork, sausage, chicken, salt and pepper and cook, stirring often, until the meat turns gray. Transfer the ragu to the bowl with the mushrooms. Stir in the besciamella sauce. Add the cooked penne rigate and toss the mixture well. Add the truffle oil. Set aside.

Preheat the oven to 375°F. Butter a 10 x 3-inch spring form pan.

On a lightly floured surface roll out each half of the puff pastry dough into a 16-inch diameter. Fit one half of the dough in the pan, bring it up the sides and letting the excess hang over the edge of the pan.

Spread the filling in the pan, sprinkle the cheese over the top, and cover with the second sheet of dough. Seal the edges. Use any pastry scraps to make decorations for the top.

Brush the top with egg yolk; cut a small x in the center of the top for venting, and bake for 40-50 minutes or until the crust is nicely browned. Cool for 30 minutes before releasing sides.

PASTICCIO DI MACCHERONI ALLA FERRARESE
(Oven baked pasta with white ragout)

This elaborate, traditional two-crusted macaroni pie known as pasticcio comes from Ferrarese, Italy, and is considered one of that city’s finest creations.

Pasticcio is filled with a short, ridged pasta called penne rigate, a rich pork-and-liver ragu, and wild mushrooms, all held together by a creamy, nutmeg-scented white sauce (salsa di besciamella).

Pasticcio saw its height during the reign of the d’Este family and was served at their many elaborate parties to impress their influential guests.

THE CONCIERGE

The is a signature dish in Fontana from Chef Giuseppe Galazzi
Miami, “The Magic City,” is a vibrant place with Latin influences reflected in our restaurants, cafes, shops, and lifestyle. If you’re looking for high-class nightlife, theater, museums, restaurants, and exhilarating architecture, then you’ve come to the right place. But the real magic of Miami, in my opinion, is the energy of our very cosmopolitan, multicultural city. We have beautiful white beaches and azure water, and charming people everywhere. Miami is a world-renowned location, whether you want to dance the night away or settle into a secluded park to overlook the Bay.

Miami is radiant year-round, but in winter, it transforms itself into Paradise. The temperature rarely drops below 50°F, and precipitation is almost nonexistent. During the winter months, Miami hosts the Art Basel, Miami Boat Show, World Music Conference, Miami Grand Slam Tennis Tournament, and the extraordinary Food & Wine Festival.

There is something for everyone in Miami. Art abounds, restaurants beckon, and our beaches will astound you. If you’re the active, outdoorsy type, try kayaking through Oleta River State Park, or biking across the Rickenbacker causeway and through the mangrove forests and discover hidden coves.  If you’re the active, outdoorsy type, try kayaking through Oleta River State Park, or biking astound you. If you’re the active, outdoorsy type, try kayaking through Oleta River State Park, or biking through the kayaking through Oleta River State Park, or biking across the Rickenbacker causeway and through the k

The concierge profession is ideal for a gregarious individual who enjoys finding solutions to unusual requests and challenges. One of the things I love most about being a concierge are the relationships I have cultivated over the years with hotel guests, local business associates, and colleagues around the world. It’s said that “a concierge is only as good as his contacts.” I think a concierge is only as good as his passion for the profession. Passionate I am, and I’m also proud to be a member of the prestigious Les Clefs d’Or since 1992.

I invite you to come see me at the Concierge Desk, where I can help make your Miami dreams come true. Ernesto Aragon

Ernesto Aragon
Guest Services Director
Member of Les Clefs d’Or

Q: My most memorable request was when a very nervous young man asked me to help him create a “moment.” He wanted to propose to his girlfriend, but he wasn’t sure she would say yes. I directed him to the perfect spot where he could go down on his knee, with our beautiful hotel as the backdrop. The request was really a simple one. What made it so memorable for me, was how genuine his desire was to create that perfect moment to ask his true love’s hand.

A: I wouldn’t call any request difficult. “Challenging” is a better word. I once had to ship a 45’ speed boat to a guest’s home in Caiscais. At first my heart skipped a beat, as I had no clue where Caiscais was, and then my heart stopped completely when I found out it’s on the other side of the world (Portugal, it turns out). That’s when it turned to my Les Clefs d’Or colleagues. They helped me gain the clarity I needed to get the job done.

Q: I have many favorites. Our chefs are so talented, there are so many amazing specials, and I enjoy featuring our homemade pasta, foie gras, black truffle, Caiscais was, and then my heart stopped completely when I found out it’s on the other side of the world (Portugal, it turns out). That’s when it turned to my Les Clefs d’Or colleagues. They helped me gain the clarity I needed to get the job done.

A: What’s your favorite restaurant in the Biltmore?

Q: What’s your favorite restaurant in the Biltmore?

A: If a guest has only 48 hours in Miami, what would you recommend for the perfect itinerary?

Q: What’s your favorite spa treatment at the Biltmore?

A: I’ve been a member of Les Clefs d’Or for 25 years. Fellow members aren’t just my colleagues, they are my lifelong friends. Our motto is “in service through friendship.” And it’s true. Together, Les Clefs d’Or concierges help each other resolve challenges and guest requests ranging from the simplest to the most extravagant. We share ideas and best practices, and that knowledge makes all of us stronger. With Les Clefs d’Or, the entire world is literally at your fingertips.

Q: What’s your favorite spa treatment at the Biltmore?

A: I’d be happy to help you arrange a private cabana rental.

Q: What’s your favorite restaurant in the Biltmore?

A: Charter a sailboat.

Q: What’s your favorite spa treatment at the Biltmore?

A: Eat at Palme d’Or, Casa Tua, Prime 112, Zuma or Shop and stroll down Lincoln Road or experience Wynwood and its edgy scene.

Q: What’s your favorite spa treatment at the Biltmore?

A: My name is Ernesto Aragon, and I am your Guest Services Director at our luxurious Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida. I was born in Havana but raised in Miami. After four years in the Air Force, I lived in Washington DC for a while. But Miami’s siren song skipped a beat, as I had no clue where Caiscais was, and then my heart stopped completely when I found out it’s on the other side of the world (Portugal, it turns out). That’s when it turned to my Les Clefs d’Or colleagues. They helped me gain the clarity I needed to get the job done.

Q: What’s your favorite restaurant in the Biltmore?

A: Start by exploring the beautiful Magic City, in my opinion, is the energy of our very cosmopolitan, multicultural city. We have beautiful white beaches and azure water, and charming people everywhere. Miami is a world-renowned location, whether you want to dance the night away or settle into a secluded park to overlook the Bay.

Miami is radiant year-round, but in winter, it transforms itself into Paradise. The temperature rarely drops below 50°F, and precipitation is almost nonexistent. During the winter months, Miami hosts the Art Basel, Miami Boat Show, World Music Conference, Miami Grand Slam Tennis Tournament, and the extraordinary Food & Wine Festival.

There is something for everyone in Miami. Art abounds, restaurants beckon, and our beaches will astound you. If you’re the active, outdoorsy type, try kayaking through Oleta River State Park, or biking across the Rickenbacker causeway and through the abandoned Miami Zoo, where you’ll encounter all sorts of beautiful trails and wildlife. If you want to just relax, sip cool drinks and enjoy the sunshine, visit our world-renowned pool. I’d be happy to help you arrange a private cabana rental.

My name is Ernesto Aragon, and I am your Guest Services Director at our luxurious Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, Florida. I was born in Havana but raised in Miami. After four years in the Air Force, I lived in Washington DC for a while. But Miami’s siren song was calling me, so I returned to set down roots in my beloved home town.

The concierge profession is ideal for a gregarious individual who enjoys finding solutions to unusual requests and challenges. One of the things I love most about being a concierge is the relationships I have cultivated over the years with hotel guests, local business associates, and colleagues around the world. It’s said that “a concierge is only as good as his contacts.” I think a concierge is only as good as his passion for the profession. Passionate I am, and I’m also proud to be a member of the prestigious Les Clefs d’Or since 1992.

I invite you to come see me at the Concierge Desk, where I can help make your Miami dreams come true. Ernesto Aragon

Ernesto Aragon
Guest Services Director
Member of Les Clefs d’Or

Q: How did you become a concierge?

A: I discovered my passion for the position while working at the Ritz-Carlton, Washington DC as a bellman. I would watch the concierge and think to myself, “That’s what I want to be.” Before I worked in hotels, I served in the Air Force and worked in the fiduciary department of Flagship National Bank. A concierge is much more fulfilling than either of those other “careers.” I’ve been a concierge since 1985, and I became a Les Clefs d’Or member in 1992. I’ve worked at the Biltmore for 23 years, since 1994.

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Miracle Mile
CONVENIENT AND CHARMING SERVICES FOR
the Biltmore Bride

You’ve chosen the old-world glamour and stunning architectural backdrop of the Biltmore Hotel as the setting for your nuptials, and have we told you how honored we are?

After all, there are few events in one’s life more hallowed and lovely than a wedding, and Miracle Mile, just a short jaunt from the hotel grounds, couldn’t be a more lovely place to plan yours. From handmade suits to florists, bakeries, jewelry shops, and designer gowns, this unique and charmingly walkable stretch of downtown Coral Gables has been established over the decades as an internationally renowned one-stop spot for the perfect “I dos.”

Miracle Mile - an internationally renowned one-stop spot for the perfect “I dos.”

“Miracle Mile - an internationally renowned one-stop spot for the perfect “I dos.”

HISTORY

Although the name is a minor misnomer (Miracle Mile is really only a half-mile long), this strip of beautiful shops and services in downtown Coral Gables first took shape early in the 20th century as the brainchild of famed Coral Gables founder George Merrick. Even before this former Miami suburb was officially incorporated, a 1925 issue of The Miami Tribune published a story noting the way the shopping district was already taking shape as a unique sort of wedding district: “The bridal industry is also making its stamp in the new suburb inspired by the Garden City Movement. A ‘Flower Fashion Show’ at the new Venetian Pool features the latest wedding fashions from Burdine and Sons – from bridesmaid hats and corsages to bride’s bunch valley lilies and orchids.”

When the Biltmore Hotel opened nearby in 1926, it was immediately noted as the preeminent Coral Gables wedding and reception venue, and other local spots like the famed Congregational Church drew more and more brides and grooms to this glossy Miami locale. By the mid-20th century, bridal boutiques and wedding-themed services lined the red-bricked stretch of Coral Way between Le Jeune and Douglas Roads. Tefts, the famed traditional bridal store nearby, dominated the bridal wear scene, while shops like Carroll’s Jewelers, Jae’s Jewelers, and Bolado’s Clothiers popped up to address the full spectrum of goods and services needed for the modern wedding.

Frances and Emilio Fox, the 1969 founders of the famous bridal shop Chic Parisien, played a significant role in identifying Miracle Mile to the world as a “bridal destination.” As a member of the Merchants Association, Frances Fox spearheaded a trip to Paris for the local merchants to study and learn from the shape and operations of the world-famous Parisian wedding industry and districts. The Merchants Association also ran advertisements in women’s magazines calling Miracle Mile “the street for brides.”

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...
The Biltmore Bride

CONVENIENT AND CHARMING SERVICES FOR
the Biltmore Bride

CURRENT CLOTHING FAVORITES

CHIC PARISIEN

Chic Parisien, now Miami’s oldest bridal shop with over 50 years in business, is still a leading Miracle Mile fixture in bridal gowns, although it has moved a few streets south of its original location. In addition to a lineup of high-end gowns, its full-service offerings also include wedding invitations and event coordination. You can book an appointment by phone or online.

CHIC PARISIEN

Weddings are about bringing families together, and that’s why it’s so special that a father-daughter pair owns J del Olmo Bridal Gallery, a luxe bridal gallery. These two entrepreneurs created a Miracle Mile boutique specializing in gowns from local designers. They also carry their own popular in-house label. Alteration services are available, as well as cleaning and preserving the gowns once the festivities are over.

ALESSA’S BRIDAL DRESSES

One of the prettier establishments along the Miracle Mile is Alessa’s Bridal Dresses, where guests are treated to soft pastel tones, velvet loveseats, and crystal chandeliers as they pursue the wedding of their dreams. Here brides can bring their bridesmaids along when they try on one of this shop’s charming gowns, but the real reason to head to Alessa’s is their specialization in custom veils, complete with any adornments or embellishments she chooses.

While staying at The Biltmore Hotel, visit Downtown Coral Gables. There you’ll find Jae’s Jewelers, a full-service family owned boutique and the oldest business on Miracle Mile.

Founded in 1945, Jae’s Jewelers sells, repairs, creates, purchases, and appraises jewelry and watches. Owner Bruce Hornik & his daughter Jillian Hornik are both Graduate Gemologists, educated at GIA. “We have a loyal clientele because of our personalized customer service and decades of experience”, says Jillian. Bruce adds, “Clients who purchased their engagement rings and wedding bands from our store now bring in their children and grandchildren who are getting married. It is wonderful to celebrate happy times. We are very fortunate.”

Jae’s Jewelers’ best-selling designer lines are John Hardy, Montblanc, Roberto Coin, Rebecca, & Alor. The store is also the only authorized dealer in South Florida for Masriera, Mattioli, & Roberto Demeglio.

In addition to new designs, Jae’s Jewelers carries a large collection of fine vintage jewelry and pre-owned watches such as Rolex, Cartier, and Chopard, at up to half of the original price.

237 MIRACLE MILE, CORAL GABLES
HOURS: TUES-SAT 11 AM - 6 PM
PHONE: 305-443-7724

The entire Jae’s Jewelers family looks forward to welcoming you to their store soon!

www.jaesjewelers.com
More services

Well Groomed Gentleman

Even if clothes make the man or woman, you must leave nothing to chance on your wedding day. Billing themselves as a “lavish barbershop,” the Miracle Mile’s Well Groomed Gentleman offers the groom and his cohorts exactly what they need to look their best on this special day. From a steamy shave to a last-minute hair styling, men will never feel better than when they walk out of Well Groomed Gentleman’s doors.

Accessories

Twinkle Twinkle Bridal Jewelry & Accessories

After you have the perfect dress tucked into your closet, what will you wear to complete “the look”? For that, one good Miracle Mile option might be Twinkle Twinkle Bridal Jewelry & Accessories, specializing in embellishments, accessories, bridal hair jewelry, and even Swarovski cake toppers. Don’t you think beauty is in the details? That’s definitely the philosophy at Twinkle Twinkle. From veils, sashes, toasting glasses, special garter belts, boutonniere clips, and bridesmaid and groomsmen gifts to charming additions to your wedding tablescape, this distinctive store has something sparkly and unique to add interest to your special day.

“From veils, sashes, toasting glasses, special garter belts, boutonniere clips, and bridesmaid and groomsmen gifts to charming additions to your wedding tablescape.”

EDOARDO BORRELLI

As for the men, one can’t go wrong with longtime bespoke tailored suit makers Edoardo Borrelli. From their fine cloth to their handmade craftsmanship and traditional yet fashionably elegant designs, the men in your wedding party will surely want to wear this suit long into the future, after the cake is cut and the bouquet is tossed.

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Transportation

Coral Gables’ downtown shopping district was designed specifically to be easily walkable. Leave your car behind to experience this street’s true charm, although if you choose to drive, many of the upscale bridal shops offer parking with their appointments. You’ll miss, however, the chance to take a ride on the Coral Gables Trolley, a complimentary service from the city that pays homage to the neighborhood’s historic past.

Flowers & Services

Flowers & Services offers exactly what its name implies. This family-run business is an old hand in Coral Gables, offering wedding flowers, décor, and even tablecloths. And for memorable wedding stationary, Lilian Designs Studio has custom-made and personalized invitations and signage.

“Pre-wedding-day spa and nail treatments will prepare you to unwind and shine.”

Avant-Garde Salon and Spa

For the ladies, Avant-Garde Salon and Spa is the obvious choice on the Miracle Mile. Pre-wedding-day spa and nail treatments will prepare you to unwind and shine, and day-of hair and makeup for the bridal party lets the bride relax, knowing that her beauty is in the very best of hands.

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The creation of a bespoke suit involves the precise stages of processing that follows the tailor scrupulously and accurately.

Gentlemen… You Deserve It!

The dress you choose to wear on your wedding day is special. It makes you feel every inch the beautiful bride. And it’s almost certainly a delicate fabric, possibly with beading or detailing, and usually white, ivory, cream, champagne… we offer an unrivalled professional wedding dress cleaning service.

We offer collection, cleaning, storing, preservation and even the shipping of your wedding dress.

FREE Pickup & Delivery
One less thing on your list

After the big day…

Wine stain or small tear on your stunning gown?

we can clean and restore your vision-in-white to its original splendor. Then, we’ll preserve it for years to come.
Outdoor

STUNNING OUTDOOR TREASURES

Thanks in part to the supermodels and celebrities who’ve strutted their stuff on South Beach, the two-mile stretch of sand has earned its reputation as a must-visit vacation destination. But Miami has more to offer than people-watching. Here are five outdoor treasures to explore.

1. VIZCAYA MUSEUM AND GARDENS
3251 South Miami Avenue; http://vizcaya.org/

Before you dismiss it as just another house-and-garden museum, you may want to read the nearly 4,700 TripAdvisor reviews, 700 Google reviews, and 400 Yelp reviews that describe it as heaven on Earth. That is, of course, what James Deering – a retired millionaire and renowned partier who appeared in gossip columns, and cultural ambassador who entertained French dignitaries at his New York and Chicago homes – intended to create.

Deering spent several winters at the estate but died before it was finished. Vizcaya, built primarily from reinforced concrete, has survived numerous hurricanes and turned 100 years old in 2016. You can tour the home, grounds, and David A. Klein Orchidarium, filled with over 2,000 plants, between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. every day except Tuesdays, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.

... nearly 4,700 TripAdvisor reviews, 700 Google reviews, and 400 Yelp reviews describe it as heaven on Earth.”
2. FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN
10901 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables; http://www.fairchildgarden.org/

If you have a Georgia O’Keeffe-like fixation with orchids, visit Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, one of the American Orchid Society and Tropical Botanic Garden, home of the American Orchid Society and over two acres of rainforest and rare orchids. Some breeds covered oak and mahogany tree branches like sleeves until the late 1800s, when they were removed en masse and sold as potted plants. Species such as the Florida mahogany tree branches like sleeves until the late 1800s, when they were removed en masse and sold as potted plants. Species such as the Florida butterfly and cowhorn orchids still exist, but they need the right combination of butterfly and cowhorn orchids still exist, but they need the right combination of tree bark and fungus to flourish. This is “an exceedingly rare event,” according to the garden, which proposed the Million Orchid Project – a plan that would reintroduce native orchids to urban areas including schoolyards, roadways, and other public spaces.

3. THE KAMPONG
4013 Douglas Road; http://www.ntbg.org/gardens/kampong.php

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden was named after botanist and U.S. Department of Agriculture plant explorer David Fairchild in 1938. Twelve years earlier, he and wife Marian, (Alexander Graham Bell’s younger daughter) built a Biscayne Bay home they named the Kampong, which translates to cluster of houses in Indonesia, where David spent time collecting flora. Not surprisingly, he planted rare tropical trees and exotic flowers all over his property.

The home’s next owner enlarged the garden and donated it to the National Tropical Botanical Garden in 1984. On self-guided tours Monday through Saturday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., you’ll encounter flowering trees such as the Jamaican poinsettia, and a variety of fruit trees, including Barbados cherries which are high in vitamin C, and tamarind, which is used to make jams, sauces, syrups, condiments, and candies.

5. THE DEERING ESTATE AT CUTLER
16701 SW 72nd Avenue; http://www.deeringestate.org/

Unlike brother James Deering’s Vizcaya villa, Charles’ waterfront home succumbed to Hurricane Andrew’s 165-mph winds and nearly 17-foot waves in 1992. The Category 5 hurricane, one of the most destructive to hit the United States, sacked Deering’s Richmond Cottage, formerly the first hotel between 4,000-feet thick in Florida.

When he learned a subdivision was being built near his home, he piled the bricks onto two rail cars he’d placed on the chassis of a Republic truck and asked a friend with a tractor to haul them 10 miles to Homestead. Once he restituted the carvings, he erected walls that weigh 125 pounds per cubic foot. Each section is 8-feet tall, 4-feet wide, and 3-feet thick. Despite having only a fourth-grade education, he mystified scientists and engineers, who compared his Coral Castle to Stonehenge and the Egyptian pyramids.

His life-long, unrequited love inspired a Billy Idol song but never motivated Ed’s ex-fiancée to visit despite several invitations.

In December 1951, Ed died at age 64 after falling ill and hanging a sign on his door that said, “Going to the hospital.” You can see his 28-year project Sunday through Thursday between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. or Friday and Saturday between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Pamphlets he wrote about magnetic currents, minerals, vegetables, animal life, and other topics and sold for a dime are available in the gift shop.

During guided nature hikes, you’ll see orchids, ferns, gray foxes, spotted skunks, snakes, and possibly fossils. A sinkhole that revealed thousands of mammal, reptile, fish, bird, and human bones in the ‘80s is now preserved as the Cutler Fossil Site.

We told you there were outdoor treasures in Miami. But some of them are still buried.
Sports

SPORTS FANS UNITE!

GET YOUR FIX AT ONE OF THESE FAMOUS MIAMI VENUES.

While there is certainly nothing wrong with settling in on your couch or in a sports bar to watch your favorite teams play, wouldn’t it be better to be part of the action? Miami has a long tradition of killer professional sports teams, and we think we have the best fans in the world. Come join the party and hit up one of these spots to watch Miami sports teams live.

**HARD ROCK STADIUM**

After nearly a year of heavy construction and renovation work, this home to the Miami Dolphins reopened last fall to great acclaim. The new stadium has the capability to block out the weather with a 17-acre canopy roof. Located in Miami Gardens, it has hosted five Super Bowls since its original grand opening in 1987. If you’re a college football fan, you may know that this state-of-the-art facility is also where our beloved college football team, the Miami Hurricanes, plays its home games. This multi-purpose sporting powerhouse once also hosted the Miami Marlins before they moved to their own facility, Marlins Park.

http://www.hardrockstadium.com

**AMERICAN AIRLINES ARENA**

Have you heard of a little basketball team called the Miami Heat? Thought so. They play in American Airlines Arena, a mammoth sports and entertainment complex in downtown Miami. Opened in 1999, this entertainment epicenter also hosts UFC events and top music headliners. It is easily accessible by public transportation, including the Miami Metrorail. Jump off at the Government Center Stop to avoid fighting the car crowds.

http://www.aaarena.com/teams/detail/miami-heat

**MARLINS PARK**

As the name suggests, this baseball park is home to Miami’s own Major League Baseball team, the Marlins. Although the stadium also hosts soccer and other events during the off-season, Marlins Park was built with baseball fanatics in mind. The venue just opened in 2012, so it is very modern and environmentally certified. It also includes an impressive catering facility to appeal to the modern sports fan. Interest in the new park spurred administrators to offer public tours for a small fee. See their website for more details.

http://www.miami.marlins.mlb.com

**BB&T CENTER**

Even though you may think of Miami as a city where it’s perpetually summer, that doesn’t mean we don’t love our hockey here. Take a trip to the BB&T Center to watch our beloved Miami Panthers in action. First opened in the fall of 1998, just in time for the hockey season, this popular entertainment center is just north of the Sawgrass Mills shopping mall and is accessible by public transit. In addition to a full hockey schedule, the BB&T Center is also a large live music venue and plays host to skating and gymnastics.

http://www.thebbtcenter.com

**Don’t have tickets? No problem.** Our concierge will be happy to connect you to the best places to buy, either last minute or in advance. And if your game is all sold out, never fear! We can also direct you to some of Miami’s favorite sports bars, where die-hard fans gather to experience the joys and disappointments of their favorite sports teams in a fun, community setting.

“Miami has a long tradition of killer professional sports teams”
When you need a little retail therapy and nothing else will do, get your fix at one of these premier shopping destinations in and around Miami.

**VILLAGE OF MERRICK PARK**

At Shops at Merrick Park in Coral Gables, major luxury standby brands like Burberry and Gucci mix with mass-market favorites like J. Crew and Madewell. But if you know where to stop in, plenty of unique things can be found here, too. Calypso can outfit you with that light and elegant Miami style, complete with resort-wear options. Pedini Miami is a surprising shop full of unusual and decadent kitchenware. The one thing you simply can’t miss here is the quaint farmer’s market on site, Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

http://www.shopsatmerrickpark.com

**SAWGRASS MILLS**

If the heat is rising and you simply must stay within your air-conditioned bubble, then the acres and acres of climate-controlled shops at Sawgrass Mills will take care of your needs. Sawgrass Mills bills itself as “the largest outlet and value retail shopping destination in the United States,” and with over 350 stores on the premises, you are sure to find something to satisfy your needs. From outlet retailers like Target and T.J. Maxx to high-end luxury brands like Salvatore Ferragamo, Tony Burch, and Versace, the entire range of shopping is catered to here. Sawgrass Mills also features numerous dining options including The Cheesecake Factory, Johnny Rockets, and Sushigami, which are sure to keep you fueled all day.

http://www.simon.com/mall/sawgrass-mills

**AVENUTRA MALL**

If you’ve got both the energy and the deep pockets to spend the day shopping at Aventura Mall, you won’t be troubled by a dearth of pretty things to occupy your time. Missoni, Penhaligon’s, Herve Leger, and Chanel… do we need to keep going? If you’re after a tight concentration of the very best brands, you’ll find them here. And at the end of the day you can rest your weary self at the Caudalie Boutique and Spa. You’ll also find inspiration, beauty, fashion icons, and plenty of eye candy in Aventura’s own digital fashion lifestyle magazine, Styled.

http://www.simon.com/mall/aventuramall

**DADELAND MALL**

At 1.4 million square feet, this mall is massive, and it’s also one of the oldest in Miami. Home to the biggest Macy’s department store in Florida, a Porsche Design storefront, and, as they put it, a “chic new wing” of modern design, Dadeland Mall certainly has its charms. While you will find a few high-end shops like Mont Blanc and Louis Vuitton on site, this shopping center caters more toward middle-of-the-road fashions and dining establishments. And there are plenty of them. With nearly 200 retail stores and dozens of spots for a bite, you will likely find everything you need at this iconic retail machine.

http://www.simon.com/mall/dadeland-mall

**BAL HARBOUR SHOPS**

That lovely Miami heat lends itself well to spending the day outside. Luxury brands abound in this garden-style outdoor mall, complete with koi ponds, lush greenery, and all the other trappings of a chic shopping experience. When Bal Harbour Shops opened in the 1960s, it was a one-of-a-kind retail center in Florida. At the time, one wasn’t expected to be able to find luxury goods outside of fashion centers like New York, London, or Paris. Today, the Miami shopping scene has several places to get your hands on high-end fashions, but Bal Harbour has been leading the pack all these years.

http://www.balharbourshops.com

**BRICKELL CITY CENTER**

Out with the old, in with the new? If this is your philosophy, you must stop by the newly opened Brickell City Center for a carefully curated array of choice shops and dining spots. One wouldn’t really call this place a mall or shopping center. It’s more like a concept. Over 700 premium apartments, guestrooms, hundreds of thousands of feet of contemporary office space, and about half a million square feet of high-end fashion, entertainment, and dining options make for a veritable city full of elites and elite space. It’s so lush and unique, you may decide to stay and snap up a penthouse apartment in one of the two residential towers.

http://www.brickellcitycentre.com

“At 1.4 million square feet, this mall is massive, and it’s also one of the oldest in Miami.”
THE MANY MALLS OF MIAMI:
YOUR GUIDE TO SHOPPERS’ HEAVEN

THE INDEPENDENT SHOPS AND BOUTIQUES

C. MADELEINE’S
Called a “fashion wonder of the world,” this place is one-of-a-kind. People from all over the globe (including tons of celebrity stylists) come to Miami just to visit this extraordinary collection of vintage designer fashions. Old school Chanel, Saint Laurent, and hand-painted denim designs line the racks. Just because it’s vintage, don’t expect it to be cheap, however. The carefully curated collections here are nobody’s castoffs. Bring your deep pockets.

http://www.cmadeleines.com

EN AVANCE
This design district boutique carries women’s fashions from designers around the world. If you want to find interesting pieces from promising young or unknown talents, this is the place to do it, without searching all over the city.

http://www.enavance.com

MRKT AVENUE DEUX
With a bare, minimalist aesthetic reminiscent of an industrial chic art gallery, this concept shop offers “high streetwear” for both men and women. Casual styles featuring impeccable craftsmanship, materials, and design mean that although the selections are informal, you must come prepared to spend.

http://www.mrktdeux.com

BOHO HUNTER
Nestled in the Wynwood Arts District amid many other hip, indie shops, this fun and highly stylized boutique sells clothes, accessories, and housewares from Latin American designers. The names may not be familiar, but the designs will rank high on your list of quirky, well-made, and unique goods.

http://www.bohohunter.com

Quality isn’t expensive.
Cheap is expensive.

A quality Oriental rug will be hand-knotted, made of 100% silk or wool, and will continue to reward its owners for decades. Whether it cost $500 or $30,000, you will always feel it was money well spent.

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http://www.azharsorientalrug.com

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Miami museums run the gamut of sensorial experiences from mouthwatering memorabilia at comfort food blogger Burger Beast’s new fast food franchise-focused trip down memory lane to fine art, live music, and the best mojitos in town at Little Havana’s Cubaocho Museum and Performing Arts Center. Here are four of our favorite ways to educate and entertain ourselves when we need a break from the beach.

**THE PATRICIA & PHILLIP FROST ART MUSEUM**

10975 SW 17th Street; https://frost.fiu.edu

Although air-conditioned art museums are a great way to beat the heat, we recommend the Frost Art Museum at Florida International University for its Caribbean and Latin American artists’ flair. If you aren’t into contemporary art, check out the museum’s permanent collection of photography, printmaking, and pre-Columbian and African art or current exhibitions, such as Carol Brown Goldberg’s “Tangled Nature.” Her paintings and drawings conjure jungles of flower-, plant-, and microscopic-organism-esque designs. Have some fun by naming untitled pieces.

**MIAMI BEACH BOTANICAL GARDEN**

2000 Convention Center Drive; http://www.mbgarden.org/tours

For those who prefer real flowers, Miami Beach Botanical Garden offers vanillapretentious orchids, starburst bushes, tropical milkweed, and a Japanese garden. This fragrant respite from the city also features an edible garden full of figs, pineapples, pomegranates, raspberries, and herbs that are used during workshops and events, such as its annual Taste of the Garden in January. Pull up a mat next to parrots, iguanas, dragonflies, and butterflies to practice yoga in the garden Thursday evenings at 6.

**ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

1300 Biscayne Blvd.; http://www.arshtcenter.org

Every Sunday, Florida-grown fruits and vegetables take center stage during Adrienne Arsht Center’s 4 p.m. farmer’s market. The rest of the week, you can see a symphony, a musical, an opera, or an award-winning magician. In “Death & Harry Houdini,” April 26 through May 21, Dennis Watkins, who the Chicago Tribune called “the real deal,” will perform dangerous escape acts. You can also take a free tour of the facility, which turned 10 last October, every Monday and Saturday at noon to learn about the Arsht Center’s architecture and history as well as the stars who’ve stepped on stage.

**PÉREZ ART MUSEUM MIAMI (PAMM)**

1103 Biscayne Blvd.; http://pamm.org

In 2013, Pérez Art Museum Miami, formerly known as the Center for the Fine Arts and the Miami Art Museum, moved downtown to a building designed to resemble Biscayne Bay houses that stand on stilts, where it was renamed. The New York Times reported that four board members resigned when the museum was named after billionaire real estate developer and trustee Jorge M. Pérez, who donated $20 million toward the new facility and $15 million worth of Latin American art. But with more than 150,000 visitors in its first four months at the new location, PAMM surpassed the anticipated attendance level of 200,000 for its first year and its previous average of 60,000 visitors per year, according to the Miami Herald, so the Condo King-cum-philanthropist apparently knows what he’s doing.

Visit PAMM, which has been praised on Yelp as “one of the best art museums I’ve ever visited,” for contemporary art and play with Lawrence Weiner’s interactive exhibit “Out of Sight,” which will move on to Melbourne, New York, Chicago, and Shanghai later this year.

48 49
Where does one begin when there are so many things to see, do, and taste in Miami? The following four day trips can help you get started, whether you’re a nature lover, history buff, foodie — or exhibitionist.

A glance at a guidebook can overwhelm. “The lighthouse, built in 1825 and reconstructed in 1846, is a popular wedding setting”

SURFSIDE

Surfside, Miami, was incorporated with just 35 residents’ signatures in 1935. Today, with less than 6,000 residents, it retains its small-town quaintness despite boasting more than 100 businesses.

Start your day with a sunrise stroll along Surfside’s clean, mile-long beach (9301 Collins Avenue) or bike path before Bal Harbour Shops’ (9700 Collins Avenue) siren song lures you away from the water with the promise of pretty things from Michael Kors, Stella McCartney, and other designers.

When so many stores are vying for your attention, shopping can be strenuous. Take a breather at St. Regis Bal Harbour Resort’s spa (9703 Collins Avenue), where aromatic steam rooms will help you unwind before a glass of wine al fresco at Cafe Ragazzi (9500 Harding Avenue), a Surfside staple for 15 years.

For dinner, order the pappardelle porcini, a pasta dish with white wine sauce, porcini mushrooms, and truffle oil, or the pollo parmigiana.

Save room for Serendipity Creamery and Yogurt Cafe (9457 Harding Avenue), which is open until midnight on Saturday and 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday.

If no one appears to be working the counter, yell hello — employees make fresh batches, including ingredients such as marshmallows and peanut butter cups, in the back. Try the lemon, mango, passion fruit, or pear Riesling sorbet for a more-health-conscious-than-chocolate-mousse dessert.

Serendipity uses organic ingredients whenever possible.

“Start your day with a sunrise stroll along Surfside’s clean, mile-long beach”
Beaches

MATHESON HAMMOCK PARK

Lest you think Matheson Hammock Park (9610 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables) is named for the canvas couch one ties between two trees, a little history: In 1930, William Matheson and son Hugh donated nearly 85 acres of tropical hardwood hammock forest to Dade County, desiring it to be designated a botanical garden. Between 1934 and 1935, the county bought another 420 acres of land. Thanks to donations from the Matheson family and others, the park now spans 630 acres. According to the National Park Service, hardwood hammock habitats are dense forests whose tree branches intersect so much that they create a canopy that blocks the sky and keeps the area beneath cool. Consequently, Matheson Hammock Park is a great place to go hiking. Visit http://floridahikes.com/mathesonhammock for a 1.4-mile round-trip trail.

Afterward, take a dip in the atoll pool, which is likely to be full of kiteboarders, before dining at Red Fish Grill, one of the 100 Best Al Fresco Dining Restaurants in the Nation last year, according to the Cooking Channel. Its menu includes spring mesclun salad with toasted pumpkin seeds, grapes, manchego cheese, and champagne vinaigrette; sea bass, salmon, shrimp, and snapper dishes; and hanger steak, pork chops, and chicken.

Beaches

KEY BISCAYNE

Burn off the previous evening’s Italian cuisine and sorbet at Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park (1200 Crandon Blvd.), where you can climb 109 steps to Cape Florida Lighthouse after paying the $4/individual or $8/car admission fee. The lighthouse, built in 1825 and reconstructed in 1846, is a popular wedding setting possibly because of symbolism. It’s the oldest standing structure in Miami-Dade County.

The park encompasses the southern third of island town Key Biscayne, and both Forbes and Stephen “Dr. Beach” Leatherman ranked its mile-long stretch of sand as one of the top 10 U.S. beaches. Like other Florida State Parks, it’s open from 8 a.m. until sundown every day of the year. You can explore the lighthouse Thursday through Monday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and take a free guided tour at 10 a.m. or 1 p.m. Thursday through Monday.

Pack a picnic to eat in one of 18 pavilions or refuel at the Lighthouse Cafe, which serves soups, salads, sandwiches, seafood, pasta, and Cuban dishes such as ropa vieja, a shredded beef stew. Once you’ve thrown your garbage in the proper receptacle, head to Crandon Park for an eco-adventure, part of Miami-Dade County Parks’ year-round program. During the Key Biscayne Kayak Adventure, which meets at the nature center (6767 Crandon Blvd.), you’ll paddle past a fossilized reef to explore a mangrove forest. The Sunset Kayak Adventure meets at the marina (4000 Crandon Blvd.) to paddle around Pelican Island, into the mangrove forest, and back toward the marina for an Instagram-worthy sunset photo of the skyline.

Culminate your trip to Key Biscayne with a slice of Key lime pie, complete with cool custard and a graham cracker crust, at the Rusty Pelican (3201 Rickenbacker Causeway).

Beaches
Beach Destinations and Itineraries

4

HAULOVER PARK

Nearly an hour from the Biltmore, 177-acre Haulover Park (10800 Collins Avenue) features tennis courts, a marina, a nine-hole golf course, and one of South Florida’s best nude beaches, according to CBS Miami. Although European tourists typically go topless on Lummus Park Beach (Ocean Drive, Miami Beach), Haulover Beach is the only official clothing-optional beach in the state. Signs were installed in December 1993.

So if you were looking to do something adventurous on your vacation, there’s nothing to fear but fear itself — and the 1.3 million people and cell phones that visit per year.

That being said, there are rules at Haulover. First, never take photographs of others without obtaining permission.

Second, gawking is considered rude. Third, public displays of affection can get you arrested. Last, a towel should be carried wherever you go.

“As a courtesy to others, nudists always place a towel down on any area that they will sit on, especially chairs or public benches,” hauloverbeach.org said.

“Those who go into the ocean for a swim will generally carry two towels, one for sitting and one for drying off.”

Note that only the northern third of the 1.4-mile beach, between lifeguard towers 12 and 16, is clothing optional, so don’t strip until you see a sign. The park is open sunrise to sunset.

In addition to concession stands, food trucks set up shop at Bill Bird Marina Tuesday nights between 5 and 10. Parking is free; pets are prohibited.

“First, never take photographs of others without obtaining permission. Second, gawking is considered rude. Third, public displays of affection can get you arrested. Last, a towel should be carried wherever you go.”

The art of the swimsuit since 1971

www.vilebrequin.com
Contemporary art has suffered a lot of flak from critics, including John Russell, who wrote for The New York Times and The Sunday Times in London. But as he said in his book “The Meanings of Modern Art: History as Nightmare,” art exists “to help us live, and for no other reason.” Here are three galleries that are rendering that service for Miami residents – and their owners.

3 MODERN ART GALLERIES MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN MIAMI

THE RUBELL FAMILY COLLECTION
95 NW 29 Street; https://rfc.museum

When Don and Mera Rubell began collecting art in the early ’60s, he was in medical school, and she was starting a teaching career. They set aside a quarter of her monthly salary, which amounted to $25 per week, to buy pieces from up-and-coming artists they visited and established relationships with. Once Don’s brother and Studio 54 co-founder Steve died in 1989 and Don inherited the estate, they were able to broaden their horizons – and their collection – by going global.

Today, they have two pieces of art in their home, including one by daughter Jennifer, and more than 5,000 in the collection they moved to Miami’s Wynwood neighborhood in 1993. Christie’s auction house said it’s “a living chronology of contemporary art as it has evolved over the past half-century.”

Mera, who told a Sao Paulo Museum of Modern Art audience that she and Don fight every day, said it saved her life, her 50-year marriage, and her family, which makes purchasing decisions as a committee with son Jason, who owned galleries in the early ’90s and supplies input from his generation’s perspective.

“[I]t’s constantly teaching us about who we are, and somehow giving hope that there’s a future,” Mera said.

art exists “to help us live, and for no other reason.”

MARGULIES WAREHOUSE
591 NW 27th Street; http://www.margulieswarehouse.com/#/home

The Margulies Collection at the Warehouse has helped give such hope to homeless women and children of Miami because former real estate developer and owner Martin Z. Margulies donates all admission and tour fees to the Lotus House, his ex-wife and best friend’s shelter. Some of the women work as security guards protecting Margulies’ more-than-30-year-old collection of approximately 4,000 pieces.

ARTnews, the self-proclaimed oldest and most widely circulated art magazine in the world, regularly includes Margulies on its “Top 200 Collectors” list. He could’ve retired years ago by selling coveted works. But, he told The New York Times, he would’ve just bought more art. Instead, he runs his warehouse as a nonprofit institution to educate visitors, who are primarily high school and college students. Rather than donate his collection to a museum when he dies, he’s making sure it will be sold to benefit his four adult children and the underprivileged.

“A lot of people like to see their names on buildings,” the son of Harlem grocers said. “I don’t care. We’re so insignificant in many ways.”

WYNWOOD MURALS
2520 NW 2nd Avenue; http://www.thewynwoodwalls.com

Three years before real estate developer Tony Goldman died in 2012, he turned what had become Wynwood’s windowless warehouse district into a canvas. Believing street, or graffiti, artists were underappreciated and disrespected, he started the Wynwood Walls program, which enabled them to transform abandoned buildings into colorful murals.

A year later, the Wynwood Doors project revamped a dump into a tree-filled park where 15 metal roll-down gates were installed as canvases. Thanks to Tony and a bevy of artists, many of whom hail from New York City and go by brand names such as Futura, COCO 144, and Faith 47, a former eyesore is now home to over 70 art galleries, shops, and bars. Five years ago, Forbes named Wynwood Arts District one of America’s top 20 hipster neighborhoods, and in November 2016, The New York Times included it in its “36 Hours in Miami and Miami Beach” itinerary. Goldman, who said, “Grit next to beauty makes beauty all the more beautiful,” wouldn’t be surprised.
Dining out

IN CORAL GABLES

The Coral Gables dining scene is as eclectic and vibrant today as George Merrick had hoped it would be upon its founding in the early 1900s. When he designed the town, Merrick took inspiration from New York City planner Frederick Law Olmstead, creating a community lush with life and history. Deemed “The City Beautiful” and dressed in architectural Mediterranean Revival and Spanish Renaissance styles, Miami’s neighbor deserves a dining scene that complements its rich landscape and classic beauty. The Coral Gables food scene is brimming with close to 140 dining establishments and gourmet shops to awaken your palate. However, it can be overwhelming to choose among such a vast array of options. Luckily, through Merrick’s vision, Coral Gables makes it easy to explore a world of cuisines within this two-mile stretch. Here’s an insider’s guide to the top eateries in town.

ORTANIQUE ON THE MILE

Family-owned Ortanique on the Mile, is situated in the heart of Coral Gables. Opened in 1999, their menu articulates a keen understanding of Caribbean flavor. The focus is on fish, as Chef Cindy Hutson delivers heaping dishes of their trademark “cuisine of the sun” packed with tropical flavor. Dinner ranges from a braised lamb special to Coffee and Cocoa Encrusted Wild Salmon. Offering such a distinctly original menu makes Ortanique a much-treasured gem in the Coral Gables dining scene.

THE BELLMÔNT SPANISH RESTAURANT

Also located on Miracle Mile, the Bellmônt Spanish Restaurant is equal parts flavor and soul. Its menu offers an imaginative mix of unique, old world cuisine with an expertly modern Spanish twist. Diners agree that hospitality is above and beyond expectations, making the restaurant feel like an extension of owners Sergio Catalina Bellmônt and Claudia Romero’s home. The full menu has no shortage of choices, all drawing from a well-curated mix of flavors and ingredients. We highly suggest leading with the fried chickpeas and enjoying the lamb chop entrée. For larger parties, one can indulge in the suckling pig.

The Authentic Taste of Spain

339 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables, FL 33134
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In menu offers an imaginative mix of unique, old world cuisine with an expertly modern Spanish twist.
CAFFE ABBRACCI

Caffe Abbracci is like an extension of Venice, where owner Nino Pernetti delivers classic Italian dishes with uncompromised authenticity. Pernetti has an acute understanding of the importance of a homely atmosphere. The ambiance itself is worth a visit, featuring crisp, white linen tablecloths and elegant, pronounced chandeliers dimmed to perfection. The menu is peppered with gems like the Branzino “Belvedere,” prepared with an array of palate-pleasing ingredients, including grained mustard, white wine, and lemon zest. If the flavors don’t speak for themselves, perhaps Pernetti’s prestigious awards will. Caffe Abbracci holds the coveted DiRōNA and Mobil Awards, making this establishment a top choice for the Miami region at large.

EATING HOUSE MIAMI

One modern gem in Coral Gables’ old world setting is Eating House Miami, a restaurant fluent in a language we like to call “what the kids are up to these days.” Its ever-changing menu offers an entirely fresh dining perspective, featuring the likes of Grilled Broccoli Stems for appetizers and Fried Free Range Chicken for dinner. Its full brunch menu is brimming with garden-fresh mixes, ingredients like grilled avocado and black truffle miso, and unique flavor combinations such as ginger and lime or cucumber and mint. We highly recommend this hot spot for anyone looking to venture beyond the traditional.

XIXÓN SPANISH RESTAURANT

On the other hand, those who prefer to steep themselves in tradition will find it in abundance at Xixón Spanish Restaurant, an establishment built on the fusion of authentic foods and wines from all regions of Spain. Carlos Mattos has created an iconic dining experience recognized throughout all of Miami. His trademark dishes include Grilled Seared Foie Gras with Apples and White Grapes and a host of palate-pleasing, perfectly seasoned seafood.
Cindy Hutson brings the flavors of the tropics to you by sharing some of her award winning “Cuisine of the Sun,” dishes.

www.ortaniquerestaurants.com

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My name is Manolo (mah-NO-lo) Doreste and I’m a passion-filled, original photographer based in Miami. I possess a strong appreciation for the extraordinary and strive for it in all I do—whether that’s capturing life’s greatest moments or finding my native city’s best slice of pizza.

Morning

**Morning Smoothie/Ginger Shot**

GREEN GABLES CAFÉ
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Coral Gables, FL 33134

My go to family owned and operated local restaurant, always fresh, always nourishing and always organic.

**Morning Coffee More**

YOUR STYLE
CAFÉ CURUBA
2626 Ponce De Leon Blvd.
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Single origin espresso drinks, French press (known as Clever), cold brews and homemade pastries, this tiny café is serving up some yummy treats...do not pass on the Colombian pan de bono!

Breakfast

**Breakfast Chocolate Fashion**

284 Andalusia Ave.
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Nothing says morning break like landing one of their outdoor seats while sipping on a latte and a personal-sized Greek Quiche (tomatoes, onions & Feta). Go Good!

Lunch

**Lunch Frenchie’s Diner**

2618 Galano St.
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Have a networking lunch but don’t want the feel of a business lunch? This charming neighborhood spot is my hidden gem. Off the beaten path and just out of the whirlwind enough to disconnect...whether you’re into Steak Frites or Moules Frites, go with the frites and if you happen to land there on a day when their coconut cake is available, well, you’ve scored! And remember, it’s not a French lunch without a glass of rosé.

Happy Hour

**Happy Hour Copper 29**

Ready for an intimate, end of day spot? Check out the beautifully designed Copper 29 where a mixology pro will deliver the perfect cocktail in a scene that looks like you’ve been transported to a 1920’s speakeasy.

“...a scene that looks like you’ve been transported to a 1920’s speakeasy.”
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Dinner and Theatre? Always Miracle Theatre
280 Miracle Mile
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Keep it local and visit one of the city’s historical buildings dating back to 1948. The best part is that the Miracle Theater is home of the Actor’s Playhouse theater company. It is a cultural and performing arts center for the community that truly reflects the greatness of the theater’s past.

Just a few doors down
Fratellino Ristorante
264 Miracle Mile
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Best Italian in town! New to the Coral Gables family, but by no means new to this town, family recipes handed down are brought to life for you. This is by far one of my favorites on Miracle Mile. Hint: Get the Gnocchi and the Caneloni!

If you still have room – a taste of home, late night Versailles Restaurant
3555 SW 8th St.
Miami, FL 33135

Open late, visit the ventanita, Spanish for “little window,” where you can place an order for a must-try cortadito and Cuban pastry. Still hungry? Venture inside, where you will find this Cuban diner filled with wall-to-wall mirrors and a buzzing unlike any you’ve ever heard. Portions are pretty big so don’t be afraid to share.

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