

Wallpaper*
City Guide

MIAMI

PHAIDON

The Betsy – South Beach

1440 Ocean Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33139 | www.thebetsyhotel.com | info@thebetsyhotel.com | 305.531.6100

HOTELS

WHERE TO STAY AND WHICH ROOMS TO BOOK

The SoBe scene starts on Ocean Drive with the revamped The Betsy (see p028), and moves on to Collins Avenue, which has direct sand access, with the Delano (see p029), the hip Kimpton Surfcomber (No 1717, T 305 532 7715), the Nautilus (see p024), the W (see p026) and chic Ibiza-style 1 Hotel (No 2341, T 305 604 1000). Back from the sea, art deco refurb The Plymouth (336 21st Street, T 305 602 5000) on Collins Square has a Saint-Tropez vibe. While the sceney hotels lack Claridge's-style service, there will be a vibey bar, a pool party, hip stores and branded restaurants. To the north, Faena's fantasy playground (see p018) has joined pioneer Soho Beach House (opposite), happening Freehand (2727 Indian Creek Drive, T 305 531 2727), Edition (see p021) and the Martin Brudnizki-designed The Confidante (No 4041, T 305 424 1234) in a mid-beach cluster.

Downtown's hotels are more business-oriented, including the Four Seasons (1435 Brickell Avenue, T 305 358 3535) and the swish Mandarin Oriental (500 Brickell Key Drive, T 305 913 8288). The design properties found here, such as East (see p025), the Kimpton Epic (270 Biscayne Boulevard, T 305 424 5226) and the W (see p013), are better value than those on the ocean. Elsewhere, The Vagabond (see p030) is now a MiMo anchor, and the Ciprianis have woken up sleepy Coconut Grove with a nautical version of their Mr C (2988 McFarlane Road, T 866 786 4173) concept, launched in 2019.

For full addresses and room rates, see *Resources*.

**Soho Beach House**

The buzzy hospitality-chic Soho House hallmarks are all in place at this outpost, which dropped anchor in 2010 inside Roy France's converted 1941 art deco Sovereign Hotel and Allan Shulman's new 16-storey tower. The signature Cowshed spa, which is furnished with vintage barbers' chairs, Cecconi's (above, T 786 507 7902), a lively Venetian-style brasserie, and two pools are open to non-guests. The Cuban-inspired

interiors exude a welcoming lived-in feel, and mix salvaged timber with church tiles, distressed leather armchairs, raw concrete beams and one-off furniture pieces, while swathes of light blues inject a breezy cool. A few Beachside rooms have terraces and bathtubs with ocean views; *Mad Men*-esque wet bars cap the hedonistic experience. 4385 Collins Avenue, T 786 507 7900, www.sohobeachhouse.com

**The Betsy**

For The Betsy's 2016 rebirth, legendary Miami architect Allan Shulman conjured a piece of alchemy to join Henry Hohauser's 1938 art deco Carlton Hotel on Collins to Lawrence Murray Dixon's 1941 Georgian-revival colonial-style mansion facing the sea behind it. On the south side, a rooftop pool straddles the buildings above a shared courtyard; to the north they are linked via a corridor concealed within a bulbous orb.

Designers Carmelina Santoro and Diamante Pedersoli have achieved a breezy, homely feel, with walnut, oak and raffia ceilings in the deco wing (Skyline Penthouse, above). French chef Laurent Tourondel's LT Steak & Seafood (T 305 673 0044) is far superior to the tacky options on Ocean Drive, and there is a strong cultural programme too. 1440 Ocean Drive, T 305 531 6100, www.thebetsyhotel.com

**Delano**

Its 1947 tower is recognisable for Robert Swartburg's soaring four-pronged crown, and interiors are as distinct for Philippe Starck's lobby shtick (Alice in Wonderland-inspired furniture, Dalí's 'Leda' chair and a translucent piano gifted by Lenny Kravitz), an integral part of the 1994 renovation that convinced P Diddy et al to venture to then-seedy SoBe. Rooms are restrained, flushed in all-white schemes that accentuate the

ocean vistas, and small for the price, but common areas make up for it. The palm-tree-lined pool (above) is a playroom with underwater speakers; Agua Spa (T 305 674 6100) is a rooftop oasis; indoor/outdoor restaurant Leynia fuses an Argentine grill with Japanese touches; and The Florida Room (see p056) still draws the glitterati. 1685 Collins Avenue, T 305 672 2000, www.delano-hotel.com

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