



GREATER MIAMI CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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WHAT'S NEW IN GREATER MIAMI AND THE BEACHES

MIAMI (September 2009) – Now that the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) is on both Facebook and Twitter, as well instituted a new online concierge called “Ask MIA,” it's easier than ever before for travelers to keep *au courant* with what's new in Greater Miami and the Beaches.

Nonetheless, here's an up-to-the-minute recap of happenings on the lodging, dining, attractions and retail fronts:

HOTEL HAPPENINGS

Known internationally for the infamous Blue Monster course, **Doral Golf Resort & Spa**, a Marriott Resort, is gearing up for the grand opening of another championship golf course: The Jim McLean Signature Course at Doral, which will debut in November. Formerly known as the Silver Course, The Jim McLean Signature Course at Doral is McLean's first full golf course design project. As an acclaimed golf instructor, he has operated the Jim McLean Golf School at Doral for the past 20 years. Meanwhile, the golf resort was recently certified PALM ONE® as part of the Florida Green Lodging Program by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and received distinction as a “Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary” through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses (ASCAP), an Audubon International program. For details, visit www.DoralResort.com.

Anticipated to open in December 2009, Vikram Chatwal Hotel's **Dream South Beach** will inject a hit of avant-garde edge to the Miami landscape. A vanguard amongst fashion-forward hotel accommodations, Dream South Beach will occupy an ideal position at 11th Street and Collins Avenue, the epicenter of the renowned Miami nightlife and epicurean scenes. With distinctive architectural elements executed by internationally acclaimed designer Michael Czyns (principal of Architropolis), Dream South Beach will expose guests to progressive, fantastical elements while retaining a comfortable sense of personal, “in-your-dreams” sumptuousness. The hotel will also include Chopra Spa, a serene haven of holistic healing with signature ancient Indian Ayurvedic

treatments. For details, visit, www.VikramChatwalHotels.com and www.DreamSouthBeach.com.

Exhale Spa, already a favorite relaxation mecca in cities from New York to Los Angeles, is now in preopening at **Epic Hotel**. While treatments won't be available for a few months when the impressive two-story space opens, the spa is now offering its famous core fusion classes in a temporary studio. The workout mixes Pilates, yoga, barre work (as in ballet) and stretching. For details, visit www.ExhaleSpa.com.

The **Hampton Inn Coconut Grove** recently completed the renovation of its guest room bathrooms. All 136 bathrooms were refurbished with dark wood, granite countertops, glass shower doors and tile floors for a stylish, modern look. For details, visit www.HamptonInnCoconutGrove.com.

The new 20-room luxury oceanfront addition to **The Hotel**, with décor created by Todd Oldham, is slated for completion in November 2009. In October, the hotel's News Café will emerge with a sparkling new beautifully appointed interior, including a fresh look in its main bar, complete with new tin ceiling and marble bar top. Its tables, inside and in front of the newly renovated areas, will be dressed up with tablecloths for a slightly more formal dinner dining experience. For details, visit www.TheHotelofSouthBeach.com.

The spa at **InterContinental Miami**, mySpa, recently transformed its Blue Water Café into two private, luxurious, oceanfront suites featuring a captivating view overlooking Biscayne Bay. Expansive and richly appointed, both rooms offer privacy and serenity as a guest's own spa oasis. Each Ocean Suite is nestled in a secluded alcove and offers a full range of spa services. For details, visit www.ICMiamiHotel.com.

Miami Marriott Airport Hotel Campus, a dynamic collection of three hotels designed to deliver an entirely new brand of service for vacation and business travel, recently completed a \$70 million transformation. Guests will now discover a lush, tropical setting of absolute convenience – with deluxe accommodations, inspired amenities and excellent cuisine. Only minutes away from Miami International Airport, the Miami Marriott Airport Hotel Campus is an innovative collection of three MIA Miami airport hotels – the Miami Airport Marriott, the Courtyard by Marriott Miami Airport Hotel South, and the Residence Inn Miami Airport South. For details, visit www.MarriottMiamiAirportCampus.com/.

Slated to open in December 2009, the **Tempo Miami Hotel** will be a dazzling, new Miami hotel that combines chic sophistication, luxurious comfort and breezy elegance. Located in a soaring 67-story landmark building –the tallest residential structure in Miami – Tempo Miami will offer all the best that South Florida has to offer. The 67-story tower clad entirely in blue tinted glass overlooks sparkling, sun-soaked Biscayne Bay, and offers sweeping, 360-degree views of the ocean and city. With its floor-to-ceiling windows, spacious balconies, numerous rooftop terraces and expansive sky pool deck, the hotel and RockResorts Spa feel perfectly suspended between the sea and sky. For details, visit www.TempoMiami.RockResorts.com.

The Trump International Beach Resort launched the first phase of its new community outreach program, *Make a Difference*, in summer of 2009. Created

in an effort to give back and serve the local community, *Make a Difference* interactively educates, inspires and empowers children to protect the earth's environment. Globie, the resort's earth-shaped mascot and "green" ambassador, will embark on a mission to share his eco-education with the children of South Florida four times per year, engaging them in exciting eco-educational activities like song and dance that will teach them how they can make a difference in their community and protect our environment. For details, visit www.TrumpMiami.com.

COOL CUISINE AND NIGHT LIFE

Visitors to Miami can now get the Big Easy experience at **Ahnvee**. Creole for "to crave," Ahnvee is a New Orleans-style supper club, with a stage for nightly live music, a Bayou-inspired dining room decked out with French Quarter-ish woodwork, frosted windows, high-backed VIP booths with TVs for watching the live acts and a menu of Cajun/Creole specialties. Sunday brunch plans include an all-you-can-eat crawfish boil. For details, visit www.Ahnvee.com.

Open since June 2009, the **Bancroft Supper Club**, a glamorous new restaurant and lounge located at 1501 Collins Avenue, differentiates itself from other South Beach hot spots by virtue of its serious approach to the culinary element in the equation. Award-winning chef Tim Andriola, who has been packing them in at Timo since 2003, expands his culinary horizons with a dazzling organic American menu. Boasting 6,000 square feet, the beautifully renovated Art Deco showcase is notable for its alluring design including a lounge featuring plasma screen TVs mounted on the ceiling, dramatic lighting and state-of-the-art sound system; which are all perfect for the space's gradual transition into an electrifying night club featuring live entertainment. For details, visit www.BancroftSupperClub.com.

The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts recently finalized a licensing agreement with Bacardi U.S.A., Inc., that will bring the company's signature BOMBAY SAPPHIRE® gin brand to downtown Miami in the form of the **BOMBAY SAPPHIRE Lounge**. The lounge will be located on the ground floor of the center's landmark Carnival Arts Tower. Scheduled for completion in early 2010, the new lounge will feature a sleek, sophisticated design that evokes the gin's iconic blue bottle. A neon blue lighting scheme, modern furnishings, a collage of historic Miami photos and outdoor seating are expected to make the lounge one of Miami's newest hot spots. For details, visit www.ArshtCenter.org.

Botequim Carioca, believed to be the first upscale Brazilian appetizer restaurant in the U.S., opened in August 2009 on Biscayne Boulevard in downtown Miami. Nestled on the ground floor of a new condo building across from the AA Arena, the authentic Brazilian tavern is quickly becoming a favorite for sports fans to go after a Heat game to catch the night's best plays on a giant flat-screen, sip a few glasses of Brazilian beer and make their way through a parade of Portuguese tapas. For details, visit <http://Botequim-Carioca.de/>.

Brickell Irish Pub (has finally opened its black wooden doors to reveal a bionic version of an old Dublin pub boasting endless entertainment options, with dark woodwork, high ceilings, a balcony rimmed with whiskey barrels, a main room with Celtic-pattern-inlaid walls, a big central table fit for a mead hall, and a stage area for live bands, plus a pool table, foosball tables, dart boards, 16 flat

screens and a 13-ft projection screen. The pub also features nightly events like Monday pool, foosball, and dart tournaments, Tuesday poker, Wednesday karaoke with a live band, plus live music on weekends, as well as resident DJ Buddha Gonzalez. The pub serves lunch and dinner, including classics like Irish stew and shepherd's pie, plus more innovative dishes like "Drunken Mussels," which are mussels cooked with pork sausage and onions and steamed in Guinness broth. For details, visit www.BrickellIrishPub.com.

The Burger & Beer Joint opened in August 2009 in South Beach on Bay Road. The restaurant serves gourmet and design-your-own burgers. There's also an old-school soda fountain for floats or boozy milk shakes and 99 different beers. Down the hall is the sports bar: flat-screens, a free pool table and a full menu till 5 am. Upstairs, the shadowy lounge — open Thursday through Saturday — looks like a Victorian saloon (gilded mirrors, crystal chandeliers and baroque chaises). For details, visit www.BurgernBeerJoint.com.

Champions Sports Bar opened in Courtyard by Marriott Miami Airport South, one of the three hotels that reside on the Marriott Miami Airport Campus, in August 2009. With its state-of-the-art interior, Champions Sports Bar offers 21 flat-screen TVs, more than 25 beer selections and a menu of all the favorite American classics. Guests can cheer on their favorite teams over lunch or dinner. For details, visit www.MarriottMiamiAirportCampus.com.

Charlotte Bistro, which some people are calling the restaurant version of "Sex in the City" recently opened in Coral Gables. The "girly" restaurant features small vases of flowers, cute little tables salvaged from flea markets and fun, vintage wallpaper. The chef/owner worked at Michelin-starred restaurants in Lyon (including a stint at the legendary Paul Bocuse), and specializes in French fusion dishes like grilled langoustines wrapped in bacon. For details, call 305-443-3003.

Craze Olive, a new late night go-to serving Middle Eastern street food until 6 a.m. on weekends, opened in July 2009. It's just a bright, cleanly designed pocket-sized place located in the middle of club land on Washington Avenue. The Lebanese chef previously worked some fine-dining spots in Washington D.C., meaning this is no mere corner kebab stand. The fries are tossed with Parmesan, garlic and parsley, and the chicken skewers are marinated in spicy harissa sauce and slow-cooked over an open flame for maximum juiciness. For details, visit www.CrazeOlive.com.

Resurrected after a 10-year hiatus, **The Filling Station** is a gas-station-themed hole-in-the-wall decked out with stone floors, metal siding and car nostalgia, and offering an off-beat, sandwich and burger menu. For details, visit www.TheFillingStationMiami.com.

The Grill on the Alley in Aventura recently launched an extended happy hour that has increased guest traffic by 25% during the 4-7 p.m. time period. Happy Hour at The Grill on the Alley offers a selection of menu favorites for \$3.95 and \$4.95. For details, visit www.TheGrill.com.

Conveniently located on Washington Avenue, around the corner from famous Lincoln Road, **Half Moon Empanadas** is quickly becoming a South Beach icon and tourist favorite. The restaurant offers 16 flavors of Argentinean empanadas

with a Mexican touch, as well as three types of sweet pastels. For details, visit www.HalfMoonEmpanadas.com.

Ocean Drive icon, **Hotel Victor**, has launched "Frost Bite Thursdays" to showcase "nuclear mixology" – the art of dropping the temperature of alcohol to its freezing point: -114 °C. In addition to below-zero libations, smoke machines and lighting effects transform the hotel's plush lower lobby and set the stage for a jaw-dropping, icy lair. By employing liquid nitrogen, the hotel's resident mixologists fashion visually stunning and equally tasty liquid cuisine that promises to make traditional cosmos and Martinis appear passé by comparison. For details, visit www.HotelVictor.com.

I Love Sushi, a beachside sushi den, opened recently at the Chesterfield Hotel on South Beach. ILS serves everything from the proverbial spicy tuna to more complex sushi rolls like the Tropical (salmon and spicy mayo topped with mango and lemon slices) and has a bit of a freewheeling vibe. Tables are likely to be filled with tanned sushi lovers wearing no more than bikinis and perhaps a thin mesh cover-up. For details, visit www.TheChesterfieldHotel.com.

Chef Jean Paul Desmason wowed diners and critics alike with his masterful Peruvian cuisine at Coral Gables' sleek, modern La Cofradia, until the restaurant closed in early 2009, a victim of the flagging economy. Just four months later, in May 2009, Desmason and partner Jaime Dickinson reopened the popular dining destination as **La Cofradia Ceviche Bar**. The location remains the same, but subtle changes in décor create a more casual environment, while an overhaul of the menu and pricing now position the restaurant as an affordable neighborhood favorite designed to encourage frequent dining. For details, visit www.LaCofradia.com.

Opened in November 2008, **Meat Market**, the much anticipated South Beach dining destination by restaurateur David Tornek and acclaimed chef Sean Brasel, both formerly of Touch, has already become a bustling hot spot for local foodies and Miami Beach trendsetters. The 4,400-square-foot, 180-seat indoor/outdoor eatery is a contemporary steakhouse, boasting a sophisticated ambiance sizzling with energy, a happening bar scene, and a savvy menu featuring prime cuts of beef, fish, seafood and poultry dishes and a wide range of price points geared to draw both locals and visitors. For details, visit www.MeatMarketMiami.com.

Sitting in the heart of downtown and feeling a bit like a high-end supper club circa '78, **Mia at Biscayne** offers a fusion of Spanish, Latin and Japanese plates, and then powers up into a nightlife hub around midnight. It features a stage for live acts; a perimeter decked out in plush banquettes and tech innovations like a 16-foot iBar tabletop with digital fish that react to your touch; a second floor VIP wrap-around balcony with dark booth-nooks; and a V-VIP spot that is essentially a cushy, upholstered cave. For details, visit www.MiaAtBiscayne.com.

Chef Norman Van Aken is keeping a tight lid on developments for his new restaurant hoping for an opening sometime this fall in Coral Gables with **Norman's 180** in the Colonnade Hotel. Van Aken has revealed that the direction of his cuisine will be less about Latin/Caribbean and more about seasonality.

Cleveland restaurateur Brad Frielander brought his signature steak concept to the South of Fifth area with the recent opening of **Red, The Steakhouse**. The \$5

million restaurant in Miami will serve as the blueprint for multiple locations up the East Coast. For details, visit www.RedTheSteakhouse.com.

Taking over the old Prime Blue Grille locale, **Solymar Restaurant** has been powering its way into Miami's power-lunch rotation since opening July 30, 2009. With an easy, relaxed and ocean-liner feel, the restaurant features floor-to-ceiling windows framing beautiful views of Biscayne Ball and the ever-rising skyscrapers on Brickell. There's also an open kitchen with a hickory-burning grill ready to sear slabs of pork and locally caught snapper to perfection. For details, call 305-223-0338.

Talavera restaurant opened in August, bringing a little piece of Mexico to Coral Gables. A delightful blend of old and new world Mexico, Talavera features a variety of popular Mexican dishes with recipes originating in street markets and signature restaurants from Mexico City. For details, call _____.

Waxy O'Connor's Irish Pub and Eatery opened in August in the bustling Brickell section of downtown Miami. Serving up authentic Irish design, delicious food and drink, friendly service and affordable prices, the 7,000-square-foot, 132-seat indoor/outdoor locale boasts riverside dining and lounging, a full raw bar, boat slips, flat screen TVs, a pool table, darts and a live music stage. The atmosphere is equal parts proper Irish pub and laid back Key West cantina. For details, visit www.Waxys.com.

ATTRACTION ACTION AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Slated for December 3-6, **Art Basel Miami Beach** is recognized as the most important annual art show of its kind in America. Two hundred leading art galleries will exhibit 20th- and 21st-century art works from more than 1,500 artists. In addition to Art Basel itself, there will be many ancillary events at art facilities and other public venues around the community. For details, visit www.ArtBasel.com.

For the first time in motorsports history, one venue will play host to all six major North American Motorsports Championships - and do it all inside of six weeks. **The Homestead-Miami Speedway** will host the Championship Finales for the IndyCar Series, Firestone IndyLights, and Grand-Am Rolex Sports Car Series during the NextEra Energy Resources SpeedJam Championships, October 9-10; and six weeks later host the NASCAR Sprint Cup, Nationwide and Camping World Truck Series Championships during Ford Championship Weekend, November 20-22. For details, visit www.HomesteadMiamiSpeedway.com.

Miami Dolphins owner Stephen Ross recently announced that world-renowned artist Romero Britto will be bringing **Land Shark Stadium** alive through his iconic art. The stadium's helixes and gate entrances will be adorned by Britto's high-energy and vibrant pop art. Ross also announced a long-term partnership with *Ocean Drive Magazine* to open a high-end, ultra-modern Ocean Drive Club in Land Shark Stadium. The private members-only club will operate exclusively during Miami Dolphins games and offer a private VIP orange carpet entrance, access to the Dolphins sidelines, alumni and cheerleader visits, celebrity appearances, large-screen televisions, fine dining and other special benefits. The

club can accommodate up to 250 members. For details, visit www.LandSharkStadium.com.

For the month of October, "Everyone's a Kid" again in Miami. A special promotion called **Miami Attractions** Month offers amazing deals at prime attractions in Greater Miami. Among those participating in the month-long program are Dolphin Harbor at Miami Seaquarium, Everglades Alligator Farm, Jungle Island, Miami Children's Museum, Miami Metrozoo and Miami Seaquarium. Coupons offering admissions discounts and other deals, as well as more details, can be found at www.EveryonesAKid.com.

The **Miami Carnival Parade and Festival** will be held this year on October 11. It's a traditional West Indian-style carnival and parade featuring Caribbean music, costumes, food, arts and crafts and more. The parade starts at noon on NE 27th Street at NE 2nd Avenue and proceeds to Bicentennial Park. The festivities continue until 11 p.m. For details, visit www.MiamiCarnival.net.

The **Miami Children's Museum** will be hosting a blockbuster traveling exhibition, "Adventures with Clifford the Big Red Dog," through October 11, 2009. Guests can meet Clifford and his friends when they visit Birdwell Island on Watson Island for a "paws on" adventure for the whole family. For details, visit www.MiamiChildrensMuseum.org.

Coral Gables will debut the **Coral Gables Cinameteque** at the end of 2009, which will allow visitors the opportunity to attend film screenings, film festivals, lectures and other cultural events. For details, visit www.ShopCoralGables.com.

RETAIL NEWS

Aventura Mall, South Florida's largest super regional shopping center, continues adding exciting retailers to its tenant mix. This summer, Anthropologie, Disney Store, Sony Style, Jo Malone and Harmont & Blaine celebrated openings. Anthropologie is offers a wide selection of lifestyle merchandise tailored to women ages 25 to 45. Disney Store encompasses all the best Disney-branded apparel, toys and electronics, stationery and home décor. Sony Style gives customers access to the latest in consumer electronics. Jo Malone's first Florida store offers a collection of personal fragrances, skin care and a selection of scented candles and bath and body products. Naples, Italy-based Harmont & Blaine features exclusive men's casual clothing in rich, vibrant colors, soft cottons and linens. For details, visit www.AventuraMall.com.

The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) is a non-profit sales and marketing organization whose mission is to attract visitors to Greater Miami and the Beaches for leisure, business and conventions. For a vacation guide visit our website at www.MiamiAndBeaches.com or call 1-888-76-Miami (US/Canada only) or 305-447-7777. To reach the GMCVB offices dial 305-539-3000. Meeting planners may call 1-800-933-8448 (US/Canada only) or 305-539-3071 or visit www.MiamiMeetings.com.

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