



The Locals' Favorite Spots in Miami....

Please note that some of these restaurants are closed on Sunday and that some, but not all, take reservations...

Coral Gables and Close By the Biltmore

Sunday Brunch at the Biltmore is lavish, over-the-top and worth every penny of the high price if you like that kind of thing...

Merrick Park is a very fancy shopping area with a Nordstrom's and a Neiman's and lots of boutiques. It has several restaurants and the Yard House, which is also a bar with many, many TV screens and different types of beer....

\$\$Yard House in Merrick Park

320 San Lorenzo Ave
Coral Gables, FL 33146
(305) 447-9273

Downtown Coral Gables' main street is Miracle Mile, which has lots of bridal and jewelry shops and tons of restaurants. Our favorites are

\$\$\$Por Fin: upscale modern Spanish/Latin

2500 Ponce De Leon Boulevard
Coral Gables, FL 33134
(305) 441-0107

\$\$Bugatti: only fresh pasta

2504 Ponce de Leon Boulevard
Coral Gables, FL 33134
(305) 441 2545

\$\$Houston's: American Bistro, modern food and a very popular happy hour

201 Miracle Mile
Coral Gables, FL 33134
(305) 529-0141

???Seasons 52: just opened, a West Coast chain, specializing in local ingredients

321 Miracle Mile
Coral Gables, FL 33134
(305) 442-8552

\$\$\$Normans 180: Norman Van Aken is a famous chef. This is his take on the small plates, open grill concept

180 Aragon Avenue
Coral Gables, FL 33134
(305) 529-5180

\$\$John Martins: the oldest Irish Pub in town

253 Miracle Mile
Miami, Florida 33134
(305) 445-3777

\$\$\$Ortanique on the Mile: Caribbean/Tropical, this is where we take folks who have never been to Miami before.

278 Miracle Mile
Coral Gables, FL 33134
(305) 446-7710

\$\$\$Captain's Tavern: the absolute biggest choice of local and national seafood in town,

9625 South Dixie Highway
Miami, FL
(305) 666-5979

\$\$Tropical Chinese: modern Chinese, with an open kitchen

7991 SW 40th Street
Miami, FL 33155
(305) 262-1552

If you want culture, there is a new art movie house and a very nice bookstore in downtown Coral Gables that often has author readings.

Books and Books

265 Aragon Avenue,
Coral Gables, FL
(305) 448-9599

Coral Gables Art Cinema

260 Aragon Ave
Miami, FL 33134
(786) 385-9689

If you want the outdoors, Fairchild Tropical Garden is a gorgeous botanical garden with many quiet spots to read and Matheson Hammock is a county park with a wading beach that is great for small children.

Fairchild Tropical Garden

10901 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156
305-667-1651

Matheson Hammock

9610 Old Cutler Road
Coral Gables, FL 33156
(305) 665-5475

Little Havana: it is more a state of mind than a place to visit. All of 8th Street from Downtown Miami west to Coral Gables is very strongly Latin. Any of the small restaurants/coffee shops have their own clientele and it is a working neighborhood. If you are sleepy, have a cafecito in a little paper shot cup.. you won't sleep for days!

\$Versailles: the most Cuban of the Cuban restaurants

3555 SW 8th St
Miami, FL 33135
(305) 444-0240

\$\$Mr. Yum's: Great sushi and an owner with a famous hairdo

1945 Southwest 8th Street
Miami, FL 33135
(786) 360-2371

\$La Carreta: another traditional Cuban haunt

3632 Southwest 8th Street
Miami, FL 33135
(305) 444-7501

Tower Theater: another nice art theater

1508 SW 8th Street
Miami, FL 33135
(305) 642-1264

Coconut Grove: The Grove was an artist's hangout in the 60s so it is still kind of funky. There are some boutiques and bars and a movie theater (Paragon) that serves wine and beer at your seat. UM students hang out in the Grove on Thursdays and weekends...

\$\$Monty's: casual bar/restaurant on the water, sometimes has live music
2550 South Bayshore Drive
Coconut Grove, FL 33133
(305) 856-3992

\$\$Bombay Darbar: very sophisticated spicing and a nice outdoor spot out front
3195 Commodore Plaza
Coconut Grove, FL 33133
(305) 444-7272

\$\$Greenstreet's: great breakfast and brunch, people hang out here on the outside sofas at night.
3468 Main Highway
Coconut Grove, FL 33133
(305) 444-0244

Paragon Theater
3015 Grand Avenue, Suite 322
Miami, FL 33133

The Barnacle in Coconut Grove is a good example of a pioneer's home, (circa the early 1900's, which is old for us). Vizcaya Museum and Gardens is the former winter home of James Deering, from a rich family from Chicago. It is decorated to the hilt and has great views and nice gardens.

The Barnacle
3485 Main Highway
Miami, FL 33133
(305) 442-6866

Vizcaya Museum and Gardens
3251 South Miami Avenue
Miami, FL 33129
(305) 250-9133

Brickell: This is one of Miami's condo canyons, but one where people actually live and work. Mary Brickell Village is a new cluster of restaurants and shops.

\$\$Perricone's: a nice garden room and "comfort" food

15 Southeast 10th Street
Miami, FL 33131-3007
(305) 374-9449

**\$\$My Name is Dolores: the opposite of Perricone's but good food and a nice 2nd floor balcony.
Serves small and large portions of orders for the folks who like to sample**

1000 South Miami Avenue
Miami, FL 33130-4109
(305) 403-3103

\$\$\$Oceanaire: very elegant seafood place, we have had better luck at lunch than dinner

900 S. Miami Ave
Miami, FL 33130
(305) 372-8862

\$\$\$Rosa Mexicano: authentic upscale chain, get the guacamole made tableside and the margaritas!

900 S Miami Ave # 161
Miami, FL 33130
(786) 425-1001

\$\$\$Novecento: very nice Italian/Argentinian

1414 Brickell Avenue # 3
Miami, FL 33131
(305) 403-0900

\$\$Rosinella: more casual Italian

1040 South Miami Avenue
Miami, FL 33130
(305) 372-5756

Key Biscayne: an island between the Grove and Downtown that is home to world famous tennis and golf.

Eateries with a view

\$\$ -- Rickenbacker Fish Company (literally opened this week) – view of bay and downtown...terrace seating available – 3301 Rickenbacker Causeway (on Virginia Key technically...just over the big bridge on the left)

\$ - Lighthouse Cafe (view of ocean) and Boater's Grill (view of a small harbor) – fried and grilled fish, etc., both in Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park---call to check hours

\$\$\$ - Cioppino at Ritz Carlton Key Biscayne – Tuscan – nice outdoor area overlooking pool and grounds that are close to the beach

Eateries without a view but recommended

\$\$ - Costa Med in strip mall at 260 Crandon Blvd #46 – Mediterranean

\$\$ - El Gran Inka – at 620 Crandon Blvd - Peruvian

\$\$ - Novecento 900 – at 620 Crandon Blvd – Argentinian

\$\$ - Sushi Siam – at 620 Crandon Blvd – Thai and Japanese

\$\$ - Origin Asian Bistro – 200 Crandon Blvd

\$ - Patagonia Market – in strip mall at 260 Crandon Blvd – Argentinian market with great empanadas (meat-filled pastries)

\$ - Oasis – 19 Harbor Drive -- cheap already-prepared Cuban, walk-up café and coffee bar – a Key Biscayne institution and sometimes an interesting atmosphere/people watching

\$ - KB Burger – 24 Crandon Blvd has very good gourmet burgers of the \$7 to \$14 variety (including various fish sandwiches)

\$ - Archie's Pizza – 600 Crandon Blvd #130 – reasonably good brick oven pizza and some good salads...nicer atmosphere than “Sir Pizza” at 712 Crandon Blvd, which is the other KB pizza place

Activities

Do not particularly recommend Seaquarium (a mini Sea World) – needs renovation - but kids enjoy it

The Links is a nice public golf course right on Biscayne Bay – some great views in spots

DO recommend renting bikes and exploring (recommend Harbor Drive, Mashta Island which is a small island connected to Key Biscayne by a small bridge, and Bill Baggs park at the south end of the island which has a nice bike path that hugs the West side of the island). You can rent bikes at Key Cycling, 328 Crandon Blvd #121 or Mangrove Cycles, 260 Crandon Blvd #6. After a nice ride in the park it is fun to stop for lunch at Lighthouse Café or Boater's Grill (see second item under eating places “with a view.”)

Also recommend Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park at the south tip of the island has a nice 1.25 mile swath of beach, a 1.5 mile bike path (and a bike concession stand from which you can rent a bike or quad bike—kayaks can also be rented) , casual eating places with views (Boater's Grill and Lighthouse Café), nice spots for picnics, nature walk paths, and a lighthouse with an old “keeper's house” -- reportedly the #1 or #2 most visited state park in Florida.

The other public-accessible beach...as you cross the second (and smaller) bridge on your way to Key Biscayne, on the left you will see signs for a county beach/park (Crandon Park). This area is not as nice as Bill Baggs, however.

On to the “Beach”....

Most of the action is on South Beach, where Ocean Drive runs about ten blocks along the water. The public beach is nice, the people-watching is nicer. Another beautiful spot is Southpointe park, on the southern tip. There is a public beach there too and you can have a drink at Smith and Wollensky and

watch the cruise ships leave on weekend afternoons. Farther up, at 17th, is Lincoln Road Mall, a pedestrian mall that runs across the island and has lots of restaurants and local and national shops. All the restaurants have outdoor seating and people love to parade along the mall with their pets. Be on the lookout for the clutch of miniature greyhounds in matching costumes!

South Beach

\$\$Lido Restaurant & Bayside Grill: casual bistro with killer view back across to Miami, expensive valet!

40 Island Avenue
Miami Beach, FL
(323) 650-9090

\$\$Joe Allen's: New Yorky neighborhood bistro

1787 Purdy Ave
Miami Beach, Florida
(888) 286-3792

\$\$\$Joe's Stone Crabs: famous crustaceans! You only eat the claws and they are served cold. Go for lunch, (except Sunday and Monday)--the menu is the same and it isn't crowded. Or, there is a take-out Joe's up the street and you can picnic on the Beach. The rest of the menu is great if you don't like crab...

11 Washington Avenue
Miami Beach, FL
(305) 673-0365

\$\$News Café: deli/café, Versace was walking a block south to his house from here when he met his untimely end...

800 Ocean Drive
Miami Beach, FL
(305) 538-6397

\$\$Van Dyke Café: casual comfort food with a New York vibe, sometimes has jazz at night

846 Lincoln Road
Miami Beach, FL
(305) 534-3600

\$\$Shake Shack: burgers, fries and homemade frozen custard in unusual flavors...

1111 Lincoln Road
Miami Beach, FL
(305) 535-6899

\$\$\$Miss Yip: dim sum and Asian specialities

1661 Meridian Avenue
Miami Beach, FL
(305) 534-5488

\$\$\$Smith and Wollensky: to watch the cruise ships leave

1 Washington Avenue
Miami Beach, FL

(305) 673-2800

\$\$\$Setai: very cool Asian spot with a spa and an Oriental brunch

2001 Collins Avenue

Miami Beach, FL 33139-1913

(305) 520-6000

Wynwood

The artists and small shops that used to be on South Beach have relocated back to the mainland in a former warehouse area that is still a little rough around the edges. It was packed during Art Basel and has an active program where graffiti artists are painting walls in very cool designs.

\$\$\$Joey's: new Italian, New York atmosphere.

2506 Northwest 2nd Avenue

Miami, FL

(305) 438-0488

\$\$Wynwood Kitchen and Bar: brand new, comfort food and tons of clever drinks and unusual beers. The artwork on the inside walls is by famous artists.

2550 NW 2nd Ave

Miami, FL 33127

(305) 722-8959

Joey's and Wynwood KB are part of a block of warehouses where the outside walls and doors have been painted by well-known modern artists. Wynwood KB has a nice outdoor patio where you can watch the people visiting the Wynwood walls.

\$\$\$Morgan's: new American, great Sunday brunch but go early

28 NE 29th Street

Miami, FL

(305) 573-9678

Midtown: Just north of Wynwood is a new area called Midtown Miami. Here they tore the warehouses down and put up condos and put in national retail and restaurants. Two are very good.

\$\$\$Sugar Cane: three different kitchens and Asian, Latin and American food. Wonderful variety of sushi, raw oysters and Asian grilled items. Lots of small plates for samplers.

3252 NE 1st Ave #115

Miami, FL

(786) 369-0353

\$\$\$Mercaditos: upscale Mexican

3252 Northeast 1st Avenue

Miami, FL

(786) 369-0430

Design District: Just north of Midtown there is a district of galleries and design stores that has a very modern vibe.

\$\$\$Michael's Genuine Kitchen and Bar: wonderful, imaginative menu that specializes in local ingredients and the potential for star sightings. Good brunch on weekends too.

130 Northeast 40th Street
Miami, FL
(305) 573-5550

\$\$\$Sra Martinez: modern tapas and Latin bites

4000 Northeast 2nd Avenue
Miami, FL
(305) 573-5474

\$\$\$Fratelli Lyon: authentic modern Italian housed in an interior design store

4141 NE 2nd Ave Suite 101A
Miami, FL
(305) 572-2901

\$\$Mandolin Aegean: very simple Greek and Turkish food with killer grilled whole fish and wonderful hummus. Sit outside under the big blue awning and nibble...

4314 Northeast 2nd Avenue
Miami, FL
(305) 576-6066

\$\$\$Michy's on the Boulevard: actually farther north on the main north/south artery. Michelle Bernstein is a very famous chef and her dishes are very imaginative and always good. Famous also for their selection of wines.

6927 Biscayne Boulevard
Miami, FL
(305) 759-2001

Bon Appetit!

Andrea Heuson (with help from Tim Burch and Vidhi Chhaochharia)

Additional information from George Korniotis

- A. South beach: The south beach area is very walkable. The attached map indicates a few of the “must see”. A popular place is Lincoln road with many shops and restaurants. At Lincoln Rd, you can find the South Florida Art Center (see the attached map). It includes an exhibition space and studios. The studios are typically open and you can walk around and meet the artists.
- B. Key Biscayne: Very beautiful area and the Bill Baggs Cape park has a lot of trails (see the attached map).
- C. Shark Valley: This is a great way to see the Everglades. You can rent bikes and tour the park (www.sharkvalleytramtours.com/index.html)
- D. Design District: This is an area full of galleries and high end stores. One amazing restaurant in this area is Michael’s Genuine Food (www.michaelsgenuine.com/content/home).
- E. At this website, you can also find out everything that is happening on a specific date. It’s worthwhile to take a look at it. Something might catch you attention.
<http://www.miamiandbeaches.com/visitors/calendar.aspx>