

CHECKING IN

New Wyndham Grand adds chic to Jupiter

Harbourside Place's entertainment and shopping options set it apart



ROCHELLE LASH

The tranquil town of Jupiter, Fla., has major new buzz. The stunning new Wyndham Grand Jupiter at Harbourside Place brings avant-garde design and Florida-inspired gastronomy to this folksy northern tip of Palm Beach County. With a commanding location on the Intracoastal Waterway, the Wyndham Grand Jupiter is the centrepiece of Harbourside Place, a charming new waterfront entertainment complex. Here, cobblestone streets link a marina, unique boutiques, outdoor concert space and several bistros, including Tiger Woods's first tee-off in the restaurant biz. The Wyndham Grand Jupiter is a compact, contemporary resort — three storeys of 179 sleek rooms and suites, plus a knock-out rooftop infinity pool, a fitness room with water views and ravishing banquet spaces bathed in natural light. The Pool Bar takes patio lunches up a notch with frothy tropical cocktails and such tasty bites as short rib sliders, shrimp salads and citrus pear slaw. And the urban-chic Lobby Lounge focuses on an extensive wine list as well as new craft beer from GolfBeer Brewing, launched recently by three PGA Tour members: Graeme McDowell, Keegan Bradley and Freddie Jacobson. “We’re already known as a winning destination hotel for both leisure travel and business meetings, plus fashionable weddings,” said general manager Matt Boris. “Guests have creative dining, top shopping and activities outside the door — and we’re only a mile from the Atlantic Ocean.” The look throughout the Wyndham Grand Jupiter is subtle and soothing — soft, natural colours of sea and sand, paired with clean, minimalist decor. But the design also pops with lustrous metallic tones and exciting

details such as a dazzling pink crystal chandelier and a curved lobby staircase of white limestone and glass. The guest rooms are understated and practical, each equipped with such conveniences as iPod docks, Wi-Fi and ergonomic desk chairs, and deluxe touches like pillow-top mattresses and Wolfgang Puck coffee. Upgraded rooms and suites have balconies and bathrobes. It sounds straightforward — a new property with smart rooms and polished interiors. But the Wyndham Grand Jupiter is full of seductive surprises: ■ The restaurant, deep blu seafood grille (which uses contemporary typography to match its style), opened in February and instantly became one of the top dining spots in town, with artful presentations and pairings of wine and beer. Chef de Cuisine Thomas Op’t Holt (his name is of Dutch origin) calls his cuisine modern American, with a focus on seafood. His favourite starters are crab-centric: “blu crab” cakes with garlic aioli, tomato-crab bisque and Florida stone crab. The ocean-fresh raw bar features ceviches, tartars, crudos and oysters. Main courses include Florida snapper, grouper or swordfish served with lemon beurre blanc or soy butter emulsion; seared scallop risotto, seafood cioppino with shrimp and lobster; or thick and juicy porterhouse or filet mignon steaks with a rosemary demi-glace or chimichurri. ■ The Intracoastal Waterway is a vibrant thoroughfare for thousands of watercraft, small and large. The water is calmer than the roiling, whitecapped Atlantic, so you can paddle-board or kayak right up to the hotel door with the Jupiter Outdoor Center (jupiteroutdoorcentre.com), which also sets up ocean surfing and snorkelling. ■ The Wyndham Grand opened with a glittering black-tie gala. With its huge windows, waterfront views and ultra-modern event facilities including under-the-floor AV cables, it is going to be a major wedding and meeting destination.



The new Wyndham Grand on the Intracoastal Waterway in Jupiter, Fla.



The lounge has an urban-chic design and the look is subtle and soothing.

The elegant Preserve Ballroom is graced with a shimmering avant-garde Swarovski Crystal chandelier. The sweeping Mangrove Deck has a glamorous setting facing the sunset over the Intracoastal — ideal for wedding photos. And even the handsome Loggerhead Boardroom has an outdoor terrace for Florida-style, sun-dappled coffee breaks. **HARBOURSIDE PLACE** Harbourside Place has nine varied, casual restaurants including Bravo! Cucina Italiana and Burger Fi. At the bustling emporium of Tommy Bahama, you can buy cool clothes and colourful beachwear, and dine on signature dishes like coconut shrimp, filet mignon salad, roast cod and key lime pie. There are no details yet on Tiger's new resto, The Woods Jupiter: Sports and Dining Club,

but it was in the planning long before his current break from the PGA Tour. He has a house on an island off Jupiter, which is home to more than 20 golf courses. If shopping is a priority — it's the No. 1 past-time on most travel surveys — this outdoor plaza is home to fun boutiques that you don't see everywhere, including Glitzy Girl, A Pink Princess, John Craig, White House|Black Market and the Pucci & Catana Luxury Pet Boutique. The entertainment options at Harbourside will make the biggest difference to Jupiter, which has a lot of attractions, but no real town centre. The waterfront amphitheatre will showcase live music Fridays through Sundays, activities such as tai chi on Saturday mornings, and the Jupiter Farmers' Market on Sundays. Rochelle@rochellelash.com Twitter.com/Rochellelash

IF YOU GO

Jupiter is 27 kilometres north of Palm Beach International Airport (Air Canada flies seasonally from Montreal and Toronto) and 110 kilometres north of Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. Wyndham Grand Jupiter At Harbourside Place: 561-273-6680, 800-wyndham (800-996-3426), wyndhamgrandjupiter.com; Jupiter, Fla. Wyndham Rewards loyalty program applies. Price: Winter rates, until approximately April 30, for a deluxe king room, \$219-\$379 US (suites, \$309-\$709 US), including heated rooftop pool, fitness centre, Wi-Fi, business centre. Upgraded rooms have balconies, bathrobes. Holiday prices are higher and summer prices start at \$129 U.S. Children 17 and under stay free and a kids' menu is available. Extra: valet parking, \$21; self-parking, \$14; 24-hour in-room dining. Harbourside Place: 561-935-9533, harboursideplace.com; 200 Highway U.S. 1. The Palm Beaches: 800-833-5733, 561-233-3000, palmbeachfl.com; Visit Florida: 888-735-2872. www.visitflorida.com

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