



IF YOU GO

Circa 39: 877-8CIRCA39, 305-538-4900 circa39.com; Collins Avenue at 39th Street, Miami Beach; rates until Nov. 30, approx. \$139-\$299 U.S. per night (with a fourth night free), plus resort fee of \$14.95, which includes swimming pool, courtyard garden, beach setups, fitness room and baby cribs. Children 12-years old and younger stay for free. Wynwood package (online, using code PKGWYNWOOD), \$219 for two people, includes breakfast and a cocktail each.

Jules Kitchen: Breakfast buffet, \$15.95; children 8-11, \$8.95. Lunch and dinner served. Advance purchases have discounts. AAA-CAA discount applies. Extra: Adjacent parking lot, \$25.

Wunderbar: From 11 a.m. daily.

The cute and colourful Circa 39 hotel on Collins Avenue in Miami Beach is appealing all year round, but it's downright irresistible with its fourth night free promotion, available until Nov. 30.

Circa 39 has an intimate and charming island-inspired style, one block from the Atlantic Ocean — at 39th Street. Totally different from the strip of large chain resort hotels along Collins, Circa is a laid-back and personal vintage establishment that has been updated with a multi-million dollar renovation.

This boutique hotel proves that great things come in small pack-

ages. Its 97 rooms are clean and bright, with tangerine and aqua colour schemes, saffron robes, new hardwood floors and all the amenities of a bigger establishment — flat-screen TVs, USB outlets, security safes and mini fridges.

Circa's casual restaurant Jules Kitchen (named after Jules Verne's classic film, *Around the World in 80 Days*) serves global comfort classics such as Thai lemon grass soup, Moroccan couscous, Mexican fish nachos, Greek salad, Asian stir-fries, Mediterranean steak kebabs as well as all-American burgers and chowder.

Two connected buildings surround a compact tropical courtyard where you can relax on vintage rat-

tan swings in a whimsical garden of orchids and palm trees. The swimming pool is heated and the deck sun loungers are only steps from the bar.

Guests can make their own way to the beach one block away, or use the beach chairs and umbrellas at Circa's sister hotel, The Palms, at Collins and 30th Street.

As a change of pace from South Beach, Circa 39's Would You Wynwood package takes visitors into Miami's eclectic Wynwood Arts District. Guests can tour and taste at Wynwood Brewing Company and visit galleries and boutiques on a stretch from North 20th to North 36 Streets. A bike rental is included.

I have saved Circa 39's most strik-

ing feature for last. Wunderbar is a tiny lobby space devoted to the art and science of cocktails. The bar is filled with select spirits including connoisseurs' rums, boutique wines and jars of Wynwood beer, along with pots of fresh herbs and eyedroppers of artisan flavoured syrups and fresh fruits.

Juanita Butler, master mixologist and food and beverage manager, adds some showmanship to every drink. She'll set a sprig of rosemary or thyme on fire and use the pungent fumes as aromatic accents to her cocktails. Her signature mixes include the Chilean Coquito with Pisco, coconut, mint and lime; and the Mule de Provence, with lavender, honey, lemon and vodka.

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