

Tideline brings boutique chic to Palm Beach



ROCHELLE LASH
Checking In

The petit and jaunty Tideline Ocean Resort & Spa Palm Beach is bringing contemporary boutique chic to one of the most desirable locations along the Florida Gold Coast.

This crystalline jewel is one of a handful of oceanfront hotels in the posh island resort community of Palm Beach. It's adjacent to the Four Seasons and about nine kilometres south of Worth Ave., so you know you're in an excellent neighbourhood.

Open about six months, Tideline packs a lot of resort punch for a compact property. It's a contemporary, low-rise glass structure of 134 rooms and suites on five storeys, with see-through glass balconies yielding views of the Atlantic. Fountains — at the entrance, at the pool and in the lobby — add the soothing sound of gurgling water and a fresh feeling.

With a pool, beach club and restaurant, it's popular for weddings because of the glass-fronted Ocean Ballroom and the photo-worthy outdoor terrace for ceremonies, parties and bachelorette parties.

Tideline also is relatively good value for a deluxe beachfront hotel in Palm Beach. It does not charge a resort fee and it lays out free morning coffee and afternoon wine, followed by Happy Hour. The concierge has bicycles, and a handy stash of If-You-Forgot-It items such as cellphone chargers and hair irons. And children get a welcome gift of toys they can take home. Summer specials (until Oct. 31) include 20 to 30 per cent off on multiple-night stays, upgrades with continental breakfast for \$5 and \$99 spa treatments.

The decor is a modern take on a tropical South Asian look. Exotic dark wood and colours of dark coconut and vanilla create cool, shady interiors, with pops of lime, saffron and lavender. The beds are four-poster platforms with mosquito netting wrapped around each post (for decoration).

What is so appealing is that everything is at hand. Walk out the front door and you are at the infinity pool. It is a Zen-style



Guest rooms at the Tideline Ocean Resort & Spa in Palm Beach have Asian-inspired decor, featuring exotic wood and colours of dark coconut and vanilla.
TIDELINE OCEAN RESORT & SPA

beauty, with a wall of falling water and a hot tub, all surrounded by palms, ming plants and bamboo trees. There are about 25 sun loungers — not a crush of hundreds as there are at large hotels — plus canopied day beds and cabanas, so it is truly tranquil.

Walk out the Tideline's back door and you're at the beach where aqua umbrellas flutter in the ocean breeze. I watched a pickup game of beach volleyball as well as an exciting show of adventurous kite-surfers conquering the waves and wind.

FOOD AND DRINK

Tideline is a new name — and a hotel with news. Kimpton recently acquired the Omphoy Resort and renamed it Tideline Ocean Resort & Spa Palm Beach. There are changes afoot, including some renovations, upgraded cuisine and the expansion of the Sushi Bar.

Executive chef Chris Schaeffer recently arrived at Tideline's Brandons-on-the-Beach from the attractive Seagate Beach Club in Delray Beach, so we know the food is delish. The menu has global influences, but Schaeffer is adding more seafood and a

modern American style.

Some of his specialties are: for dinner, charred octopus, steaks, snapper and cobia, chanterelle risotto and barbecue chicken confit; for lunch, beef sliders, tuna Niçoise, fish burgers, short-rib grilled cheese sandwiches and crab cakes; for brunch on Saturdays and Sundays, the buffet includes corned beef hash and Belgian waffles. Happy Hour features zingy \$6 cocktails such as the vodka smash and bourbon drinks, and bar snacks including calamari and roasted Parmesan-garlic fries.

All good, but there is nothing that can beat the indulgence of lunch served at your sun-dappled chaise longue. The pool and beach attendants deliver pitchers of margaritas and mojitos, along with mahi-mahi tacos, quinoa wraps, pork belly rolls, garlic-tomato or pear-ricotta flatbreads and Asian salads with Florida shrimp.

SPA AND WELLNESS

The Tideline's guest room toiletries are all-natural lotions and shampoos by PAYA Organics — the basic ingredient is papaya — which also uses biodegradable packaging.

The compact Tideline Spa also focuses on natural ingredients in signature treatments such as the Botanical Sea Facial, the Lemon Blossom Wrap or the Sun-Kissed Glow. The Tideline Oasis Massage — you can schedule for singles or couples — uses plant extracts for the ultimate in muscle relaxation. There are facials customized for teens and men, plus mini-salons for nails, hair styling and waxing.

Tideline's Well, Well, Well program features yoga on Saturdays and Sundays at 9 a.m., and a group run every Tuesday at 5 p.m., led by a hotel manager. If you prefer to exercise solo, the hotel supplies a yoga mat in each guest room, bicycles, plus maps of the best jogging routes and a fitness centre, complete with hula hoops. The pool is a large rectangle ideal for laps, and it's open from sunrise to sunset.

Motion Water Sports rents equipment for ocean sports such as paddle-boarding, kitesurfing, kayaking, plus boogie boards, jet skis, surfboards and catamaran sailing. Lessons are available and since the sea is unpredictable; consider asking for a guide.
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IF YOU GO

Tideline Ocean Resort & Spa: 855-523-5455, 561-540-6440, tidelineresort.com; 2842 S. Ocean Blvd., Palm Beach, Fla. Kimpton's Karma Rewards and parent company Intercontinental Hotel Group loyalty programs apply.

Price: Rooms (May-Oct.) \$169-\$469 U.S. (some with balconies and some oceanfront), suites from \$599 U.S.; Prices are higher Nov.-April. Rates include heated pool, hot tub, beach setups, evening turndown, morning coffee, wine reception, bicycles, Kimpton Kids (free amenities, not activities), 24-hour fitness centre, yoga on Sat.-Sun. Refrigerator and coffee machine on request.

Extra: valet parking, \$27; in-room dining, babysitting. Pet-friendly, no charge.

Brandon's by the Beach: breakfast, lunch, dinner, happy hour, Sat.-Sun. brunch buffet, pool and beach service. Sushi Bar: Wed.-Sun.

Visit Florida: 888-735-2872, www.visitflorida.com; The Palm Beaches: 800-833-5733, 561-233-3000, palmbeachfl.com.

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