

HOTEL INTEL

CADILLAC HOTEL UPDATES ITS VINTAGE MIAMI BEACH SPIRIT



ROCHELLE LASH

The newly reopened Cadillac Hotel & Beach Club is steeped in the roots of Miami Beach, but is part of the area's post-millennium tourism surge that has created an influential third coast. We have East Coast action, West Coast celebrity and the Miami Coast with its fabulous cabaret of Latin, European and American cultures.

Part of Marriott International's Autograph Collection Hotels, which are designed to reflect local flavour and craft, the Cadillac embodies the spirit of its surroundings.

The Atlantic oceanfront, lined with eye-popping hotels, trendy restaurants and progressive arts venues, welcomed about 15 million visitors in 2018, mostly from South America, Europe, Russia, the United States and Canada, of course.

The Cadillac has an outstanding location on iconic Collins Avenue, as well as fetching all-new interiors and rarefied Italian gastronomy at Donna Mare Trattoria.

My favourite features are the dual pool system (one is a tranquil beauty reserved for adults) with its white and navy loungers, and the boardwalk and beach, both directly outside the door. Bungalow-by-the-Sea, a palapa hut bistro, buzzes all day with lunch, cocktails and seasonal happy hour treats like \$1 oysters and champagne by the glass.

The Cadillac is active in a laid-back way. It has guest bicycles, morning fitness classes (boot camp or yoga), flamingo toys floating gently in the kids pool and boogie boards on the beach. The new gym has top-of-the-line everything, including the amazing Peloton bikes.

"We have history, location and excellent new facilities, but our true strength is our service," said Cadillac manager Giorgio Di Pietro.

He's not kidding. "Guest experience ambassadors" roam the grounds, offering assistance. Pool servers cruise around with tastes of flavoured granita (Italian ices) to beat the heat.

"And everyone, from housekeeper and bellman to front desk, is empowered to fulfil



The Cadillac, whose core dates to 1940, formally reopened about a month ago after a year's closure for a multimillion-dollar renovation. The Atlantic Ocean and dual swimming pools, left, are part of the attraction.

Riviera. The colour scheme blends pure white stone with natural linen furniture, brightened by Euro-gold highlights.

The boutique-sized lobby has the look of a tropical private club, with potted palms and elegant rounded armchairs. It's understated, relaxed and quietly sophisticated.

The Cadillac has 348 rooms and 19 suites in two towers, of varying sizes and shapes, with different views and some with balconies.

All have been overhauled, top to bottom, and finished in soothing tones of cloud white, smoky blue and pale grey mirroring the dusky pre-dawn sea and sky. The rooms have new air-conditioning systems, glass and tile bathrooms, charging outlets and flat-screen TVs with nearly 80 channels in several languages.

On the service side, the Cadillac is taking care of you: Each room has two bathrobes, a Nespresso machine, bottled water and a gift beach bag.

The hotel's signature Cadillac Suite, overlooking the Atlantic, has a home theatre system and an impressive terrace large enough for sun beds, dinners and parties.

Chef Manual Mattei of Donna Mare Trattoria delivers North-

guests' requests."

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IF YOU GO

Cadillac Hotel & Beach Club: 305-538-3373, 888-236-2427, cadillahotelmi-amibeach.com; 3925 Collins Ave. at 39th Street, Miami Beach, Fla. Marriott rewards apply and best rate available at marriott.com.

Price: Starting at approximately US\$199 in low season, plus \$30 resort fee (holiday prices are higher), including pools/hot tub, bicycles, daily fitness class/gym, beach setups and toys, sunscreen, Wi-Fi, concierge, gift beach bag, guest computers. Pet friendly.

Packages: Cabana & Cocktails; family movie night (in-room); discount of 15 per cent on three nights or more. Discount of 20 per cent if prepaid.

Dining: Donna Mare Trattoria: 305-673-6273, donnamare.com; dinner nightly, breakfast, children's menu. Bungalow-by-the-Sea, from 11 a.m. to evening, daily.

Greater Miami Tourism: 305-539-3000, gmcb.com, miamiandbeaches.com.

ern Italian fare to South Florida, con gusto.

The restaurant looks like a designer beach house, with white furniture, timber beams and rope and canvas chairs.

The cuisine ranges from simple artisan pizza up the scale to Angus beef and Florida shrimp. Modern classics include grilled fish, wagyu beef carpaccio and crudo seafood, and there are epicurean market-fresh treats such as rare white truffles.

Mettei thanks his mother (an expert pasta-maker back in Lombardy) for inspiration on such oh-so Italian dishes as farro soup, burrata, wild mushroom risotto, tortelloni lobster and Calabrese njuda (a spicy salami spread).

Of course, a bibita from the bar is essential.

Try limoncello, grappa, an Aperol aperitivo or wines from Sicily, Tuscany, Umbria and Puglia. rochelle@rochellelash.com

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