

HOTEL INTEL

# MIAMI'S CONFIDANTE CHECKS ALL THE BOXES

Mid-century playground overlooking ocean exudes vibrancy, attracts celebs



ROCHELLE LASH

Just when I think I've seen and done it all in Miami Beach, a fresh breeze sweeps through this consummate Atlantic Ocean playground.

The Confidante Miami Beach, a landmark property, is part of Unbound by Hyatt, a collection of hotels in great locations with distinctive characteristics, interesting dining and the mission to deliver memorable experiences. And the hotel's unusual name? It reflects that The Confidante is an insider destination. Unbound by Hyatt groups 14 establishments (including Spirit Ridge in B.C. and Hôtel du Louvre in Paris), each with its own story and what it calls "social currency," or powerful community influence.

"The Confidante is pure Miami Beach — lively, colourful and oceanfront," said general manager Keith Butz. "And Mid-Beach is a playful district, between the party scene of South Beach and Miami's cultural boom."

**The scene:** The resort blends today's music, seaside culture and cuisine with the mid-century aura of Miami Mid-Beach, a district that was developed during the 1940s and '50s along legendary Collins Ave. between 20th Street and 44th Street. The strip is booming with reimagined hotels, ultimate cocktail bars, adventurous food and celebrity-driven events.

The Confidante has everything you need. Surrounded

IF YOU GO

**The Confidante Miami Beach:** 888-591-1234, 305-424-1234, [theconfidantehotel.com](http://theconfidantehotel.com) or [hyatt.com](http://hyatt.com); 4041 Collins Ave, Miami Beach, Florida. Hyatt rewards apply. **Price:** Rates fluctuate; during winter, 354 rooms start at approximately US\$149; 14 suites from US\$244, plus resort fee, \$30. Rates include two swimming pools (one for adults only), beach setups, bicycles, Wi-Fi; Fri. live music, 4 p.m.–7 p.m.; Sat. poolside DJ; fitness classes Sat.–Sun.; 24-hour gym/terrace, morning coffee lounge. **Extra:** In-room dining, valet parking, pets. **Bird & Bone:** breakfast, lunch, dinner, Sunday brunch. Lounge, happy hour. **Greater Miami Tourism:** 305-539-3000, [gmcvb.com](http://gmcvb.com), [miamiandbeaches.com](http://miamiandbeaches.com).

by a garden of vibrant flowers and palms, it overlooks a broad Atlantic stretch of sand and it has its own beach club. You can relax in a lounge chair and text for an order of shrimp tacos, plus cocktails like the Confidante Thai Coconut. The hotel is adjacent to Miami Beach's delightful oceanfront walking path.

The Confidante is built around a vibrant courtyard with two large, heated pools, one for fam-



A suite at The Confidante in Miami Beach has a delightful mid-century vibe. THE CONFIDANTE MIAMI BEACH

ilies and one that is adults-only, plus secluded cabanas for convenience and privacy. You can choose between a peaceful ambience or a sociable vibe. There is live music on Friday nights and DJ parties on Saturday afternoons.

The guest rooms and suites were refreshed two years ago and now the decor pops with vivid blue curtains, diamond-patterned carpets and apricot and aqua chintz on the chairs. The bathrooms are all glass and sea blue porcelain, with rain showers and citrus-infused toiletries by designer Jonathan Adler. **Celebrities:** Lady Gaga loves The Confidante's beach-glam look so much that she chose it for a photo shoot, and danced among the hotel's vivid rainbow of striped sun-brellas. British pop sensation Dua Lipa frolicked with live flamingos at the Art Deco entrance for her New Rules video, a sensation with 1.6 billion views on YouTube.

Rapper Lil Wayne performed at The Confidante recently during Art Basel Miami Beach, the annual December culture extravaganza, which attracted luminaries Leonardo DiCaprio, Kanye West, Jennifer Lopez, Bono and England's Princess Eugenie.

Parties are on everyone's calendar. The Confidante has restored its unique banquet spaces to gala status, including the 1930s House, a historic Spanish-inspired bungalow; the Crown Room, a library lounge; the Vista Terrace, which has water views; and the new oceanfront Carmen Miranda Ballroom.

**Food & drink:** Miami chef Richard Hales created the distinctive Bird & Bone to showcase down-home comfort cooking of the American South. It worked. Bird & Bone, newly redecorated in a casual farmhouse look with rich leather seating and butcher block tables, was anointed the area's "best hotel restaurant" by Miami New Times, a weekly newspaper.

Hales's signature dishes are The Bone (a 24-ounce braised beef rib) and The Bird (succulent fried chicken), which the same publication dubbed "food porn at its finest." Other faves are the Florida spiny lobster, the 24-ounce rib eye and Deep South traditions like fried okra, grits, cornbread and sweet potato mash.

Jenny Hales, the chef's wife, adds a Southern accent to her baking master works, including chive-and-cheddar biscuits and bourbon cake with whipped

cream and candied pecans.

And brunch keeps the Southern theme going, with pumpkin French toast, eggs benedict with fried green tomatoes, watermelon salads and Texas brisket sandwiches.

The hotel's sun-time centerpiece for bites and beverages is The Backyard. It dishes out poolside and beachside superfood salads and tuna poke bowls. Happy hour stays Deep South with flights of bourbon and drinks like the Gin Bone Bramble.

**Wellness:** The Spa at The Confidante is a new, airy rooftop retreat with a gym and a terrace for Saturday morning yoga and Sunday morning boxing (free for guests).

A spa collaboration with Glacé, a "luxury spiritual" product line, has spawned new-age massages using crystal spheres and gemstones said to have healing qualities. The Glacé system aims for different effects like relaxation, boosting energy or sharpening clarity.

Among other enticing services are the Chill It Après-Sun Care and the Tropical Cacao Scrub, plus a series of \$65 Quick Fixes for face, back, neck and feet. [rochelle@rochellelash.com](mailto:rochelle@rochellelash.com)

## WHERE TO STAY

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CALL  
514-987-2279



### VERMONT



#### GREEN MOUNTAIN SUITES HOTEL

401 Dorset St, South Burlington, VT 05403, USA  
[www.greenmountainsuites.com](http://www.greenmountainsuites.com)

Escape to beautiful Burlington, Vermont and Experience all the Charm of a Boutique Vermont Country Inn. Luxurious One-Bedroom King Suite starting at \$119 weekdays and \$139 weekends. Includes Fireside Breakfast served each morning & Fireside Reception with Beer, Wine and Dinner (M-TR). Heated Indoor Pool/Jacuzzi & Exercise facility. Walking distance to University Mall and close to Lake Champlain and the Church Street Marketplace. Promotional rate may not be available during select periods. Inventory for this promotional rate is limited. Please contact hotel for more information. Toll-free reservations 866.337.1616



### MAINE



#### VISIT FREEPORT

[visitfreeport.com](http://visitfreeport.com) 207-865-1212  
Visit us at the Freeport, Maine Train & Information Center  
23 Depot St. Freeport, Maine 04032 USA

Experience why we're New England's favorite shopping destination. Located on the shores of Casco Bay, Freeport is world-famous for our hundreds of brand-name outlets and local boutiques housed in charming brick buildings, some dating back as far as the 18th century. In addition to world-class shopping, Freeport offers delectable local cuisine, four-star lodging and a diverse assortment of enjoyable activities for all ages and interests. Rich in history, nature and the arts, you'll come to shop and stay to play.



### VERMONT



#### SMART SUITES

[www.smartsuitesburlington.com](http://www.smartsuitesburlington.com)  
1700 Shelburne Rd., So. Burlington, Vt.  
Toll free 877-862-6800

Come and enjoy our hospitality. FALL/WINTER SPECIAL: NEW RATES: Studio \$85.00US/night or a one bedroom suite at \$95/00US including a deluxe continental breakfast and free WIFI. Mention The Gazette special. Not valid with any other discounts and may not be available on certain week-ends. Rates effective November 1, 2018 - May 1, 2019. Take Exit 13 off I-89, left on Rt. 7/Shelburne Rd. for 1.5 miles. Same entrance as Holiday Inn Express.