



The Brazilian Court has been pampering guests since 1926 and is a luxurious hospitality landmark in glamorous Palm Beach. THE BRAZILIAN COURT

High society bathed in European charm

The Brazilian Court in Palm Beach retains ‘classic features’ amid modern day updates



ROCHELLE LASH
Hotel Intel

The Brazilian Court’s high-society pedigree makes it the quintessential establishment in Palm Beach, Florida. Listed among the best in virtually every travel bible, including Condé Nast Traveler and Travel + Leisure, the Brazilian Court personifies North America’s most glamorous resort town. It is known for its outstanding French-American haute cuisine at Café Boulud, luxurious suites and pivotal location two blocks from both Worth Ave. and the Atlantic Ocean. The Brazilian Court prides itself on its discreet ambience as a private rendezvous of elite travellers. But, if you are going to name drop, this is the place to do it. It has played host to Hollywood royalty such as Cary Grant,

Marlon Brando, Rita Hayworth, Fred Astaire and Katharine Hepburn, and more recently, Meryl Streep, Sofia Vergara, fashion tycoon Tommy Hilfiger and sports sensations Michael Jordan and Serena Williams (but not together). “It’s been nearly 100 years of VIPs, but the Brazilian Court has updated for a new generation,” said Ashley Berry, director of sales and marketing, and also president of the Worth Avenue Association. “We have redone the lobby, ballrooms and Café Boulud, and our rooms and suites are always being refreshed,” Berry said. “But the hotel’s classic features make it a gem — the serene courtyards, the personal service and relaxed luxury.” **The scene:** The Brazilian has a South American name but is bathed in European charm. It’s a Spanish Colonial style villa, with cascading ivy and palms swaying in the Atlantic breeze. The courtyard centrepiece is an unparalleled backdrop for picturesque celebrations and sophisticated dining. The hotel has been pamper-



Café Boulud, from Michelin-starred chef Daniel Boulud, serves sumptuous cuisine amid the lush gardens of the Brazilian Court. LILY VOLYGES

ing guests since 1926 and sees no reason to compromise its standards, even in an era of do-it-yourself vacations. Perhaps you’d like a truffle omelette or caviar at Café Boulud. Or twice-daily maid service to keep your room fluffed and fresh. And you can be gala-gorgeous with beauty services at the Frédéric Fekkai Salon. One of my favourite Brazilian Court perks is the chauffeured ride to the beach with the works — chairs, umbrellas, towels and bottled water. The interiors are rich with mahogany, limestone, bronze hardware, artisanal cabinetry and imported fabrics. The 80 rooms and suites each have a wet bar, a walk-in shower, a marble jetted bathtub, pillow-top beds and handsome décor, with fresh orchids and well-chosen chinoiserie atop antique tables. If you’re a fan of a modern look, the Brazilian Court will roll out a next-generation look in some rooms by autumn. **Café Boulud:** Fans of Maison Boulud in Montreal will adore Café Boulud at the Brazilian Court. The Florida sister rates four stars on Forbes Travel Guide for its superlative cuisine

IF YOU GO

The Brazilian Court Hotel: 800-552-0335, 561-655-7740; thebraziliancourt.com; 301 Australian Ave., Palm Beach, Fla.
Price: rooms, May-Oct., US\$259-\$549 (one- and two-bedroom suites cost more) including heated outdoor pool/whirlpool, twice-daily housekeeping, chauffeur service, bathrobes, fitness centre, Wi-Fi, newspapers. Rates are higher Nov. to April. Pets are \$100 per visit, with doggie beds and treats. Bicycles for rent.
Café Boulud: 561-655-6060, cafeboulud.com/palmbeach; piano entertainment on some weekends. Three-course lunch, \$36; dinner, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., \$49; brunch Sat.-Sun., \$39; happy hour cocktails/wine, \$9, bites, \$13.
Discover The Palm Beaches: 800-554-7256, 561-233-3000. thepalmbeachbeaches.com.

and positively splendid terrace, surrounded by a riot of foliage. Executive chef Rick Mace sets a lofty Palm Beach standard with delectable dinners of lobster, crab fra diavolo, duck à l’orange, filet mignon, comfort dishes like roast chicken and boatloads of fresh fish. Exceptional lunch choices include garlic soup with herb crème fraîche and coq au vin with lardons, plus, almost like home, brisket sandwiches. Daniel Boulud, the Michelin-starred maestro and head of an international culinary empire, makes pop-up guest appearances. Watch for the likelihood of a U.S. Thanksgiving in November, with a decidedly gastronomic twist on turkey and trimmings. **On the town:** Palm Beach’s picturesque Lake Trail for walkers and cyclists starts at Worth Ave., one of the most high-styled and famous streets in the U.S. New are Hai House for Asian cuisine, a Tory Burch Concept Store and a flagship Lilly Pulitzer to mark the 60th anniversary of the Palm Beach fashion icon. The Lake Trail runs along the Intracoastal Waterway, passing yachts on the left, mansions on the right and highlights such as the stunning Flagler Museum; the Royal Poinciana Plaza’s exclusive shops; and The Society of the Four Arts, a hub of fine performances, workshops, botanical gardens and children’s projects.

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