



The Pelican Grand Beach Resort is on a sheltered stretch facing the Atlantic Ocean in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. PHOTOS: PELICAN GRAND BEACH RESORT

HOTEL INTEL

FLORIDA RESORT EVEN MORE GRAND AFTER UPGRADES



ROCHELLE LASH

The delightful Pelican Grand Beach Resort in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., has added modern decor to its traditional southern charm. A US\$7-million investment has transformed the 144 rooms and suites of the oceanfront hotel from quaint and cottage-like to a Florida beach-inspired style. It's a casual new look with sea-inspired art and natural textures like linen, rattan, sisal and pale wood set against white and cream walls. The suites have glass french doors, so everyone can enjoy the ocean view from either the bedroom or the salon. The bathrooms shine in white marble and the toiletries by Lather are vegan, with aromas

like lavender and lime. If you're in the market to splurge, at the top end are the executive 12th-floor Sky Penthouse, the romantic 11th-floor Pure Suite and the ultimate relaxation retreat, the 10th-floor Spa Suites. One standout feature of this hotel is that all the guest-floor corridors are open-air, so as you come and go from your room you are always experiencing the Florida sunshine, warm evenings and ocean breeze. **On the beach:** Pelican Grand is intimate and friendly, while totally outfitted with engaging resort features. It has a zero-entry oceanfront pool, a separate "lazy river" for youngsters, a beach club, remarkably good cuisine at OCEAN2000 and creative cocktail culture at O2K Lounge. The new marquee attraction is PURE Spa. Plus, there are no roads to cross. Pelican Grand's distinguishing factor is that it is



The 144 rooms and suites at Pelican Grand Beach Resort have undergone US\$7 million worth of upgrades.

directly on a sheltered stretch of Atlantic beach, tucked away from the busy strip of Fort Lauderdale's Route A1A. All of the hotel's amenities are oceanfront, so guests are only an elevator ride away from frolicking in the Atlantic waves or dining on the glorious seaside veranda. Plus, the location makes for sensational sunrise views over the Atlantic and the dreamy sound of waves as you sleep. **Scene:** Pelican Grand is so full of life. Poolside servers dish out Popsicles and virgin daiquiris on weekends and there is live entertainment at the O2K Lounge Wednesdays through Sundays. The lounge holds a half-price happy hour from 4 to 7 p.m. daily, plus events: Botanical Mondays with flatbread and \$10

herb-infused vodka; margaritas and tacos on Tuesdays; wine and burgers on Wednesdays (vegan and fish, too); Bacardi rum Thursdays with all-you-can-eat P.E.I. mussels; mojitos and ceviche on Fridays; Bubbly Saturdays with \$2 oysters; and Hoppy Sundays with \$5 draft beer. Youngsters are so welcome at Pelican Grand that they have their own guest book with crayons. And they adore the "lazy river," a gentle tubing cruise around the pool, as well as The Emporium, a shop with ice cream, toys, beachwear and snacks. PURE Spa is a heavenly high-up space with a sweeping terrace overlooking the Atlantic. You can totally disconnect in a suspended chair and sway back and forth in

open air. Beautiful potions here include skin creams by Maria Åkerberg of Sweden and vegan nail care by Sparitual. Favourite treatments include the PURE You customized massage and a new-tech hydro soak in a Jason tub by Jacuzzi. **Cuisine:** OCEAN2000 has done what few hotel dining rooms have managed: It's a hit. The food — modern American cuisine — is great and the veranda setting overlooking the Atlantic is exceptional. Dinner showcases appetizers such as ceviche and shrimp cocktail and delicious mains like mushroom-seafood risotto, filet mignon and sea bass with beurre blanc. The lunch menu highlights Asian shrimp wraps, lobster mac-'n'-cheese, blackened mahi, burgers or Key lime-spiced calamari; and breakfast might be crab cakes Benedict or a smoked salmon platter. OCEAN2000 also is a big draw for holiday dinners as well as prime rib on Fridays, seafood on Saturdays and Sunday brunch, which is unlimited everything, including roast beef, charcuterie, sushi, smoked salmon, oysters and shrimp, plus Bloody Marys and mimosa cocktails.

IF YOU GO

Pelican Grand Beach Resort is 14 kilometres from Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. **Pelican Grand Beach Resort:** 800-525-6232, 954-568-9431; pelicanbeach.com; 2000 N. Ocean Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Part of Noble House Hotels & Resorts. PURE Spa: 954-556-7600, spa.pelicanbeach.com. **Price:** Rates fluctuate, starting at: Jan.-May, US\$379; June-Oct., \$279; Nov.-Dec., \$328; add \$35 resort fee. Sky Penthouse starts at \$1,900. All rates include \$10 food/beverage credit, Wi-Fi, in-room coffee, beach setups, swimming pool, business centre, fitness centre. Best rate guaranteed if booked directly. Fourth night free at certain times. **Packages:** Wellness package includes spa treatments. Cruise Package includes transportation to Port Everglades or airport. Romance Package includes suite, champagne, dining credits.

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