

# Luxury in the heart of Delray Beach

**SEAGATE HOTEL & SPA** is so much more than a typical Florida resort, with two private clubs down the road and amenities galore



ROCHELLE LASH

CHECKING IN

The chic Seagate Hotel & Spa is a delicious indie discovery at the heart of the darling South Florida town of Delray Beach.

It is a full-fledged resort, but it is not a resort built all in one location.

The Seagate Hotel & Spa, the centrepiece of Atlantic Ave., is a luxurious 154-room boutique hotel with stylish, contemporary dining at the Atlantic Grille and a hot happy hour and live entertainment at Jellie's Lounge.

The Seagate Beach Club and the Seagate Country Club, both private, are down the road apiece and guests are chauffeured to and from in luxury SUVs. In total, the Seagate resort embraces six restaurants, three swimming pools, four exclusive shops, a full spa, golf and tennis, so although it looks petite and has a personal air, it is a large and substantial vacation destination and the leading resort in Delray Beach.

The Seagate, the hotel, is lively and fashionable, but in a discreet way. Above all, it has cachet. It's a model of summertime seaside elegance built around a courtyard of gardens and palms and a stunning, long swimming pool. The building has a British Colonial look, perhaps Bahamian, with its pretty white exterior and latticework porches. Bringing the ocean theme indoors, the lobby and bar are decorated with wall-sized aquariums of fascinating, colourful tropical fish — including sharks.

The guest rooms are spacious and fitted out with the best: marble jet bath tubs, flat-screen LCD TVs and DVD players, iHome radios, pod coffee machines, digital climate control and eco-conscious, state-of-the-art lighting, in accordance with the Seagate's LEED certification. The beds are covered in the finest white Egyptian cotton, trimmed delicately with gold thread. The walls are vanilla, set against dark woodwork, with a hint of rattan.

Executive chef Adam Gott-



PHOTOS: THE SEAGATE HOTEL & SPA

The Seagate Hotel & Spa is a luxurious 154-room boutique hotel in Delray Beach, Fla., that has a British Colonial look.

lieb oversees all Seagate dining, including the Beach Club and the Country Club, but he cooks at the "downtown" Atlantic Grille, where he focuses on contemporary presentations and Florida-sourced ingredients. His favourite dishes — also the ones favoured by his patrons — are roasted sea scallops with pomegranate and toasted almond couscous, and grilled snapper with sweet potato and maple rum butter. Don't miss the mushroom tart as an app, with goat cheese, arugula and caramelized onions.

The Seagate Spa has seven treatment rooms, a Vichy shower, a hot yoga studio and such sea-inspired treatments as the Hot-Shell massage and the Deep-Sea Journey. You can make a day of it, seguing from the pool to the steam bath, and back outdoors to tan. Wind up with a merlot facial, or simply head to happy hour at Jellie's.

The Seagate Beach Club is a paradise all on its own, embracing a large-scale, heated swimming pool and complete sand-and-sea facilities: patio dining, umbrellas, lounge



The Beach Club is built around a white stucco 1930s mansion and features two oceanfront restaurants.

chairs and attentive staff to see to it all. Kids have their own corner with activities, crafts and beach games, and grown-ups can rent gear for snorkelling, paddling, windsurfing, sailing and boogie-boarding.

The exclusive Beach Club is built around a handsome white stucco 1930s mansion. Here, two oceanfront restaurants, Upstairs and Downstairs, dish out Florida-

fresh fare. During the day, the menu features blackened cod wraps, crab cakes and tuna tacos. At night, the choice is fancier, with lobster bisque and freshly caught roasted fish. The sea and sky views and the ocean breeze are mesmerizing all the time.

The Beach Club is a great alternative to downtown dining, especially on theme nights: lobster on Wednesdays (\$39), prime rib on

Thursdays (\$30) and fish fry on Fridays (\$19). The Full Moon dinners (or almost full moon), tentatively Jan. 16, Feb. 15 and March 16, are also exceptional experiences, with the oceanfront setting and open-air dining.

Delray Water Sports is located at the Seagate's beachfront, and rents equipment for paddle-boarding, boogie boards, snorkelling, windsurfing and Hobie Cats for sailing.

The Seagate is in Palm Beach County, which is home to more golf courses than any county in the United States. The Seagate Country Club features eight Har-Tru tennis courts and a full-service Balinese-inspired clubhouse with casual and fine dining and options, a pool and a fitness centre. The 18-hole golf course, which has all-new extensive practice areas, PGA pros and Bermuda grass tees and greens, was totally overhauled in 2013.

Named "the most fun town in America" by USA Today, Delray Beach is halfway between two elite communities, Palm Beach and Boca Ra-

## IF YOU GO

Air Canada has new service, Montreal to Palm Beach International Airport, a 20-minute drive from Delray Beach, on Wed., Fri. & Sat. (Dec. 20-April 27). Air Canada, Sunwing, WestJet and Air Transat fly Montreal to Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, a 35-minute drive.

**The Seagate Hotel & Spa:** 877-57-SEAGATE/877-577-3242, [www.theseagatehotel.com](http://www.theseagatehotel.com); 1000 E. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach, Fla.

**Price:** Approximately \$339 US for a king room or \$579 for a suite, incl. evening turn-down, plus \$30 resort fee, which includes 5-km transportation, heated swimming pool, hot tub and steam room, Beach Club, Country Club, wireless Internet and business centre. Extras: Spa treatments, valet parking, 24-hour room service, tennis and golf. Discounts for AAA/CAA. If you "like" the Seagate on Facebook, you will receive promotions for rooms, spa life and dining: [www.facebook.com/TheSeagateHotel/app\\_109145132574590](http://www.facebook.com/TheSeagateHotel/app_109145132574590).

**Atlantic Grille:** 561-665-4900, [www.theatlanticgrille.com](http://www.theatlanticgrille.com); lunch Mon.-Fri.; dinner Mon.-Sun.; brunch on Sat.-Sun., live entertainment Tues.-Sat.; happy hour, 4-7 p.m. nightly.

**Visit Florida:** 888-735-2872, [www.visitflorida.com](http://www.visitflorida.com). Delray Beach tourism: 561-279-1380, [www.visitdelray-beach.org](http://www.visitdelray-beach.org) or 561-278-0424, [www.delraybeach.com](http://www.delraybeach.com).

ton, but it is upscale without the glitz and glamour of its neighbours.

Well, perhaps a little name-dropping is in order. The World ATP Tournament, a major international tennis competition, will be held here on Feb. 17 starring such champs as Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer; and the annual Chris Evert Pro-Celebrity Tennis Classic takes place in November.

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