

FOUR SEASONS REACHES FOR TOP IN PALM BEACH



ROCHELLE LASH
Hotel Intel

You know you have arrived when you vacation in Palm Beach, and if you're checking into the Four Seasons Resort Palm Beach, you're at the top of the social pyramid and in the penthouse of exclusive hospitality.

Both the hotel and its spa have a five-star rating from Forbes Travel Guide, and AAA rates the resort as the only five-star property on Palm Beach Island.

The hallmarks of the Four Seasons brand are its elegant understatement and quiet luxury, so the Palm Beach property is not meant to be over-the-top.

It simply is the top.

The scene: As guests glide up in Bentleys and Range Rovers, the Four Seasons team of valets, bellmen and receptionists orchestrates a warm welcome.

The Four Seasons Resort Palm Beach is pleasantly low-rise and built in a U-shape around two infinity-edge swimming pools (one for adults), the Atlantic beachfront and the terrace of Florie's restaurant. Privacy, tranquillity, fine food and inspirational ocean views are assured.

Everything is at hand for a leisurely lifestyle. Florie's Bar mixes herb-infused cocktails, with basil, cardamom and saffron. The spa does face and body treatments with organic products. The Swell Boutique sells posh gifts and designer beachwear. The oceanfront Seaway bistro serves bowls and burgers, plus shrimp salads and lobster rolls.

Well, perhaps the Four Seasons Resort Palm Beach is a wee bit over-the-top: it has a wine-and-water sommelier. And pool attendants who come around to clean your sunglasses.

The news: The hotel was closed for six months and finalized a massive renovation in January, including all accommodations, corridors and the lobby. Outdoors, the hotel added the adults-only pool and updated all the sun furniture and decks.

The resort blooms with quint-essentially Palm Beach colours — hallways in sprightly flamingo pink and turquoise; pool patios appointed in seashell rose and Atlantic aqua. The lobby speaks



The luxurious oceanfront Four Seasons Resort Palm Beach was refurbished from pool to penthouse during a six-month closure. *FOUR SEASONS RESORT PALM BEACH*

of the richness of nature, with travertine, marble, sandstone and furnishings in the palest linen and leather.

The 207 rooms and suites are prettily done by celebrity designer Martin Brudnizki. He has crafted a sophisticated take on a coastal theme, with pastel hues of seafoam and coral. The pale wood furniture is gently curved in the art moderne style,

a little like a streamlined 1930s ocean liner.

The new suites offer a heightened level of seaside comfort. They have spacious living, dining and media rooms, and private terraces facing the Atlantic with only a few steps down to the beach.

What's included: Four Seasons is a pricey brand, but the Palm Beach property includes access

to spa baths, twice-daily house-keeping with shoeshine, activities, a courtesy Mercedes SUV, bicycles, beach setups and sports, fitness classes, in-room Nespresso, and fun resort experiences such as mixology tastings, pool-side movies and pop-up treats.

Families, take note: children age four and younger eat for free, and juniors 18 and younger stay for free in certain rooms. Juniors

IF YOU GO ...

Four Seasons Resort Palm Beach: 800-432-2335, 561-582-2800, fourseasons.com/palmbeach; 2800 South Ocean Blvd., Palm Beach, Fla.
Palm Beach Spa: 561-533-3715
Florie's: 561-582-2800, floriespb.com. Seaway outdoor bistro: daily from 11 a.m.
Price: Nov.-April, rooms start at US\$770; May-Oct., starting at \$450. One- to three-bedroom suites available. Resort fee: \$30, includes the above features, plus welcome drink, coffee corner, Press Reader newspaper. **Extra:** spa treatments, private training, cabanas, tennis. Discount of 15 per cent for 90-day advance booking; fourth night is free at certain times. Best rate guaranteed.
Palm Beach tourism: 800-554-7256, 561-233-3000, thepalmbeaches.com.

have a welcome gift, and there's a teen game room, a toddlers' play area and the Kids for All Seasons program (age four to 12).

The cuisine: Florie's is affiliated with Mauro Colagreco, chef at the three-Michelin-star Mirazur in Menton, France, so there's a Mediterranean accent and live-fire cooking with Florida ingredients. Florie's two sections are pure Palm Beach: an idyllic terrace is ringed with potted ferns, and is close to the sights and sounds of the ocean; and the contemporary dining room has sky-blue booths and an open kitchen.

Florie's goes gourmet for everything — breakfast, Sunday brunch, holiday feasts, private dining, dinner and all-day drinks and bites at the bar. Evening unfolds with starters of duck terrine, snapper ceviche, prawn tiradito and baked clams; casual fare such as yakitori, tandoori ribs and pizza; and more refined main courses like Florida cioppino or grouper, veal shanks or Wagyu rib-eye.

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