MIAMI 2.0

THE BEST PLACES TO EXPLORE IN MIAMI ARE NOT WHERE YOU MIGHT THINK. OUR EDITORS GIVE THE LOWDOWN.
In the minds of most, Miami means beach scenes, neon-lit Deco hotels and thumping nightclubs in the core of South Beach. And for good reason—it was the most vibrant scene in town for decades. That’s all changed. These days some of the best finds in the city lie in pockets outside the normal tourist haunts. Here, our staff breaks down the Magic City’s most dynamic areas, and how to enjoy them.
are also four breweries in the district, the most recent of which is *Vega Sur Brewing Co.*, opening this year as a grown-up's playground teeming with beer cocktails and brews served Brazilian "caipirinha" style. For a more intimate atmosphere, head to microbrew specialist *Bexholder's* dimly lit L-shaped bar. *Gramps*' tropical dive aesthetic fuses the tattooed and skinny jean crowd with weekly drag queen bingo and horseshoe nights.

Don't let big box retail like *Target* dissuade you from visiting *Midtown*, just north of *Wynwood*. *Sugarcane*, with its James Beard nomination in 2014, led the
The food scene has taken flight—there were four James Beard semifinalists within three blocks of each other this year.

like award-winning chef Michael Schwartz's flagship Michael's Genuine and the charming Greek/Turkish eatery Mandolin. The second phase of luxe retail has seen Saint Laurent open this year, with Gucci, Dolce & Gabbana and others slated this fall in an area on 41st Street called Paradiso.
Plaza. And it’s not just retail. The Design District’s Institute of Contemporary Art reopens next month in swanky new digs with pieces from legends like Picasso and emerging contemporary artists such as Abigail DeVille. Galleries, including non-profit Locust Projects and the street-artist-friendly Primary Projects are

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opened for pursuing, end-of-art installations by The Buckminster Fuller Institute and Zaha Hadid are posted in public areas. Nite Owl Theater, which became Miami’s first strictly 35mm theater when it opened in August, screens reel-to-reel projections of cult classics like Re-Animator and The Evil Dead every Saturday night. For an easy bite or a jolt of caffeine, hit OTL, a pastel-colored café that opened earlier this year with some of the best people-watching in the Magic City. You might just spot Grammy Award-winning Gloria Estefan and Emilio Estefan, who are never too far from their Cuban restaurant Estefan’s Kitchen, which opened in March.

In the postwar boom, before Interstate 95 allowed beach-seekers to skip Biscayne Boulevard, mainland Miami was all the rage. Small but flamboyant MiMo (Miami Modern architecture) hotels lined the strip and attracted the likes of Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr. Though the area crashed in the ensuing decades (hotels offered hourly rates), these days the MiMo area is historically preserved, and the neighborhoods of the Biscayne Corridor, running from 15th Street to 85th Street, are favorites of locals.

At the northern end (Upper East Side), be sure to check out the Vagabond Hotel, not only for its quintessential MiMo lines and clever room revamps, but also its dining and gay-friendly Sunday pool party. A few blocks away, The Anderson bar has earned a reputation as the mainland go-to for rad ‘80s nostalgia and dark corners in which to make mistakes. Drinks such as the Boots By Bro (mezcal, fresh beet juice, lime bitters, sage) come from the famed Broken Shaker crew, while tunes range from Smiths cover bands to DJ spinning 90s hip-hop.

Miami’s pizza awakening has reached the Upper East Side.
with Paulie Gee's, a Southern outpost of the lionized Brooklyn eatery, where you can seek out over dough with owner Jason Weissberg. Nearby, Ironside Pizza, tucked into an industrial strip-turned-design-tub, also offers excellent pies and no corkage fee.

West of the Biscayne/Miami strip you’ll find the Little River/Little Haiti neighborhood, an unpolished mix of residential and warehouse blocks where some of Miami’s best art galleries have cropped up since fleeing rent hikes in Wynwood. Nina Johnson bought her eponymous gallery space on 63rd Street and NW 2nd Avenue, as did Emerson Dorsch a few blocks south, while nearby Spinello Projects and Bill Brady Miami bring cultural cachet to a warehouse conversion development known as Little River // Miami.

Little River // Miami is also home to Imperial Moto Cafe, which dishes out local coffee, tea, clothes and high-end motorcycle gear, and in the coming months, celebrate Melrose Avenue women's lifestyle boutique TonOverSix will move in with an array of design and fashion offerings such as Rachel Comey tunic dresses and colorful hand-woven Trusa теки from Oaxaca, Mexico. For the boys, there's by-appointment-only Fabrice Tardieu, whose high-end kits have adorned the feet of Common, Will Smith and Dwyane Wade.

Hop a few blocks south and you're in the heart of Little Haiti, where the spartan Clive's Cafe, another Wynwood escapee, dishes Jamaican fare such as curried goat, cow foot and what many say is the best jerk chicken in town. Local foodies are also waiting impatiently for the early winter (hopefully) opening of Wessel's Tropical Bar BQ, where James Beard nominee Kris Wessel promises Florida, Caribbean and American South flavors worked into wood-fired heritage pork, oxtail, foie and wild boar.

Bisayne Boulevard runs south to Downtown Miami, but on the way you'll find the Edgewater neighborhood, where an explosion of bayfront condos has prompted food offerings worth your attention. Michael Schwartz is slated to open Amaranth at Paraiso right on the bay this month, with a beach club setting and Latin-American and coastal flavors. A bit further south, you'll find Mignonette, run by a chef and a food blogger who used to argue about food until they joined forces to operate a raw bar with plenty of TLC, and offer fried clams good enough to conjure the Maine coast.

Fried oysters at Mignonette, north of Downtown

**ON THE HORIZON**

Miami's food future is bright

**Food Halls**

The Market City going up on Old Mead, a food hall with space for five restaurants, including Brickell City Centre's 40,000-square-foot Italian concept, La Cucina. (Dec 2017), St. Barts Market (Spring 2018, Design District) and Food Out Market (Spring 2018, South Beach).

**Mesa Bar and Cocktails**

Peter Shankman (shan) will be opening appetizers with Old Florida-inspired restaurant Over Under in Downtown (Spring 2018), with a tennis court and bar, and Lost Boy Dry Goods (Winter 2017), Little River's gift shop and wine bar.

**Superior Culture Goods**

Superior Culture Goods (Spring 2018) will open in the Design District to bring a Japanese-influenced wood-fired American diner from Alphonse Bronge as well as Michelin-starred chef Joel Robuchon with four separate concepts, including a raw oyster bar, a casual lounge, cafe and an outdoor dining area.
Miami Beach, with its constant need to please travelers, is always getting a facelift, particularly in the heart of South Beach. But the last few years have seen pockets of excellent food and retail pop up in areas outside of the melee.

Fine dining reigned in the well-heeled and somewhat subdued residential neighborhood South of Fifth. At the effortlessly chic Porte del Marmi, Michelin-starred chef Antonio Mielles has brought his sublime simplicity Italian fare to a 1928 deco structure on Ocean Drive. Around the corner lies what is arguably South Beach’s best new restaurant, Upland, a Manhattan spinoff that provides a glowing showcase for Justin Smillie’s California-influenced cuisine.

Less about trendy chintz than it was in the past, South Beach has a new crop of bars. Jeansel Bar + Kitchen is a cozy lounge just off Lincoln Road that feels sophisticated on a Thursday night, but is casual enough to show NFL games on Sunday. A few blocks west, taco eatery Bodaga has a hidden door that leads to a speakeasy-style space with good drinks, while next door, comfort meets nostalgia at Ricky’s, a lounge that attracts an ebullient crowd with throwback arcade games, neon lighting and specialty slices from New York sensation Artichoke Pizza. Once a pizza wasteland, South Beach now enjoys a boom with standouts including Mister Ol, a clandestine pizzeria hidden in an office building, and Lucali, a Brooklyn favorite that locals often combine with a visit to the nearby Bay Club in the somewhat off-the-beaten path Sunset Harbour neighborhood.

Indeed, if anywhere feels like old South Beach, it’s Sunset Harbour, with its unique boutiques, from the fashion-forward women’s clothier Frankie to the upscale vintage store What Goes Around Comes Around, specializing in rare Chanel, Vuitton and the like. Nearby, a new seafood-themed
The last few years in Miami Beach have seen pockets of excellent food and retail pop up in areas outside of the melee.
The area, known as the Faena District, is a creative hub where art, culture, and entertainment converge. The Faena Hotel and its sister properties, including the Faena Bazaar and Faena Forum, offer a unique blend of luxury and inspiration, making it a must-visit destination for art lovers and design enthusiasts.

As for dining options, the District is home to some of the city's best restaurants. The Faena Hotel's three restaurants, 360 Restaurant, 360 Bar, and 360 Terrace, offer a modern and sophisticated dining experience. The District also features a variety of upscale and trendy eateries, providing a diverse culinary landscape for visitors to explore.

In conclusion, the Faena District is a vibrant destination that offers a unique blend of art, culture, and luxury. Whether you're a first-time visitor or a seasoned traveler, the Faena District is sure to leave a lasting impression and provide a memorable experience.
out onto breezy Biscayne Bay. Steps away, Frost Science opened in May and boasts, among other things, a 500,000-gallon Gulf Stream aquarium and a 250-seat, state-of-the-art planetarium.

When hunger calls, options include Arson, a small space with intense, charcoal-grilled flavors by chef Denier Leon of the much-loved Spain-focused NIU Kitchen just blocks away. Another now addition a stroll away is ABY Café, whose excellent coffee and avocado tartar is worth the walk, or for an easy after-meal experience, hit La Muse Café in the Epic Hotel. Downtown nightlife can be found at the The Langford Hotel, which embraces prewar design and rooftop city views at Pawn Broker lounge.

Head south over the Miami River to Brickell, where Miami’s financial district transformed so much in the last two years that it feels as if Miami’s center of gravity has shifted. Primary in that shift is the behemoth Brickell City Centre, the 4.0 million square-foot, $1.65 billion mixed-use complex comprised of two residential towers, two mid-rise office buildings, EAST Miami hotel and a supercharged, multi-level open-air mall with 124 storefronts. Anchored by a 107,000-square-foot Saks Fifth Avenue, the mall features the CMX Luxury cinemas from Mexico, already popular for its impressive technology.

Atop EAST, Miami, soak in stunning views at the outdoor rooftop bar, Sugar, or dine downstairs on the fifth floor at Quinto La Huella, the first outpost of Uruguay’s famed beach-front restaurant, which uses a parilla to flame-cook outstanding dishes.

Brickell’s building boom continues to the south at SLS Brickell, a condo-hotel hybrid with Philippe Stark design, and restaurants by a pair of James Beard award-winning chefs, José Andrés at Bazaar Mar and Michael Schwartz at Fi’la. For late-night fun and over-the-top dining, hit Komodo, the swanky Southeast Asian multi-award winner owned by famed nightlife king David Grutman.

Cutting through both areas is the Miami River, where the twins have become the next area ripe for development. Known best for its two rival fish purveyors—Casablanca and García—the River district now features two rival yacht- and champagne-intensive seafood restaurants, Soaspice and Kiki on the River. But it’s the homey Crust, nestled inside a former 1052A private residence, that steals the show, delivering unforgettable pastas, pizzas and shrimp cakes by Chef Kline Borosoki and wife Anita.

**LITTLE HAVANA/ COCONUT GROVE/ KEY BISCAYNE**

These outliers seem worlds away from the hubbub of downtown and Miami Beach, but that’s part of their charm. While Little Havana exudes traditions, the last couple of years have seen an uptick in offerings. It’s best to simply stroll down Calle Ocho and soak up the colorful atmosphere from the local shops and eateries. After working up an appetite, pop into Cuban staple El Rey de las Fritas for a burger, known as a frita. El Rey tops juicy patties with super-crispy shoestring fries, then stuffs it all into a fluffy Cuban roll. Or try the recently opened Ella’s Oyster Bar, which serves delicious, fresh and shareable seafood like crab croquetas and oysters Rockefeller miles from the beach. Little Havana has also seen a spate of Asian fare, the latest and hottest being the tiny
Lung Yai Thai Tapas. Get there early and expect lines before diving into small plates worth the cramped quarters.

For something hollower (and one of the city’s best happy hours), head a few blocks west to the new and nautical-themed Bar Nancy, where this elevated hole-in-the-wall serves craft cocktails without any stuffy ‘tude.

Whatever you do, don’t set sail from Little Havana without docking at Ball & Chain. Credited with sparking the area’s winning streak, this lively lounge features over 100 hours of live music each week. There’s nothing more quintessentially Miami than sipping mojitos while listening to a salsa band perform on a pineapple-shaped stage.

Once a hippie enclave in the 1960s, Coconut Grove is a quaint tree-lined area with a new pep in its step. Skip the de rigueur mallish spots and instead stroll hunt for Ballestras and Attico at the chic boutique The Griffin or spy jet-setter-themed luggage and other accessories at the kitschy travel store First Flight Out. For grub, chef Michael Beltran fuses his Cuban roots with new American style at Artists (don’t miss the short rib), or you can absorb the outdoors while moshing on baked crab dip and crispy yuca at Glass & Vine, which overlooks Peacock Park and offers glimpses of Biscayne Bay. If gluttony (and nostalgia) are in order, indulge at Vicky’s House Milkshake Bar and Tasting Room, where the space is decked out like an ’50s kitchen. The Golden Grahams milkshake features bits of toffee, Golden Grahams cereal, banana and—of course—cheesecake.

It’s tough to believe the quiet beaches of Key Biscayne are actually connected to Miami. If partying isn’t on your itinerary, staying at The Ritz-Carlton Key Biscayne provides the natural wonders of Miami without the wild scenes. The resort’s new Lightkeepers restaurant serves one of the most decadent brunches in South Florida, featuring endless champagne and a caviar station. Work off those all-you-can-eat crab claws at the new Virginia Key Outdoor Center, where you can rent paddleboards and kayaks. Of course, a visit wouldn’t be complete without stopping for a selfie at the iconic Cape Florida Lighthouse.

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