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AN INFLUX OF LUXE

See how The Ritz-Carlton, South Beach has recently enhanced their property

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The Ritz-Carlton knows how to deliver a luxurious experience —from their golden standard of service and gourmet cuisine to their sumptuous accommodations. Guests retreat to their hotels for luxury living. It's all about indulging —slipping away to The Club Lounge any time of the day for a nice glass of red wine and fine chocolate, savoring a leisurely lunch under the sun, and escaping to the spa for a much-needed massage and facial.

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For over a decade now, The Ritz-Carlton, South Beach has been internationally recognized as Miami's finest hotel, and they have remained committed to maintaining the utmost level of excellence, which is why the hotel enhanced the property in the beginning of 2017 with the opening of TATEL, a revamp of their Club Lounge, and a lavish new spa.

The Ritz-Carlton, South Beach originally opened in 2004 after the complete restoration of the Morris Lapidus-designed (1953) Art Moderne building. Immediately upon entering its grand lobby punctuated with art from the hotel's \$2-million-dollar collection, you're met with stunning Art Deco architectural elements and the hotel's clean, signature scent. Classic yet chic, the landmark hotel attracts everyone from celebrities and business travelers to millennials and families for a variety of reasons, especially their two poolside lanai wings and myriad of room options: quest rooms and suites and Ritz-Carlton Club level rooms and suites -some of which boast balconies and terraces. Rooms are outfitted with contemporary furnishings, unique art, and beach-inspired accents in blues, greens, and coral. To make you feel at home, rooms feature iPod docking stations, an in-room laptop-compatible safe, bottled water, fullystocked mini bar, bath robes, and 24-hour in-room dining. Among the guest rooms' premium features are their oceanfront views -best enjoyed from your personal balcony appointed with lounge chairs and a table.

Should you forgo a room with a balcony, the elevated pool area provides gorgeous views of South Beach. Guests have rows of lounge chairs and daybeds to relax on and access to the towel station, which offers complimentary sunblock, magazines, and frosty, fruit-infused water and champagne. The pool staff are happy to help you set up your chairs, while servers are nearby to take your food and beverage orders. On the weekend, the pool area enlists a DJ to spin music and hosts pop-ups stands like their Bubbles Champagne Bar with selections from Moët & Chandon and Mercadito Juice Bar, which serves freshly-made juices and smoothies.



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The Club Lounge –"the only VIP level of any South Beach hotel"—has been redone with sleek décor and clean lines. The elegant space boasts views of the beach below and an impressive gourmet spread served throughout the day. In addition to serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner offerings, there are snacks, alcoholic beverages, fruit, chocolate, tea... to satiate your appetite. Guests also receive personalized concierge services, complimentary garment pressing of up to two pieces per day, and wireless internet service. This luxe amenity is well-worth the additional daily fee of \$250 (for two guests) —it's a peaceful sanctuary to have drinks before dinner, conduct an intimate meeting, and grab a light bite between meals.

The dining options at the hotel are outstanding. Bistro One LR serves fresh local seafood, steaks, an extensive wine list, and decadent desserts, as well as a Sunday brunch buffet and bottomless drinks in an indoor and outdoor setting. On the mezzanine level, you'll find Lapidus Lounge, and there's Lobby Bar in the upper lobby. My favorite restaurant on the property is The DiLido Beach Club -the only beachfront lounge on South Beach. Everything I sampled here was delicious. If you're in the mood for something light, I suggest their Spicy Ahi Tuna Tartare; the hummus with mini pita; and guacamole and chips. If you're hungry, order The Classic Bacon Cheeseburger - this juicy burger is packed with flavor and enveloped in a soft brioche bun. And you must order their coconut water --served in a coconut, it's the best I've ever tasted. Pull up a seat and enjoy the tasty cuisine and breathtaking view.

Locals and guests are raving about the recent opening of TATEL, which is right next door at 1669 Collins Avenue. The hot new restaurant serves traditional Spanish cuisine along with modern variations of the classics in a stylish setting. "Having seen TATEL grow and succeed in Madrid, it couldn't make me happier to bring it to my home,

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Miami," says Enrique Iglesias, one of its coowners, along with Rafael Nadal, Pau Gasol, Abel Matutes Prats, and Manuel Campos Guallar of Mabel Capital.

The Spa is among the hotel's recentlyrenovated spaces. A haven for quests to retreat to for some pampering and R&R, The Spa boasts a menu of luxury treatments and services, including the Timeless Capsule, "a new take on the typical waiting area/relaxation room with expedited and customized services for guests of all ages." Guests can also make an appointment to use the Fusion + Studio chair, a first-of-its-kind massage chair with chromotherapy lighting, heat therapy, and a meditative journey from Louie Schwartzberg. To experience zerogravity comfort, experience their exclusiveto-the-hotel ZG Recliner. These luxe new additions set The Spa apart from other spas in the area.

Guests have it all here. A wealth of amenities are included in the \$28-per-room resort fee: complimentary wireless Internet access, beach chairs and umbrellas, beach activities (boogie boards, skim boards, beach paddle tennis, bocce ball, corn hole), one-hour daily fitness class, 24-hour access to their fitness center with state-of-theart cardiovascular and strength-training equipment... the list goes on. Additional benefits to staying at The Ritz-Carlton, South Beach include access to hotel bicycles -a great way to explore South Beach— and valet parking. The hotel has thought of every luxe comfort and convenience, so that you can sit back, relax, and relish an elevated way of living. And you can trust that The Ritz-Carlton, South Beach, like fine wine, will just keep getting better with age. ML

The Ritz-Carlton, South Beach is located at One Lincoln Road, Miami Beach, FL 33139. For more information, visit www.ritzcarlton. com/southbeach.