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MAGAZINE

## *Best of the* **BAY AREA**

*Introducing Loews Regency San Francisco Hotel*

### PLUS

- Cities' signature dishes
- Family-friendly amenities
- Joey McIntyre's Boston
- Exploring the Northeast
- Tips from top chefs
- Camera phone gadgets
- Fashionable Philly
- Hollywood memories



# Miami Beach Chic

Sultry days melt into sizzling hot nights in this city that has it all.

SECTION BY LINDA DOMINGO AND GINA SAMAROTTO



Diners can enjoy seafood, cocktails and cigars at Lure Fishbar.

## Loews Miami Beach Hotel

Whether you know it as a bright gem in Florida's Gold Coast crown, the Hollywood of the East or America's tropics—Miami Beach is a perennial favorite for sun worshippers and adventure enthusiasts alike.

"The Miami area is truly a one-stop-shop destination," says Mark Miano, guest services manager at Loews Miami Beach Hotel. "No matter your reason for coming or your background, there is truly something for everyone." Here, he shares his favorites for dining, shopping and playing in Magic City.

**Eat:** You don't have to stray far to find some of the area's freshest seafood: Loews Miami Beach Hotel is home to Lure Fishbar, which offers not only high-quality catches and craft cocktails, but also a selection of fine cigars and rum for all tastes.

For a down-home meal with uptown appeal, Miano suggests Yardbird Southern Table & Bar. A self-professed "house of worship to farm-fresh ingredients, classic Southern cooking, culture and hospitality," Yardbird charms diners seeking comfort food with all the fixings.

**Shop:** Miano points serious shoppers to Lincoln Road Mall, just steps from Loews Miami Beach Hotel, for a little retail therapy. In this open-air retail mecca, you'll find everything from clothing to art, along with restaurants, bars and even a pop-up antique and collectible market on select days throughout spring and summer.

**Play:** The options for play in the Miami area are numerous and diverse, says Miano. "There are family activities at the beach, zoos and aquariums," he explains. "Adults can do

everything from adventurous water-sports to laying on the beach and just relaxing the day away." To see the city like a local, Miano recommends taking a spin on two wheels. Explorers can take advantage of the local Citi Bike program operated by Decobike, which supplies more than 1,000 bikes from 100 different stations located throughout the area.

And of course, a Miami traveler's itinerary wouldn't be complete without a sampling of the famous nightlife scene. "Our nightlife is second to none," Miano says. The hotel is surrounded with destinations for drinking and dancing the night away, including Story nightclub, a 27,000-square-foot space that books high-energy DJs to provide the thumping soundtrack; and Mango's Tropical Café, a lively, two-level club with music ranging from salsa to hip-hop.



# Tres Bon Montreal

European style reigns supreme in this fashionable city on the banks of the St. Lawrence River.



La Maison Ogilvy



The Canadian Grand Prix



Loews Hôtel Vogue



Schwartz's deli is a local favorite and a cultural institution.

## Loews Hôtel Vogue

Experience "la bonne vie" (the good life) in Montreal with the help of Loews Hôtel Vogue, located in the heart of the city. Offering elegant accommodations with French flair, the hotel's proximity to world-class shopping, acclaimed restaurants and top museums makes it the perfect home base for every type of traveler.

"Montreal is a very multicultural, very lively city," says Cynthia Larose, concierge at Loews Hôtel Vogue. "We are French-speaking and that French influence makes us different. It really puts us apart from other Canadian destinations. You can see our French roots in the city's architecture, taste it in our food. You can feel the wonderful European flair everywhere in the city." Larose gives us her suggestions for making the most of any trip to this culturally rich destination.

**Eat:** As a city with one of the highest numbers of restaurants per capita in North America, Montreal offers something for everyone, from deli-style smoked meats at Schwartz's to upscale dining at Europea, just a two-minute walk from the hotel. Larose sends guests there for heavenly dishes like tagliatelle, created with lemony calamari, poached quail egg, squid ink and garlic butter croutons. "Europea is one of the first farm-to-table restaurants in Montreal," she says. "Both locals and visitors love it."

**Shop:** High-fashion fresh from the runway, distinctive boutiques, notable gifts and unique accessories make La Maison Ogilvy any shopping enthusiast's dream come true. Just steps from the hotel's main lobby, the high-end department store showcases the latest wearable offerings from Burberry to Vince, elegant home goods, and luxury services that include a hair salon, personal shopping, made-to-measure couture and an in-house bridal shop.

For even more shopping, art galleries

and designer boutiques line St. Paul Street in Old Montreal. The area is also a feast for the eyes with its 19th century architecture. The famous Marché Bonsecours also makes its home on the street; the building hosts galleries, restaurants and 15 boutiques which sell Quebec-made goods including jewelry and furniture.

**Play:** Feeling the need for speed? The Canadian Grand Prix has been a part of the Formula One World Championship since 1967. This year, the event will be held June 5-7 on Notre Dame Island at the Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve, a venue that also hosts biking, in-line skating and jogging during the spring and summer months.

If you prefer something more melodious than the sound of revving engines, the 36th edition of the Festival International de Jazz de Montreal will run from June 26 to July 5 and features both free and ticketed events at locations around the city.

# Twin City Fun

Experience the warmth of the Midwest in Minneapolis this summer.



Manny's Steakhouse serves dishes made with locally sourced ingredients.

## Loews Minneapolis Hotel

With chic rooms, gourmet dining and a location that puts you at the center of a dynamic city, Loews Minneapolis Hotel is a haven for business and leisure travelers looking for all-American, comfortable luxury.

“Minneapolis is such a fun place,” says Kevin Sutch, a Minnesota native and concierge at Loews Minneapolis Hotel. “We have amazing seasons that are just so beautiful to watch change, great events all year long and tons of things to do and see.” Here, Sutch lets us in on the best of Minneapolis this spring and summer.

**Eat:** In Minneapolis, gourmet fare is served everywhere from the food trucks that carry first-class specialties throughout summer to brick-and-mortar restaurants sure to delight even the most discerning diners. “There are so many fantastic choices that I’ll start by asking guests what kind of food they really love,” Sutch explains. “Minneapolis is known for its incredible steaks, so if a guest is a meat lover I’ll send them over to Manny’s, one of the city’s best steakhouses.”

For seafood, Sutch recommends The Oceanaire Seafood Room, a fine

dining establishment known for its upscale atmosphere and fresh catches. Sea Change Restaurant & Bar is also on the concierge’s list; the venue’s James Beard Award-winning chef, Tim McKee, demonstrates his commitment to sustainable ingredients on his carefully curated menus. “No matter what a guest would like to eat, there’s something for everyone in Minneapolis,” Sutch adds.

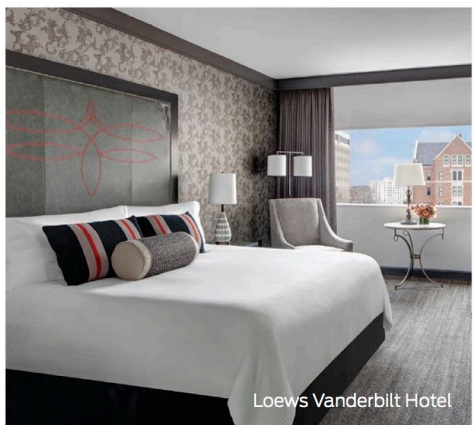
**Shop:** For the young and the young at heart, the Mall of America offers much more than just a shopping experience. Just a short drive

from Loews Minneapolis Hotel and housed in a space large enough to park 32 large airplanes or 258 Statues of Liberty, the famous mall hosts family-friendly events, more than 520 stores, a theme park and an aquarium. Sutch suggests taking the light-rail line to get to the mall and other destinations throughout the city quickly and easily.

**Play:** From Billy Joel to the Timberwolves, world-class entertainment and sporting events are in abundant supply at Target Center. Located just across the street from Loews Minneapolis Hotel, Target Center and the nearby Target Field offer the opportunity to catch a concert, dance along with Hello Kitty or cheer for the home team—all within walking distance. “Loews Minneapolis Hotel is so close to the Target Center and Target Field that even a city the size of Minneapolis becomes a walking town for our guests,” Sutch says.

# Country Dreaming

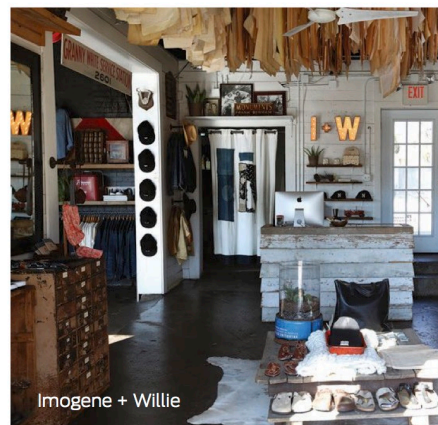
Nashville's on the radar for travelers searching for culinary stars, hip boutiques and, of course, top tunes.



Loews Vanderbilt Hotel



Rolf and Daughters



Imogene + Willie



Darius Rucker performing at the Grand Ole Opry House

## Loews Vanderbilt Hotel

Country dreams meet reality in this spectacular city where Southern hospitality turns visitors into friends and friends into family. While choosing to visit Nashville is easy, all the outstanding options for how to spend your time in the city can be overwhelming. Fortunately, Emily Sledge, VIP and concierge manager at Loews Vanderbilt Hotel, has plenty of recommendations and insider knowledge of Music City.

**Eat:** From haute cuisine to hometown favorites, Nashville's food scene is a diverse culinary adventure. "Our food scene is blowing up," Sledge says. "There are so many amazing choices and we love to send our guests to the places we love to go to as locals."

For an authentic taste of Nashville, Sledge suggests a trip to Hattie B's. "Lots of people think of barbecue when they think of Nashville, but that's more of a Memphis meal," she explains. "In Nashville, if you want to eat like a local you have to try the hot chicken—and Hattie B's is the best."

Another favorite with residents and tourists alike is Rolf and Daughters, famous for its collection of Italian specialties served up with a little Southern flair. "It can be difficult to get a table there," Sledge says of the

popular restaurant, named one of the country's best by Bon Appétit in 2013. "Luckily, we have a great rapport with them so we can help make sure our guests are accommodated."

**Shop:** Traditionally known for its world-famous music scene and hearty Southern cuisine, Nashville also has some of the coolest shopping in the region. The city's 12 South neighborhood is ahead of trends with its charming boutiques, cafes and restaurants. Here, you'll find White's Mercantile, which Sledge says is essentially a modern-day general store filled with everything from hostess gifts to baby items to jewelry, with one room devoted to locally made products. "Also, the aesthetics are incredible—it resides in an old gas station turned boutique," she describes. Plus, the parking lot is a popular stop for food trucks.

Also in the 12 South neighborhood is Imogene + Willie, specializing in hand-crafted denim. "They also sell the amazing Warby Parker sunglasses line in the same boutique," Sledge adds.

Just a short drive south in the Green Hills area of Nashville, Hill Center is a great choice for one-stop shopping, with big brands alongside local boutiques. "Each of the local stores carry various brands and the products are the perfect go-to for a date night, girls night out or a special occasion," Sledge says.

**Play:** Nashville's venues for great music are seemingly endless. This year, the Grand Ole Opry celebrates its 90th anniversary with a nine-month celebration that concludes with a big birthday bash in October. The Grand Ole Opry House has remained a frequent stop on both local musicians and industry superstars for decades. Sledge reminds guests, "There are lots of music bars and cafes in Nashville where you can drop in to hear a set. In some cases, though, like the Bluebird Café, first-come, first-served seating fills up quickly so you may prefer to have us help you make a reservation." L