

yield a table if you wish.

Bamboo On The Beach (550 Washington Ave, Miami Beach, bamboomiamibeach.com) is housed in the historic Paris theatre with a ten-metre chandelier and an opulent 3000 square metre showroom. The stage is hydraulic and the shows are spectacles rather than concerts.

As a major venue, **The Fillmore** (1700 Washington Ave, Miami Beach, fillmoremb.com) is one part of a chain of major venues emanating from the San Francisco ballroom of the 60s and it sits in the elegant **Jacky Gleason Theater** that opened in the 5'0s and holds 2500 people for major artist shows and theatrical productions.

The Adrienne Arsht Center (1300 Biscayne Blvd, Miami, arshcenter.org) is the cultured home of dance, ballet, opera and classical concerts with two 2200 seat halls. It opened in 2006 and could best be described as Miami's version of Sydney's Opera House. It has an annual jazz series, a flamenco special and even touring Broadway shows for the New York emigres.

The elegant oceanside **Setai Hotel** (2001 Collins St, thesetaihotel.com) is not only a luxe, all-suite property, it's also home to one of the five best hotel recording studios in the world (setairecording.com) which include the Mosser in San Francisco, Palms Casino Resort in Las Vegas, and Sunset Marquis in LAX. Lenny Kravitz set it up and it's had Mariah Carey, Lady Gaga, Enrique Iglesias, Wyclif Jean and Jay-Z drop in between dozens in the plush hotel. Set in the art deco capital of South Beach it's a top of town experience in this special area.


For a more downmarket but lushly smooth hotel, the **South Seas** (1751 Collins St, Miami Beach, southseashotel.com) is in the hottest area of the Deco District within strolling distance of the pastel facades of other classics. But in the Grove, **The Mutiny Hotel** (2951 Bayshore Drive, mutinyhotel.com) is the marina-side find at about \$150.

A must-eat lounge is **Joe's Stone Crab** (11 Washington Ave., Miami Beach, joesstonecrab.com). Started in 1913 as a fish shop on the beach, it's become a beacon for crab lovers for this special breed of crustacean.

For Cuban food including the ubiquitous torpedo rolls, black beans and sticky coffee, **Versailles** is the king (3555 SW 8th St, Miami, versaillesrestaurant.com) if you can only visit one. And if it's Southern food you're after, be transported back to the '50s and '60s warehouse style in **Yardbird** 1600 Lenox Ave, South Beach, runchickenrun.com) for soul-comforting food from scratch divinity.

The Miami Herald (www.miamiherald.com) is the daily paper with an active music section but **Miami New Times** (miami-newtimes.com) rocks weekly as the street press that will cover sports like Jai Lai and Dodgeball as well as music and nightlife. A handy venue guide online is beachedmiami.com/miami-music-venues

Cool tourist spots abound around town: My favourite is **Jungle Island** between Miami Beach and the city (111 Parrot Jungle Trail, jungleisland.com), which is a lush bird sanctuary, wildlife habitat and botanical garden. **Zoo Miami** (12400 SW 152 Street Miami, miamimetrozoo.com) is one of the finest in the nation and mostly free range taking advantage of the tropical climate to exhibit a broad range of Australian, African and South American animals freely. With over 500 species and 200 animals, it's on the edge of the Glades and a treasure.

Thanks to Wendy Rust and Wavy Davy McBurnett for their spicy input into the Miami stew. 



THE FILLMORE THEATRE



PHIL AND THE LOCALS AT JUNGLE ISLAND



CRABS AT JOE'S



JOE'S STONE CRABS