

COCONUT GROVE

As Ominé will tell you, this small, laid back village on Biscayne Bay is one of the most colorful parts of Miami. sidewalk cafes and boutiques, to annual festivals, to daily parades of peacocks that wander the streets. Hop on your bike and follow Ominé with her awesome dog, Walter, as they ride through her hometown of Coconut Grove.



1 VIZCAYA

One step that's all it takes. One step onto the meticulously manicured grounds of this European-style villa and you'll look around half-expecting the Great Gatsby himself to offer you a lemonade. Welcome to opulence. 50 acres of perfectly-preserved opulence. Built on Biscayne Bay before and during WW1, but designed to look like the Deering family had been there for centuries, Vizcaya is a local, as well as national, treasure. Give yourself plenty of time to wander the grounds and the rooms. It's a paradise for photographers, picnickers and pretty much anyone that enjoys jaw-dropping beauty.



2 LOKAL

From the people to the ingredients, to its 100% renewable energy, LoKal is as local as it gets. Locally-sourced grass fed beef is one of the secrets to Matt's amazing burgers. The rest really are secrets. Can't decide between regular or sweet potato fries? No worries, you can get them mixed 50/50. Tons of local craft beers can wet a whistle and if a burger sandwiched between a Krispy Kreme donut sounds too out there, you can't go wrong with a Classic. But burgers aren't the only game at LoKal. There's chicken and waffles, fresh gator, local fish and crispy salads, too. And bonus, it's priced for locals – meaning the flavors are indulgent, the price isn't.



3 GREENSTREET

Helloooo ambience. When you see all the people chilling outdoors on plush, red velvet sofas you know you've hit upon this iconic Grove sidewalk café and bar. There's a reason why this place is always packed. Actually, a whole menu's worth. Huge, crispy salads, lush truffle spinach dip and out-of-this world breakfasts like Nutella stuffed French Toast and house potatoes are what keep the locals coming back day after day. And night after night, too. Their Key Lime Pie Martinis, Kiwi Caipirinas and Strawberry Basil Lemonade are super slurpable.



4 MACEDONIA CHURCH

In the late 1800s Bahamian natives settled in Coconut Grove and established the Village West. Many worked during the week at the long-gone Peacock Inn, and on Sunday's they joined in worship at St. Agnes Baptist Church, which changed its name in 1922 to the Macedonia Baptist Church. There are plenty of churches throughout Village West, but Macedonia has the honor of being the oldest African-American church in all of Miami-Dade County. And more than a century of Sunday's later, the sounds of a gospel choir still float through the doors and into the streets of this historic neighborhood.

DOWNTOWN MIAMI

From the contemporary art at the Perez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), to the waterfront parks. From iconic Freedom Tower where Cuban immigrants first experienced liberty, to happy hour and some of the most breathtaking views of the city. This is Downtown and if there's one thing that's certain: Kyle, aka Mr. Miami, loves being in the middle of it all. Hop on the Metromover train with him and he'll show you why in his neighborhood of Downtown Miami, you come for the culture and stay for the cocktails.



1 PAMM

The beauty of the Perez Art Museum Miami is that it manages to wow everyone and for totally different reasons. Some spend most of the time in the plaza - staring at the hanging gardens, admiring giant zodiac sculptures designed by Ai Wei Wei and taking in the view of Biscayne Bay. Some just go for the crisp, clean lines of the architecture and its sophisticated blend of concrete, metal and wood. Others, of course, are in it for the growing collection of contemporary art. Talk about a love triangle. Whether you get there by foot, car, or Metromover (it's free) be sure to bring the kids – as well as your appetite. There are hands on activities for the young ones and the meals at Verde are equally artistic.



2 BLACKBIRD ORDINARY

Let's get this out of the way – there is nothing ordinary about this place. Zilch. There's a bar inside. There's a bar outside. Live bands perform on the patio. Celebrity DJs stop by to spin. You can chill out. You can dance. You can stare at the skyline. The mixologists make custom cocktails. And if drinks and great music aren't your thing, pretend your eight years old, get your Milton Bradley on and grab one of the board games off the shelf. Yep, good old-fashioned board games. OK OK, there is something ordinary about this place – the prices. There's no cover and you can enjoy the bar without going bankrupt. Look for the neon Blackbird sign or you'll miss it, and miss out.



3 AREA 31

Even though it's located on the 16th floor of the Epic Hotel, you'll find Area 31 filled with locals. Especially, during happy hour. And what keeps bringing people back, are delicacies prepared by Executive Chef Wolfgang Birk, expertly made cocktails, and the view. Oh, that panoramic view. Oh, that outdoor terrace. Take it all in during, breakfast, lunch, dinner or brunch. And the dishes really do feed your soul – Area 31 sources locally and is certified by the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch which is dedicated to sustainable seafood practices and supporting wild, diverse and healthy ocean ecosystems.

LITTLE HAVANA

Cuban coffee. Cuban art. Cuban juice stands. Cuban cigars. Cuban food. There's a reason why it's called Little Havana. And no one knows the neighborhood quite like Jose. He grew up in Miami, and Calle Ocho is his home base. Sit back and sip a coffee as he tells you about his pride and joy – 8th Street, the heart of Little Havana.



1 "LOS PINAREÑOS" FRUTERIA

It doesn't get more Little Havana than this fruit stand. Los Pinareños is the oldest open-air market in all of Miami. You'll find exotic fruit, veggies, local honey, flowers, and some of the best fresh-made juices and milkshakes on planet earth. Treat yourself to a banana café batido – a banana milkshake with a shot of Cuban coffee. And don't forget to visit Tuca in the back – the family's pot-bellied pig.



2 "AZUCAR" ICE CREAM

Suzie changes her fresh tropically-inspired ice cream flavors practically every day... You can get classics like Chocolate, but when you come to Azucar it's for the Miami flavors like Café con Leche (Cuban Coffee & Oreo) and Key Lime Pie. And then there's their original Abuela Maria® - vanilla ice cream, ruby-red guava, rich cream cheese and crispy, sweet Maria biscuits. Guaranteed, it'll remind you of your Cuban grandmother, even if you aren't Cuban.

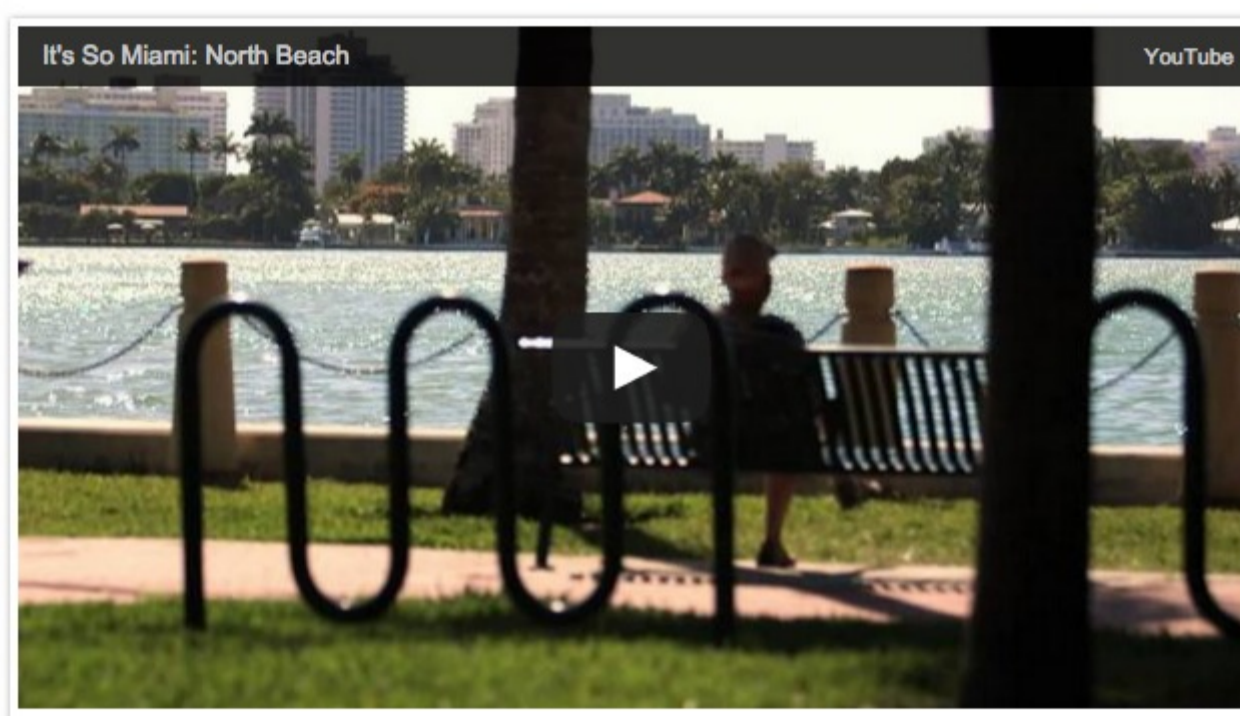


3 MAXIMO GOMEZ DOMINO PARK

Want a real taste of Little Havana? Grab an ice cream and head to Domino Park. When it comes to dominos, the national game of Cuba, the local citizens who come here every day take no prisoners... Sure, it's the smack down of dominos, but it's also a place for social commentary mixed with a deep sense of nostalgia and life-long friendships. It's not always easy to follow, but the game is definitely fun to watch.

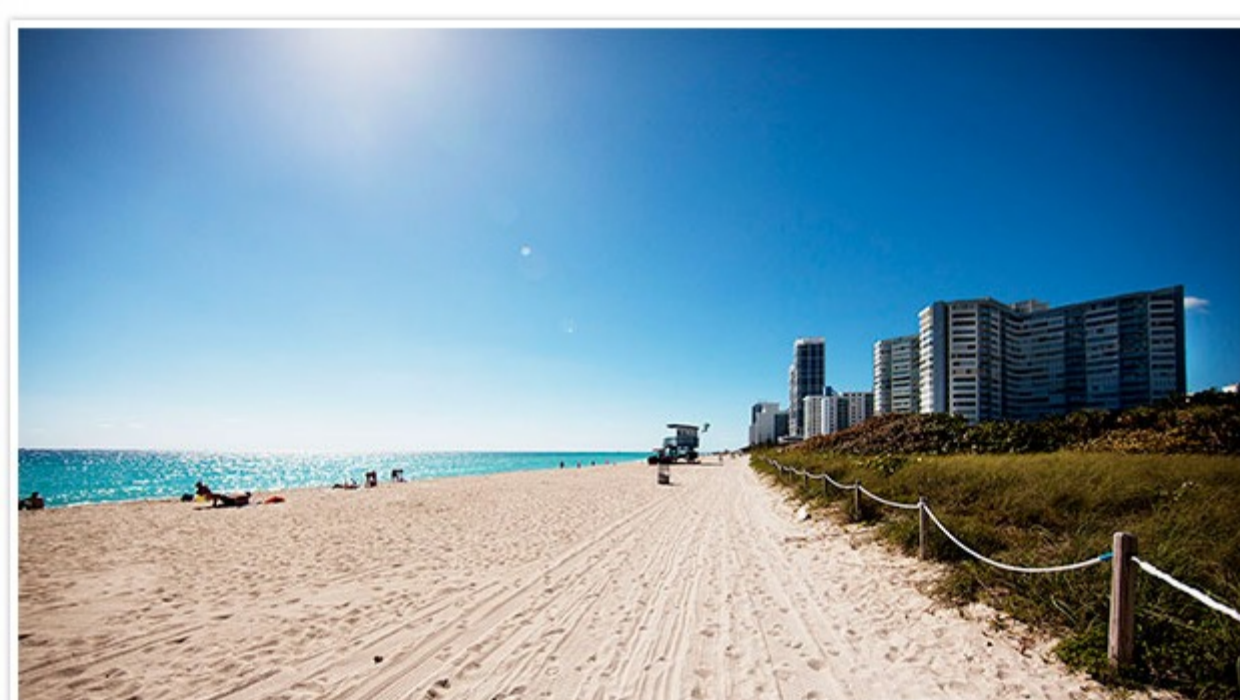
NORTH BEACH

This part of Miami Beach has something few cosmopolitan cities have— space. Lots of wide-open, uncrowded, kick-back and relax space. Up here, D.J. Laura says the scene is all about the scenery. Endless blue water. Golden sand and views of sandcastles. If you just want to be yourself or be by yourself, head north to North Beach. And if you need a wingman, just look for a pelican.



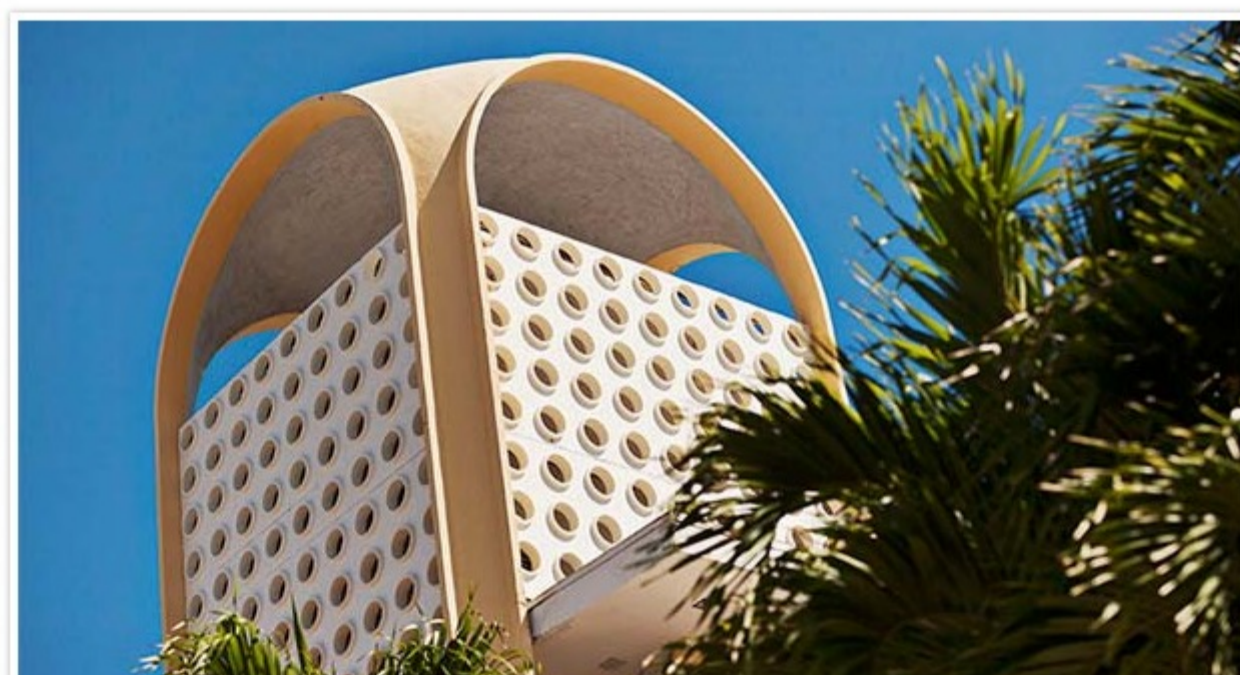
1 BUENOS AIRES BAKERY

When this local Argentinian bakery says they have the best empanadas and pastries outside of Argentina, it's not just a bunch of empty words. They've got the awards to back the bragging rights. And if you don't speak Spanish, don't worry – you can always point out which sinfully delicious and always-fresh pastelito you want. This place is popular with locals and can get really busy but the baked goods are so good, it's worth the wait.



2 NORTH BEACHES

Hey who's that blaring their music right next to your beach blanket? Well, that would be no one, because North Beach offers something many beaches don't have – space. Lots of wide-open, uncrowded, kick-back and relax space. Up here, the beach scene is about the scenery. Endless blue water. Golden sand and views of remote sandcastles. Head here if you just want to be yourself or be by yourself. And if you need a wingman, just look for a pelican.



3 MIMO

In the good old days, when the rat pack ruled the resorts, Miami Beach became known for its glamorous twist on modern architecture. Known as MiMo (Miami Modern), you can find perfectly preserved and restored hotels and building throughout North Beach, Normandy Isle and even parts of Mid Beach. Cheeseholes, beanpoles, bow ties and woggles are what you're looking for and yes, they look just like they sound. So toss on some cool walking shoes and your stingy brim hat and hit the road. Or in this case, sidewalk. You can DIY on a self-guided tour or join one of the walking tours offered by The Miami Design Preservation League. They're lead by local historians, architects, and trained guides.

SOUTH BEACH

There's glamor. There's glitz. There's sun and sea spray. That's South Beach in a nutshell. You can't go wrong with people-watching on Ocean Drive, shopping on Lincoln Road, or taking in the charm on Espanola Way. Join local, Morgan Blitner, and paddleboard off into a sorbet colored-sky along Sunset Harbor. Hop on a paddleboard with Morgan and you'll see in an instant why he calls South Beach home.



1 TKS MIAMI

Sunset Harbor on South Beach is all about healthy, active living. Cross-fit gyms, yoga studios, juice bars and of course, TKS Miami. This is where you come to try your hand and arms and feet at paddleboarding and kitesurfing. TKS is more than a watersports shop, it's all about matchmaking - and the love birds are you and the water. As soon as you hit the water with the crew, the rush of adrenaline is inevitable. Whether you're a first-timer looking for paddleboard lessons, a kite surfer wanting to catch big air, or a group of water babies looking for an awesome sunset, you'll have a blast.



2 ESPAÑOLA WAY

Tucked in between all the glitterati 'see and be seen' places that are South Beach, is Espanola Way – an unpretentious, historic block of European charm. It's unlike anything else you'll see on South Beach. Fairy lights twinkle above, pedestrians and diners are serenaded by Italian waiters, and shoppers looking for one-of-a-kind finds wander the cobblestone street, popping in and out of shops. You can find authentic Italian pizza, enjoy a Cuban coffee, or learn how to dance flamenco, salsa and tango – for free. (where is this?)



3 DREAM SOUTH BEACH

Just a block off the beach, right behind the Versace mansion is this super modern boutique hotel. It's so chill, the lights in the halls and rooms are glow icy blue. After a day in the sun, treat yourself to some tacos from in-house taco joint Naked Taco, and head to their rooftop deck and kick back with a mojito. The staff are like mind-readers, ready to fulfill requests you haven't even thought of making yet. There's an onsite spa and the massage therapists knead tension away like you're (can you think of another analogy here?). At Dream South Beach, you're in the center of all that is South Beach. If you need a beach chair, they've got your sun-burned back covered.

LITTLE HAITI

The Miami neighborhood known as Little Haiti is the cultural heart for the Haitian Diaspora. The area boasts art galleries, Haitian book and music stores and the Little Haiti Cultural Center, which hosts dance and theater performances and is increasingly becoming a burgeoning center of small independent businesses.



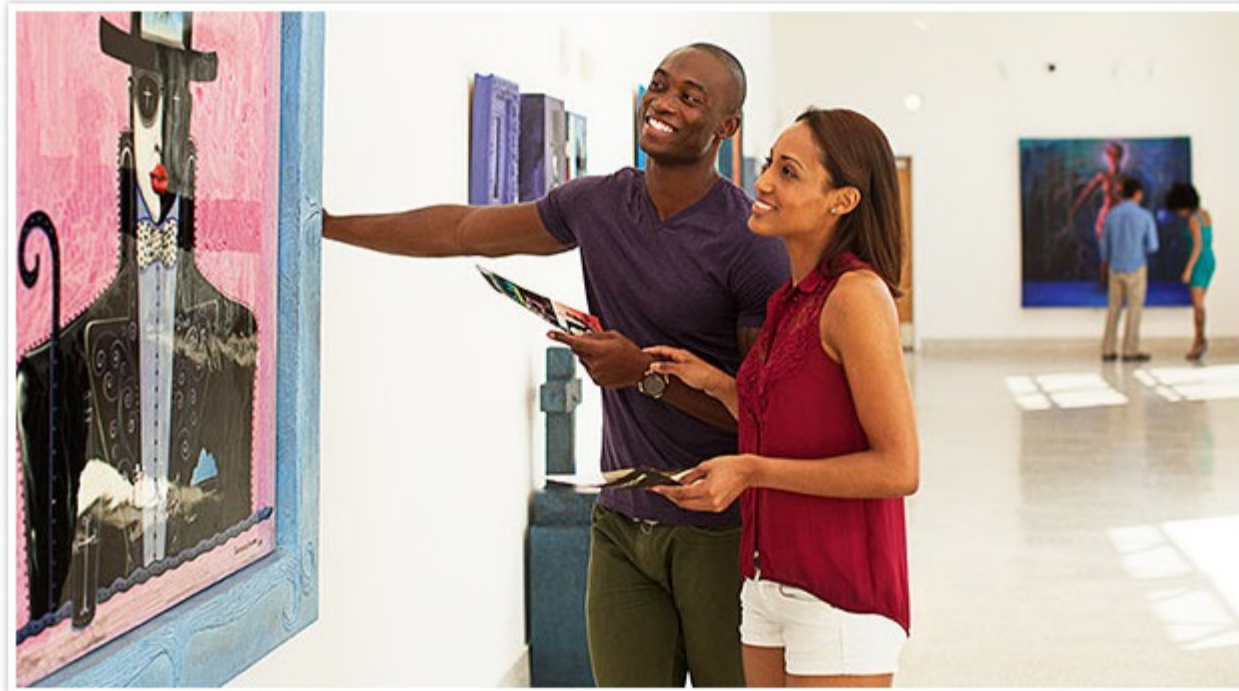
1 LEELA'S

Know what you get when you blend the best of American and Haitian cultures? A plate full of scrumptiousness, that's what. Leela's is a family-owned business and for the past 30 years, Executive Chef Lubin and Chef Marthe have taken Haitian cooking to a new level. It's perfection in each bite. From the steamed snapper to the classic griot (fried pork) to the Queue Boeuf – that's oxtail. You won't leave disappointed and you most definitely won't leave hungry.



2 SWEAT RECORDS

So when was the last time you hung out in a real, indie record shop? Entering Sweat feels like stepping into a Nick Hornby novel. You can find a curated treasure trove of musical what not, like CDs and magazines, but you really come here for the superior knowledge of music, live events, vegan brunches, great coffee and of course, to get your hands on vinyl. Old School. Hip hop. Rock. Experimental. Metal. Folk. Punk. You name it. Your turntable will thank you.



3 LITTLE HAITI CULTURAL CENTER

This community arts center/museum is a local beacon of inspiration. The Center showcases Haitian art, sculpture and crafts; offers classes - like ceramics and Afro- Caribbean folk dancing and has performances in a 270-seat theatre. It's also host of the hands-down, best and funnest free night out in Miami – Big Night in Little Haiti. Come and party Port Au Prince style - with live music, Kreyol cooking, hand-crafted art for sale, plus lots of dancing.

HISTORIC OVERTOWN

Today, this vibrant corner of Greater Miami displays its cultural and civic pride with colorful murals of African-American heroes, its annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade and the historic Lyric Theater. The Lyric Theater was the anchor of the area once known as "Little Broadway" and hosted performances by such big names as Count Basie, Patti LaBelle and Aretha Franklin. The Lyric Theater thrived between 1913 and the 1960s, but the facility went through a lull after that. Today, the Lyric Theater is reopened, renovated and working to reclaim its former glory.

The neighborhood is also home to local's favorites like the beloved People's Bar-B-Que, non-profit music projects, arts festivals, farmers markets and more.



1 LYRIC THEATRE

Back in the day, Historic Overtown was known as Little Broadway. And this lone, surviving building holds its golden memories. Icons like Billie Holiday, Aretha Franklin and Count Basie once graced the stage. Renamed the Black Archives Historic Lyric Theater Welcome Center Complex, it's undergone a massive head-to-toe restoration and is back to reclaim its glory. If you're here for the first Friday of the month and love variety shows, like Amateur Night at the famed, Apollo Theatre in NYC, be sure to catch Lyric Live.



2 JACKSON SOUL FOOD

Historic Overtown is full of churches and gospel music, but many people will insist that on Sunday's this where they find their soul. Fried catfish, smothered pork, fresh-baked biscuits, mac and cheese, fresh locally-sourced greens - it's honest, down-home cooking – even if you're from the North. It's the kind of place where you want to try everything on the menu and you wish you had two stomachs.



3 PURVIS YOUNG MURALS

Purvis Young learned about art when he was a teen - serving time in a Florida prison. Self-taught, his Chagall-like urban works can be found nationwide in museums like the Smithsonian in D.C. More than 3,000 pieces were purchased by a notable Miami art collector– yet sadly, Purvis died in 2010, destitute. You can feel the love for his hometown in his public murals– at the overpass wall at NW 11th St./ NW 3rd Ave. Another, at the Public Library branch at NW 13th St. and yet another outside the Northside Metrorail station.

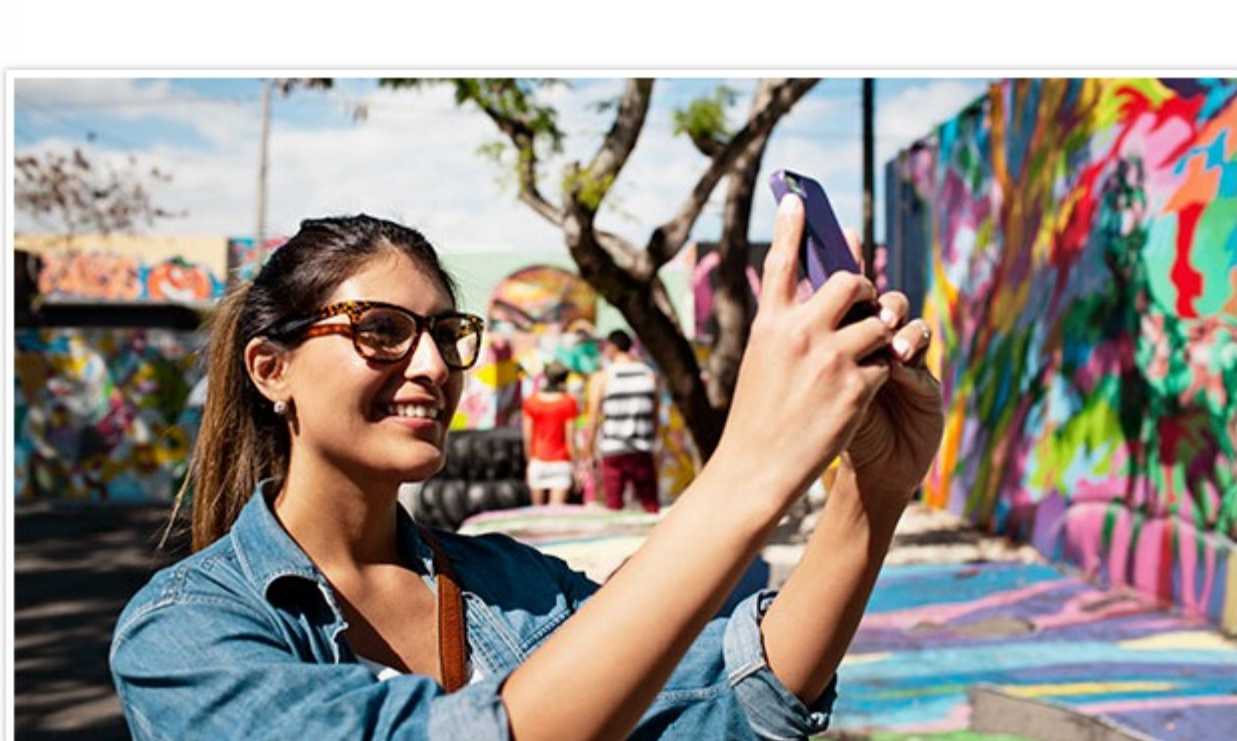
WYNWOOD

You can find it on building walls and doors. You can buy it in a gallery, like Mali's, or watch it being made before your very eyes. You can taste it at the hip restaurants and local breweries. Even the coffee at the coffee house is artisan. In Miami's Wynwood, art is everywhere and it inspires everything. Architecture. Food. Beer. Coffee. Haircuts. And of course, the people. Mali will tell you herself, it's what brought her business to this 'it' place for artists and entrepreneurs.



1 PANTHER COFFEE

Joel and Leticia Pollock put the art in artisan coffee. Hats off to them for bringing specialty coffee to Wynwood and boy, it's special. They hand-roast their beans, on-site, in small batches. They teach their baristas about the art of coffee and train them the way Verrocchio apprenticed Leonardo DaVinci. They even personally know the families that produce each bean. Each freshly-roasted, never burnt-tasting cup of goodness is a masterpiece. And you'll hear locals say the same about their croissants and cakes. Stop by in between admiring all the art and you'll experience the true meaning of coffee break. Bonus, the wifi is free.



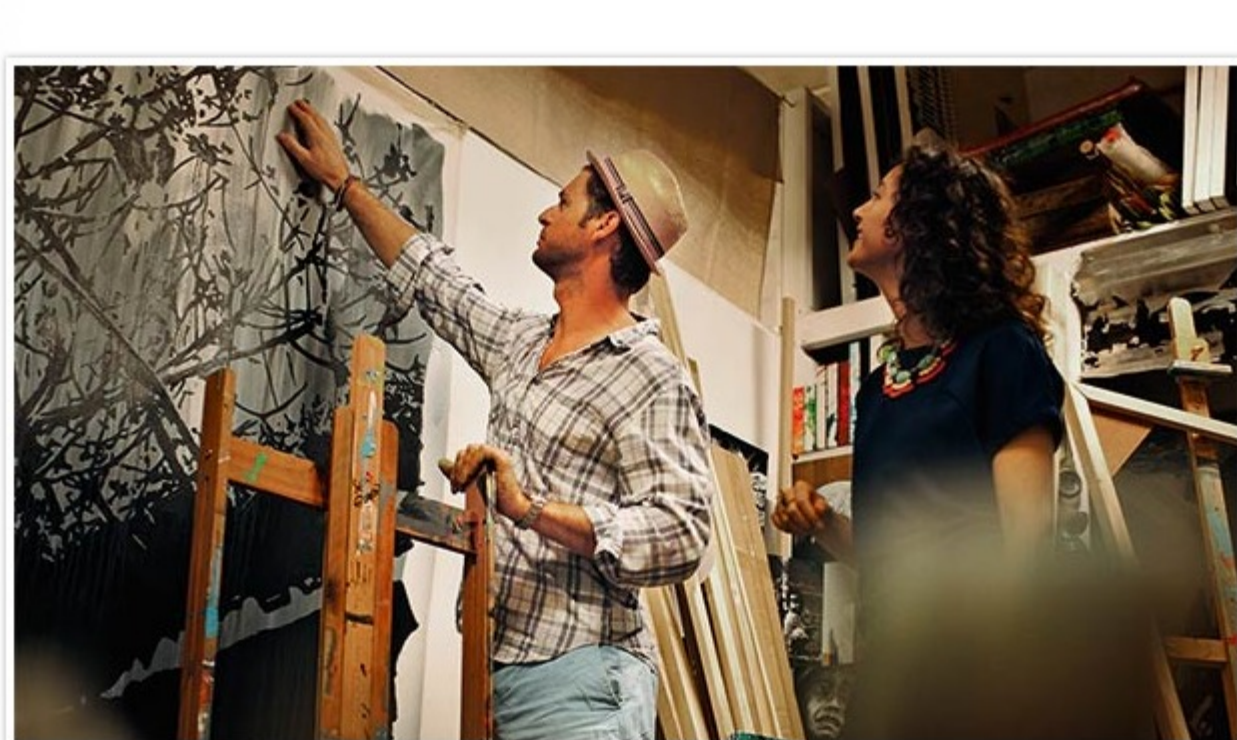
2 WYNWOOD WALLS

Seems like every inch of Wynwood is a magnificent stretch of murals, but Wynwood Walls was its birthplace. Conceived by a true visionary, the late Tony Goldman, (there's a mural of him in a cowboy hat), this complex is the end-all, be-all spot for the world's greatest and up-and-coming street artists. You enter the courtyard between 25th and 26th Street, right next door to Wynwood Kitchen & Bar. You can wander around on your own, download the Wynwood Tour Guide iPhone app that describes each wall, or sign up with local companies to go on guided tours. Just give yourself time to take it all in. it's worth it. And don't be surprised if when you leave you suddenly start thinking buying stock in spray paint.



3 WYNWOOD BREWERY

Beer. IPAs. Blonde Ales. Stouts. Porters. All made by Louis Brignoni Jr. This is Miami's first official craft brewery and it can be found tucked away down the street from Panther Coffee. You don't come here for big screen TVs, or fru fru décor. You don't ask for a wine list. The atmosphere is as chilled as the beer. If you don't come with friends, no worries, you can make some there because the tables are long and communal. Don't be shy, say hi. People come here to drink beer, to talk about beer and of course, art. This is Wynwood, after all.



4 BAKEHOUSE ART COMPLEX

It's a museum. It's a studio. It's a gallery. It's everything. Offering educational programs, studio, workshop and exhibition space - this non-profit has been 'home' to more than 500 local artists since opening their doors in 1986. The Bakehouse, which was a bakery back in the old days, was actually the first building to invite artists to paint its walls. And that original works is still there. There are two floors of galleries and work space, outside and inside and any time you stop by, you can see artists hard at work. At the Bakehouse, art is everywhere – on the walls, elevators, even the garbage dumpsters have been turned into art. If you're around for the second Friday of the month stop by for their 1st View/2nd Friday receptions.