YOUR OWN PRIVATE ITALY THE ULTIMATE VILLA VACATION UNDISCOVERED WORLD'S BEST HOTELS FOR VALUE FROM \$150 LAST CHANCE TO WIN A \$10,000 TRIP

2012 **DESIGN AWARDS**

Hotels, Restaurants, Tech, Travel Gear, and More

Spring Getaway Ideas

see p. 36

TravelandLeisure.com MARCH 2012

REAL-TIME MIAMI

CALL IT A SOCIAL EXPERIMENT: HEATHER SMITH MACISAAC EXPLORES MIAMI, LED BY T+L'S FACEBOOK COMMUNITY.

DAY 1 SOUTH BEACH

On my crowdsourced tour of New York for the November issue, T+L's Facebook fans pointed me to corners of my hometown I hadn't known before. So I was thrilled that, when asked to choose a sunny sequel, they opted for Miami (just edging out Los Angeles and Las Vegas). After all, this is a city I'm familiar with, but whose appetite for art, design, and good food is always evolving. Guided by their recommendations, here's what I discovered.

"The best vibe in South Beach: perfect pool and grown-up! Would love to know what the new place is like," —Martin Raffone



8:30 AM

Raleigh Hotel Breakfast under a shady sea-grape tree on the terrace. Facebook fans selected the hotel for my first night, curious about its ongoing nip and tuck. The 1940's gem is more subtly suave than ever; the Martini Bar and glamorous pool remain, thankfully, unchanged. 1775 Collins Ave.; 305/534-6300; raleighhotel.com; doubles from \$500.



The Design District and its arts-centric northern neighbor Wynwood are still emerging areas. To separate the hype from the substance, I canvass online as well as the old-fashioned way, asking people I meet for advice. Early neighborhood adopters are always willing to share.

"Crumb on Parchment is perfect for a bite and coffee." —Gracia Larrain Laxcelle



11:00 AM

Q

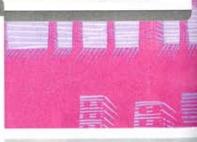
Duncan Quinn
Among my Design
District finds are
a limited-edition
Vespa helmet at the
stylish suitmaker's
Miami outpost. 4040
N.E. Second Ave.;
305/671-3820.





10:00 AM

Crumb on Parchment Like a pair of comfy slippers among the Design District's high-style Manolos, this homespun café is where I start my day. The caramelized banana cake, made by chef Michelle Bernstein's mom, is rich and moist, and the Wi-Fi is free. 3930 N.E. Second Ave.; 305/572-9444; breakfast for two \$20.



FOR MORE PHOTOS OF THE AUTHOR'S TR

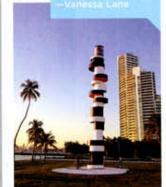
FOR MORE PHOTOS OF THE AUTHOR'S TRIP TO MIAMI, VISIT TRAVELANDLEISURE.COM.

11:30 AM

GREAT VALUE Lords South

Beach I peek into the city's new gay-friendly hotel to see what fan Mayra Roubach called its "artsy, hippie" feel. Love the spangly gold bar and playful polar bear in the lobby. 1120 Collins Ave.; 877/448-4754; lordssouth beach.com; doubles from \$159.





5:30 PM South Pointe Park Sunset at the newly revitalized zone at the tip of South Beach, filled with joggers and strollers. A totem of color-

actually a 55-foot-tall

German artist Tobias

Rehberger-stacks

lighthouse by

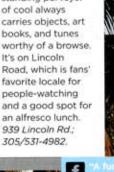
up against the

wavy palms and

high-rise condos.

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Base The longstanding purveyor of cool always carries objects, art books, and tunes worthy of a browse. It's on Lincoln Road, which is fans' favorite locale for people-watching and a good spot for an alfresco lunch. 939 Lincoln Rd.;





Yardbird Southern Table & Bar Settling in at the bar at this popular spot-the wait for a table is an hour-I succumb to ribs, grits, and bourbon, 1600 Lenox Ave.; 305/538-5220; dinner for two \$80.





2:00 PM

Wynwood Walls The corner of N.W. Second Avenue and 26th Street is an outdoor museum of graffiti and street art. Girls dressed in black finery pose for quinceañera photos in front of Shepard Fairey's mural Arab Woman. Brazilian artist Nunca's superscaled image of fat cats faces the studio of Pop artist Peter Tunney (left), who keeps right on working as I poke inside.



4:30 PM

Panther Coffee Wandering the 70-plus galleries on and around N.W. Second Avenue is like being the little metal orb in an art pinball machine: the visual stimulation is rapid-fire. A ristretto here brings things back into focus. 2390 N.W. Second Ave.; 305/677-3952; coffee for two \$7.





8:30 PM

Viceroy Miami

The slick, spacious hotel designed by Kelly Wearstler is three miles south of Wynwood. The 15th-floor pool deck is a high-flier. 485 Brickell Ave.; 888/ 622-4567; viceroy hotelsandresorts.com; doubles from \$345.



Gigi Recommended by Panther Coffee co-owner Leticia Ramos Pollock, who has a pay-it-forward attitude toward fellow Wynwood entrepreneurs. The polished-but-casual restaurant serves crosscultural comfort food. 3470 N. Miami Ave.: 305/573-1520; dinner for two \$25.

