ART and DINE
Where to experience culture and enjoy meals during South Florida’s art season

HOT DATES:
WINTER EVENTS

ORGANIC BITES AT ESSENSIA

SHOP AT PALM BEACH OUTLETS

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Basel Bites

Art Basel arrives in Miami Dec. 4 to 7 and with it comes a selection of art fairs and events. Here’s our guide of where to spot unique art, indulge on bites and sip on cocktails while in the city.
Art and Dine

With December comes the kickoff to Miami’s social season: Art Basel, an annual celebration attracts artists who come from around the globe to showcase their work. The city shines a little brighter with pop-up fairs, including some of our favorites such as Red Dot and Spectrum in Midtown Miami plus Pulse, moving to Miami Beach for the first time. Here, there’s an explosion of sculpture, paintings, photography, mixed media and, of course, cocktails to enjoy while wandering the tents. While you’re in the city for this magical event, be sure to absorb all that Miami has to offer in the culinary and artistic scene with this guide below.

WHERE TO SEE ART

We mustn’t forget the places where Miami admires art all year round. The city is bursting with museums and galleries, and the one-year-old Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) in downtown Miami, next door to the Arsht Center and the American Airlines Arena, where the building is a work of art in itself. With pieces donated by local developer Jorge Pérez, you’ll find the opening of Mexican artist Mario García Torres’ exhibit two days before Art Basel. Commissioned by the museum itself, García Torres presents obscure stories from art history through a number of media.

Not only does Miami boast fine art, but it’s also proudly the home to a huge collection of street art and graffiti. The arty neighborhood of Wynwood consists of block after block of walls covered in mesmerizing pieces by area artists, and Wynwood Walls is the heartbeat of it all. A maze of walls, the art is an amalgamation of constantly changing pieces, from the more commercial Obey to unique tagging by the 305’s best. If you can’t get enough, many stores sell coffee table books of the works that have been sprayed upon the walls in the neighborhood.

At the University of Miami’s Lowe Art Museum, visitors explore the world with exhibits showcasing traditional African art in “Art in Real Life” and works by Haitian artists in “Transformative Visions,” both opened in November. In January, the focus is on Southeast Asia, with intricate tapestries and batik pieces made in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and East Timor.

WHERE TO EAT

South Florida is a tough crowd and restaurants seem to come and go as quickly as a fake tan fades. However, there are some classics that have courted foodies and kept them coming back for more. Michael’s Genuine in the Design District is a great spot for lunch or dinner, then walk through the neighborhood for one-of-a-kind shopping. In South Beach, Yardbird Southern Table & Bar is the place to be for a heavy serving of comfort food for brunch. Tell us if you’ve seen another Blood Mary with more garnishes than theirs! Another classic that has been a mainstay in Miami since 1913 is Joe’s Stone Crab, which opened back up in October with the start of the stone crab season. In Wynwood, both Joey’s and Wynwood Kitchen & Bar are must-visit spots for drinks and food, and are perfectly located in the heart of the art district.

One of the new kids on the block is BE Bistro in downtown Miami, a place for Belgian food beyond your typical Belgian waffles. Who knew that steamed mussels with apples could taste so good? Also, for Mexican fare, Cantina La Viente opened its doors this fall to rave reviews. Looking forward, Michelle Bernstein who is the brains behind Crumb on Parchment and other delicious culinary endeavors, opens a new restaurant this winter at the brand new Thompson Miami Beach. Another culinary bigwig, Michael Mina, is also slapping his name on two more new restaurants, STRIPSTEAK and Michael Mina 74, both at the iconic Fontainebleau located in Miami Beach.
Drink Up

Perfectly refreshing for the fall is Yardbird’s Blackberry Bourbon Lemonade. The cocktail features bourbon, fresh raspberries and tangy lemon in a unique mix that will have you wishing for seconds while you dine there.

1600 Lenox Ave., Miami Beach, 305.538.5220. www.runchickenrun.com

WHERE TO SIP

The drinks will be flowing from champagne flutes at the art tents, of course, but there is so much more out there! Oak Tavern in Wynwood is named for the beautiful, towering tree in the backyard and a bar of both classics (a Moscow Mule) and new fangled drinks (Tavern Storm, with house-fermented ginger beer). Broken Shaker is known for its fresh herbs plucked straight from the garden on site to make the most decadent cocktails. At the Loews Hotel, restaurant Lure Fishbar has a menu of drinks that will have you struggling to pick the best musically-inspired libation: Across the Universe, Figgy Smalls is the Illest, and Purple Rain, are some of the cocktail names featured. Also at the hotel is newbie Rum Line, opening this winter. For a truly classic cocktail bar experience, watch the mixologists behind the bar at Regent Cocktail Club in South Beach. There, you’ll swear the Rat Pack is hanging out on the couches next to you.

WHERE NOW

South Florida

DINING

OAK TAVERN’S RELAXED VIBE

Located in Miami’s Design District, Oak Tavern lures visitors with its selection of pizzas, house-cured charcuterie and large plate options mixed in with daily specials. The spot is also known for its refreshing sangria, perfect to enjoy on the outdoor patio that seats around 140 and even better to indulge in during the spot’s weekend brunch, featuring a selection of fresh dishes to pair with it.

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