THE WORLD'S 50 BEST HOTELS

Four Seasons at The Surf Club

34

Surfside

Elegant Floridian oasis that references its historic past while being firmly rooted in contemporary comforts

Where is Surfside? If you think that South Beach is the hub of Miami, think again. The last several years have seen every pocket of the metropolis grow and develop into its own niche. Surfside, just north of Miami Beach, is now home to some of the highest-end real estate in the region, as well as the iconic luxury retail centre, Bal Harbour Shops. This luxurious location is in stark contrast to the grit and edge found at Miami's southern tip.

Sophisticated vibes: This is not bachelorette party central, nor the place to dance into the wee hours. Instead, expect chic New Yorkers in for the weekend, along with sophisticated locals wanting to escape the over-hyped tourist traps of the Design District and Wynwood.

What about the rooms: More than just a hotel, the project combines 121 private residences along with 30 hotel residences and 77 hotel guest rooms. The original 1930 Mediterranean–style building was reconceived by architect Richard Meier in a sleek contemporary style, made warm and personable thanks to the interiors by French interior designer Joseph Dirand. Choose from standard rooms with floor-to-ceiling windows and ocean views, or check into an expansive hotel-managed residence, complete with full kitchen and open living space.

On the beach: With 274 metres of white sand, it's never too crowded to get a chair. But don't overlook the 40 pool cabanas. Each fully air-conditioned space features its own lounge area, bar and bathroom, ideal for those who can't totally unplug from work or need a break from the heat.

Eating and drinking: Miami's food scene has been thriving in recent years, and the bars and restaurants at The Surf Club are some of the city's best. Head to Thomas Keller's Surf Club Restaurant for fine dining, but don't miss the crudo bar within the Lido restaurant, featuring Italian-Japanese fusion in an intimate setting. The Champagne Bar, with its palm tree–defined interiors, plush seating and vibrant atmosphere is just as enjoyable during the day with your laptop and an espresso as it is at night with a cocktail.

Key Information

Rooms: 102

Starting Rate: $1800

Dining: Lido Restaurant at The Surf Club

Drinking: Champagne Bar at The Surf Club

At the Hotel: Swimming pool(s), Spa/wellness centre, Fitness centre, Pet friendly, Family friendly, Beach, Other: Kids for All Seasons (Kids Club), House Car, Cabanas

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