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ROCK'S NEXT BIG THING

...AND THE HOTTEST NEW RESTAURANTS

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Beach Blitz

Six new resorts (and two on the way) give Miami's hotel scene an alluring jolt with star designers, starred restaurants and celeb-magnet nightclubs | By Danny Bonvissuto |



SLAB HAPPY: Carrara and Thassos marble line the halls of The Betsy.

6. The Betsy

1440 Ocean Dr.; 305.531.3934 or thebetsyhotel.com

THE SCOOP There's no mistaking the colonial columns of The Betsy, originally named The Betsy Ross when it opened in 1942. Its colonial façade and "Florida Georgian" presence add élan to Art Deco row, and the multimillion dollar renovation will add spice as well.

THE HOOD Northern tip of Ocean Drive in the heart of South Beach.

WOW FACTOR Award-winning architectural firm Beilinson-Gomez, the force behind 22 other hotel restorations in South Beach, worked with interior designers Diamante Pedersoli (private residences for Ralph Lauren) and Carmelina Santoro (Bulgari retail stores) on the 63 rooms, suites and luxurious common areas. Check out the B-4 lounge, if you can find its hidden, private entrance, and the spa, housed in a rooftop solarium. **M**

FOOD FIGHT

High-thread-count sheets and gadgets galore are certainly a draw, but Miami's new hotels are placing the emphasis most squarely on food, and drawing some of the world's best chefs in the process.

BLT STEAK, The Betsy

Chef Laurent Tourondel's renowned pre-dinner popovers might not be part of the South Beach Diet, but guests of The Betsy will find it hard to resist their gruyère-cruste'd goodness. Opening soon, the steakhouse with French flair will provide all food and beverage service for the hotel. blsteak.com