

The Betsy Miami

Miami Beach, Florida.

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The prized rooftop lounge area, the Deck, highlights the Betsy's laid-back and glamorous vibe.



Overview

Maps & Attractions

Details

About your stay

By *Terry Ward*, Jetsetter Correspondent



This hotel is Jetsetter verified
Our editors have been here and it has met our standards

Just steps from the turquoise Miami waters, the Betsy Hotel places you in the unequivocal heart of South Beach, right on Ocean Drive. But the hotel's quieter-end-of-the-strip location and its upscale, plantationlike design set it slightly apart from all the other hotels. The Betsy looks like a demure Southern Belle set in a sea of flamboyant Art Deco divas.

What we love

- Two-night package rates include daily breakfast for two, two cocktails at Bbar or Libby and entrance fees to Bbar
- At the quieter end of Ocean Drive, facing the beach
- Chic and cozy rooftop bar and lounge area with ocean views
- B-Bar, a superpopular and edgy nightclub, is in the basement
- Preppy-chic rooms with plantation shutters and dark wood floors
- Sprawling Southern-style front terrace for breakfast and people watching

What to know

- Two-night minimum
- A resort fee of \$15 per night will be collected upon purchase on Jetsetter
- Valet parking only
- The pool isn't much of a scene, the way it is at some hotels. Most guests hit the beach
- Rooms near the elevator get more noise than others
- The roof deck and B-Bar can get booked out with events. Being a guest doesn't mean you won't wait in a line
- The hotel is booked long in advance for Art Basel and Winter Music Conferences

Why to go

Beaches & Islands Elegant Spa

Jetsetter review

You can immediately tell the Betsy is different: She looks like a demure Southern Belle set in a sea of flamboyant Art Deco divas. Situated at the quieter end of Ocean Drive in South Beach, the white building has a Georgian facade and a sweeping front porch that look like something you'd find in the oak-shrouded Deep South rather than in sexed-up South Beach.

Formerly the Betsy Ross, the property dates back to 1942. When it reopened as the Betsy in 2009, the new decor was strikingly different. The colonial-style fans hang from the lobby's coffered ceilings pay homage to tradition, while safari-inspired touches (wooden carvings from Africa, mirrors fringed in zebra prints) pair with natural fiber area rugs to add some whimsy to the equation.



Just off the lobby, Chef Tourondel oversees the celebrated Miami hotspot, BLT Steak.

The hotel's 61 rooms are not overly spacious, but they're full of style and comfort. The contrast of dark hardwood floors and

From **\$205** / night Hotel website **\$309**/night

Select check in date

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
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write lacquered furnishings creates a clean, calming vibe, while raffia-covered ceilings and four-poster beds decked with lush Frette linens add some romance to the picture. Plasma TVs, iPod docking stations and a tricked-out entertainment system with movies and music on demand head the list of standard techno touches.

The hotel has a gym and a small courtyard pool fringed by tropical foliage. If swimming's not on your agenda but you still want to lounge in the sun, the Betsy's rooftop lounge area, the Deck, is a great place to kick back. It's kitted out with plush chaise longues and nooks for curling up with a cocktail or a book. Retractable sails add a somewhat clubby vibe at night, making it a good place for a pre-dinner cocktail.

For a meal to remember, BLT Steak, the steakhouse bistro of New York City fame, is just off the hotel's lobby. South Beach's never-say-die club scene is easily accessible on foot or by cab from the hotel, but one of Miami's hippest hangouts happens to be in the Betsy's basement. The entrance is sort of hidden, but once you find B-Bar, with its reflective ceilings and world-class DJs commanding the turn tables, you just might settle in for the night.

What to do

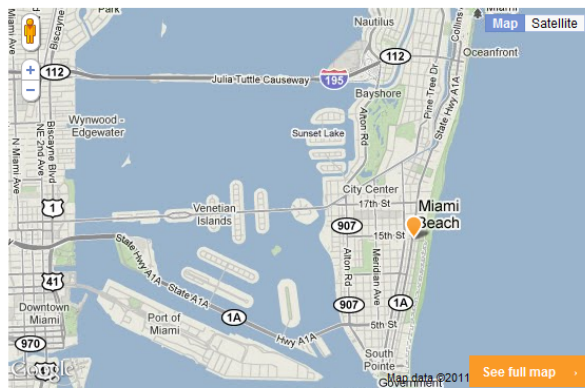
- 1 **Classic Cuban Diner.** Cross the bridge to Wynwood for authentic greasy spoon Cuban fare at **Enriqueta's** (2830 NE 2nd Ave.) or grab a café con leche from the takeout window out front.
- 2 **Best Beach.** For a more natural take on South Beach's hotel-backed scenery, grab a taxi and head for **Key Biscayne National Park**, where the beach is fringed with seagrapes and dunes.
- 3 **Picnic.** Ask the staff at The Betsy to provide you with a **picnic basket** for your day at the beach filled with snacks, wine, cheese, magazines and water.
- 4 **Dining by Design.** The Design District is loaded with fascinating furniture shops and incredible restaurants. The two intersect at **Fratelli Lyon**, an Italian restaurant adjoining a design store where your place settings — and even the table — are for sale.
- 5 **Frank Gehry Flair.** Hailed as one of the architect's best new designs in years, the New World Center is home to the **New World Symphony**. Time your visit for one of the Wallcasts, and you can sit in a park outside as a concert is projected on the building's wall.

How to get there

Flights are available to Miami International Airport (MIA) from major U.S. cities on a variety of carriers. Taxi transfers to/from MIA, which is approximately 13 miles away, are \$37 per car, each way, and can be arranged through the property concierge.

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