

Heat check

5 essential Miami hangouts to know

By DAVID APPELL

1 MAISON D'AZUR

Located at the Angler's Resort (see P. 51), this golden-hued, indoor-outdoor eatery/lounge evokes the Bridget Bardot-era Riviera, right down to its Med-style seafood menu. The raw bar and desserts are amazing.

In fact, it's safe to say that Miami hasn't eaten crême brûlée and tarte tartin this good lately.

It's all a pretty sweet complement to the restored Deco property, where it's all about low-key and high-luxe (love the intimate pool area). 634 Washington Ave, Miami Beach; 305-534-9600

2 LA BODEGUITA DEL MEDIO

Papa Hemingway's original (and rather modest) Havana haunt has begat (licensed) knockoffs throughout the world, but not so much in the States, thanks to our embargo.

Here the concept gets the full-on American treatment in a bigger-is-better space between downtown and Coral Gables.

The look, the grub, the mojitos, the música, and the stogies are first-rate and, with very few exceptions, authentic.

But ay, mamá—those big old date palms ain't tropical!

3138 Coral Way, Miami; 305-441-7016



Michael's Genuine Food and Drink is heating up the Design District dining scene.

3 DEVITO

Everybody's favorite diminutive Italian teams up with South Florida restaurant mogul David Manero to produce a class act in southernmost SoBe.

Not only are the *cibo italiano* (and the *limoncello*) a treat and the décor on point, but as you would expect, this is primo celeb-spotting territory (e.g. Rosie, Spike Lee, Andy Garcia, Steven Van Zandt, you get the picture).

Eating outside (*bene!*) is all very palazzo-esque. 150 Ocean Drive, Miami Beach; 305-531-0911

4 HALO

Local gay nightlife gets a much-needed kickstart with this chic, straight-friendly lounge less than a block south of Lincoln Road.

The design is all wavy walls and diffused pink neon, the drink menu is all peachy bellinis, mimosas and caipirinhas with that extra special something (pineapple-mint, anyone?)

The comfy seating and live jazz music have attracted many a local luminary (Hi, Lance Bass!). 1625 Michigan Ave., South Beach; 305-53-8181

5 MICHAEL'S GENUINE FOOD AND DRINK

Veteran local chef Michael Schwartz dumped SoBe sizzle-over-substance scene to set up this foodie magnet focused on local ingredients (oenophiles: there's a great wine list, too) in the increasingly appealing Design District.

Just don't wait until you are in town to try scoring a reservation — Wolfgang Puck, Martha Stewart and Pharell Williams will probably get there first.

130 NE 40th Street, Miami; 305-573-5550