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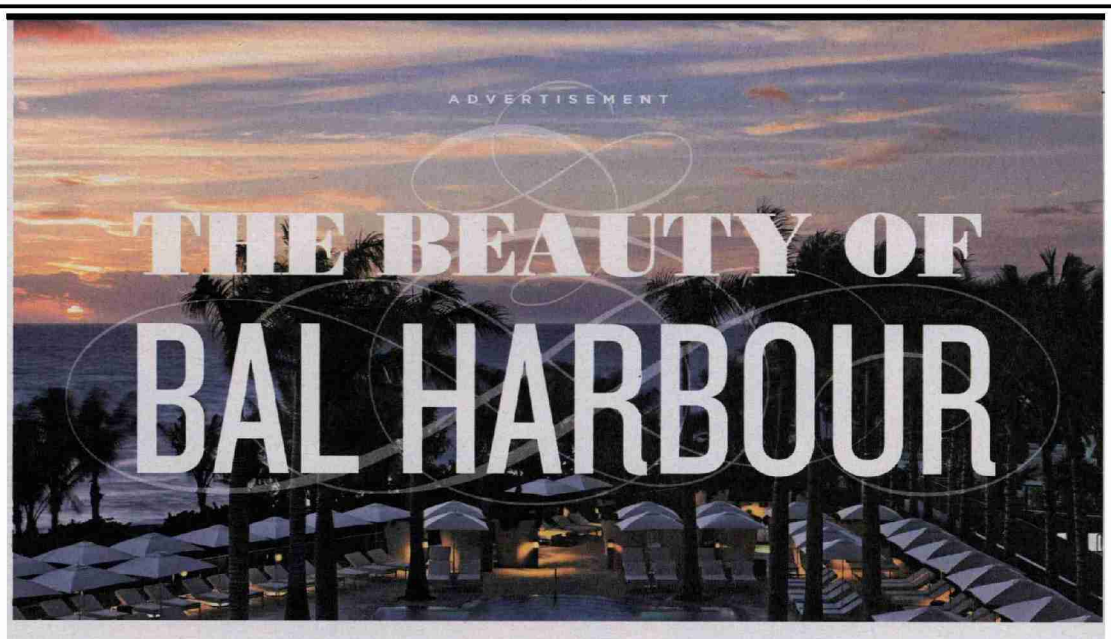

Where Style Meets Surf and Sun

The Village of Bal Harbour truly has it all. This chic seaside destination in Miami-Dade County, Fla. — ideally situated between the Atlantic Ocean and Biscayne Bay, with Fort Lauderdale to the north and the rest of Miami to the south — boasts a breathtaking beach coupled with luxury shopping and unparalleled hospitality.

With a strictly enforced speed limit of 30 miles per hour along Bal Harbor's section of Collins Avenue, life literally slows down here. The pedestrian-friendly streets and sidewalks are thickly lined with majestic date palms and manicured landscaping. And a recent nourishment program added 100 feet of sand to its breathtaking beach.

But Bal Harbour is also an urban landscape with world-class culture, retailers and dining venues. It's this best-of-both-worlds advantage that defines Bal Harbour's unique appeal. Said Lana Bell, a real estate agent with ONE Sotheby's International Realty, "It's one of the most sought-after locations in Miami, for those who demand luxury and opulence in every aspect of their lives."

No wonder developers have been snapping up its prime real estate. Argentina-based Consultatio S.A. purchased the village's last oceanfront lot. For its pending residential high rise, Oceana Bal Harbour, the company has commissioned Arquitectonica for architecture, Piero Lissoni for interiors and Enzo Enea for landscaping. "It's evolving into a much more international crowd," said Oceana developer Eduardo Constantini. "I think of its residents as citizens of the world."

Legendary Bal Harbour Shops understands this jet-set clientele. Opened in 1965 and still owned and operated by the Whitman family, the center ranks No. 1 in sales per square foot worldwide, as it has for years. "We're humbled by the runaway success that our tenants continue to enjoy," said

TOP: St. Regis Bal Harbour Resort

ABOVE: John Varvatos

OPPOSITE, UPPER LEFT: Salvatore Ferragamo

OPPOSITE, UPPER RIGHT: ONE Bal Harbour Resort & Spa

OPPOSITE, LOWER LEFT: The Webster.
Photo: Camilo Rios

Matthew Whitman Lazenby, president and chief executive officer of Whitman Family Development. "And it's indeed their collective allure that has forever defined Bal Harbour Shops as the pre-eminent destination for luxury and fashion in the Southeast."

A recent surge in new stores is enticing affluent shoppers even more. This summer marked the debut of Salvatore Ferragamo's townhouse, the center's first two-story retailer beyond department stores. British stiletto star Charlotte Olympia Dellal created an exclusive shoe and bag collection

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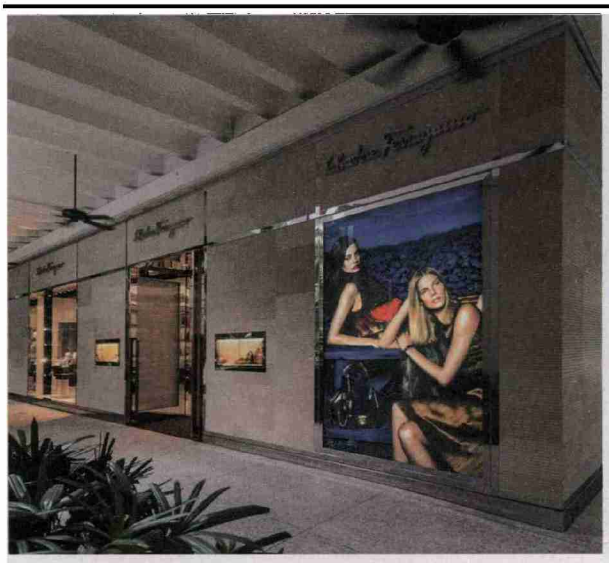

adorned in pink flamingos and banana leaves for her Bal Harbour bow. John Varvatos, Akris, Rag & Bone and Morgenthal Frederics are other newcomers, with Vince, Buccellati and Dsquared on deck. Richard Mille, whose futuristic watches are coveted by collectors, plans his first free-standing Florida boutique here.

"Bal Harbour Shops is one of a kind," said Laure Heriard Dubreuil, owner and founder of The Webster, a designer clothing mecca in South Beach that will follow its successful women's expansion at Bal Harbour Shops with an adjacent men's boutique in September. "It's the most beautiful outdoor retail area in the world."

For more information, ***visit balharbourflorida.com, oceanabalharbour.com*** *and* ***balharbourshops.com.***

Haute Hotels

When visitors reserve a room in Bal Harbour, they know they'll be sleeping in style. Set in South Florida's sweet spot, the village offers excitement like South Beach's, but with a rare level of peace, quiet and spaciousness that sets it apart.

Proof that guests seek solitude along Bal Harbour's shores can be found in the length of their stays, which average six

nights compared to 2.5 nights in South Beach. Many worldly travelers view Bal Harbour as a luxury destination in line with Aspen, St. Barts and the Hamptons. Said Carolyn Travis, director of tourism marketing for Bal Harbour, "They're coming to relax, eat well and enjoy the beach with the action close by if they want it."

The recent arrival of St. Regis has ushered in a new era of hospitality. This game-changer has repositioned luxury with its 227 rooms and suites, each with an ocean view and unusually large balconies. Yabu Pushelberg's glamorous interiors depart from Miami's typical décor. And its oceanfront day villas — air-conditioned cabanas with butler service, a bed and mini bar function — are like extra rooms from which guests can easily access the beach and duo of pools. The gold standard carries over into on-site Remède Spa, where the 24-Karat Designer Facial is a top treatment. Said Angelica Lenox, director of sales and marketing for St. Regis Bal Harbour Resort, "From the moment you arrive, you feel very special."

While St. Regis represents Bal Harbour's latest addition, the Sea View Hotel — with 220 updated rooms, junior suites and condominiums — has been welcoming guests since 1947. Several partners in the privately owned property call it home. During high season, guests pack the snack bar, which retains its original, retro diner, and thaw out in the heated Olympic-sized pool.

ONE Bal Harbour's secluded site, where the ocean meets the bay, is unparalleled along Miami's coastline. Each of its 124 guest rooms and suites (which add a second balcony and full kitchens) overlooks sweeping water views in multiple directions, even from the bath's oversized soaking tub. Elevators service a maximum of two rooms for enhanced privacy.

Repeat guests appreciate that the hotel's staff notes personal preferences such as a child's favorite ice cream flavor. They also grow fond of its trio of cabanas with private whirlpools, especially with a round of muddled berry mojitos from Mr. Collins. For post-beach pampering, book the signature pineapple and papaya mani/pedi at the 10,000-square-foot waterfront spa.

Tucked along the quiet inlet separating the village's northern border and Haulover Park, Bal Harbour Quarzo combines a boutique hotel and a home away from home. Response has been so positive to its 32 studios and one- and two-bedroom

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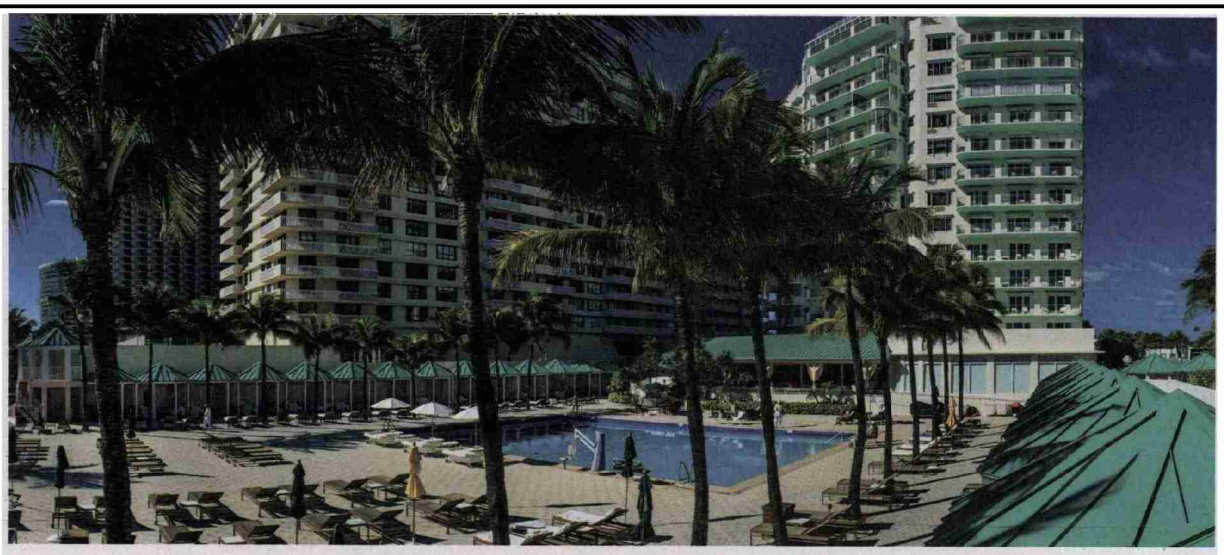
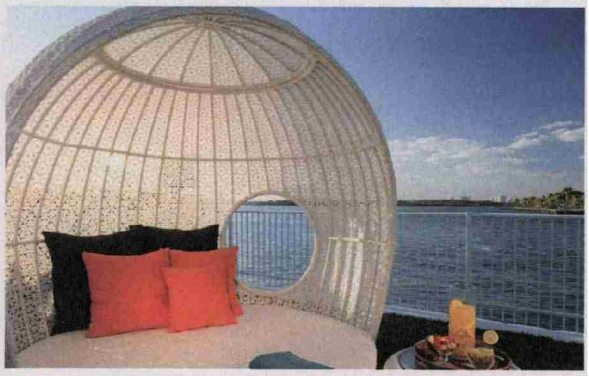


units with full kitchens and tasteful décor that its owner, Miami-based Synergy Capital Group, is expanding the property into an adjacent building. The addition's 84 similar units, lobby and rooftop restaurants, fitness center and second pool are slated to open by early 2015. In the meantime, a Zen garden's chaise lounges make ideal perches to watch the sunset. The magical setting is yet another picture-perfect postcard from Bal Harbour.

For more information, visit ***stregisbalharbour.com, seaview-hotel.com, onebalharbourresort.com*** *and* ***quarzomiamihotel.com.***



Finer Fare

The Bal Harbour dining scene is benefiting from a flurry of exciting new restaurants and bars, complementing the fine venues that already existed in the St. Regis and Bal Harbour Shops — such as the latter's Italian mainstay, the perennially packed Carpaccio.

When it opens in late fall, Hillstone will claim one of the coolest locales in town: a rooftop deck above the exclusive center's porte cochere, surrounded by a mature canopy of palm trees, that transforms into an open-air terrace. "This restaurant is in keeping with the more intimate restaurants we've been doing in the last few years," said Brian Biel, vice president and creative director for Hillstone Restaurant Group, about the 150-seat eatery. In addition to American classics such as veggie burgers and steaks, the hybrid menu will encompass sushi and other light fare such as chopped salads, crab cakes and Dover sole from the company's West Coast-geared Gulfstream restaurants.

Healthful Asian dishes can be found at Makoto, a contemporary Japanese concept by restaurateur Stephen Starr. The pastrami sandwich gets a makeover through slices of hamachi atop pumpernickel crackers dabbed with violet-infused Dijon mustard. On nippy nights, duck ramen in tonkotsu broth warms the belly. Makoto's varied seating ranging from communal tables to a sushi bar also offers two outdoor options: a front patio with cozy banquettes and a beautiful bar with tables amid orchids and koi ponds. Said Starr, "I'm so proud of what we've accomplished with Makoto by attracting both locals and visitors."

Jean-Georges Vongerichten has been known to check in on his J&G Grill at St. Regis. Chef de cuisine Bradley Kilgore helms the kitchen, which has quite a following for its fontina and black truffle pizza. Perhaps inspired by the dining room's expansive ocean views, diners can't resist local red snapper encrusted in hazelnuts and sesame seeds and glazed in soy honey. Diets are ditched upon sight of the next table's salted caramel sundae.

Nightlife is also alive and well in Bal Harbour. Jazz musicians play nightly at St. Regis Bar, where guests have taken to savoring a Bloody Sunrise (the St. Regis Bal Harbour's signature version of the Bloody Mary) or a bottle of vintage champagne. "We celebrate the transition from day to night in the jazz bar by popping and sharing a bottle of champagne with our guests," said Lenox. A tasty bar menu tempts revelers into the wee hours. Sushi chefs send out omakase platters and customized rolls. Kobe beef tataki and the house club sandwich on toasted brioche slathered in wasabi mayo satisfy heartier appetites.

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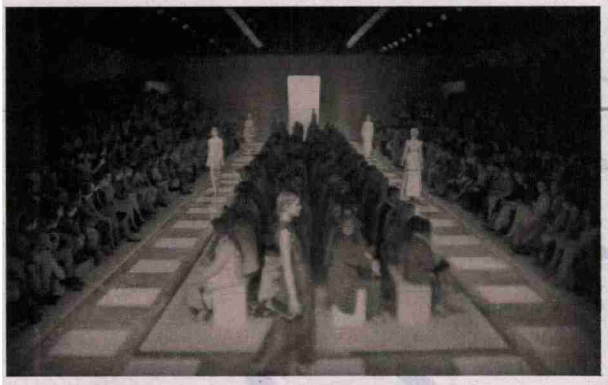

OPPOSITE, ABOVE: The Sea View Hotel

OPPOSITE, BELOW: Bal Harbour Quarzo

TOP: Makoto

ABOVE: "Spirits of Valentino" by Simon Procter, at Rosenbaum Contemporary

Guests with a sweet tooth enroll in executive pastry chef Antonio Bachour's hands-on classes. As the master doles out tips on everything from baking to bonbons, students snack on savory bites, as well as their confectionary creations. They receive his first cookbook to practice their new skills at home. It's a good thing they can counteract the damage with fitness instructors Chris and Tracie Vlaun's boot camps on the beach through the hotel's in-depth wellness program.

For more information, visit ***stregisbalharbour.com, balharbourshops.com, hillstone.com, makoto-restaurant.com*** *and* ***jggrillmiami.com.***

Artful Avenue

Bal Harbour residents can easily climb into their cars and drive the short distance to museums and galleries galore in Miami and Fort Lauderdale. But why leave, when art's on one's doorstep? Through village initiatives and acquisitions by developments, art can be found everywhere along this stretch of Collins Avenue.

Dozens of works fill the St. Regis Bal Harbour's interiors and grounds — including pieces by Hirotoshi Sawada, Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle and Santiago Rubino. The hotel also houses a pint-sized outpost for Rosenbaum Contemporary, a Boca Raton-based gallery.

Oceana Bal Harbour, a residential high rise being developed by Eduardo Constantini, the Argentine founder of Museo Arte Latinoamericano Buenos Aires, will be home to two pieces by Jeff Koons. "I wanted to give the project an identity through art," said Constantini, "and Jeff Koons was my first choice."

Among commercial venues, ONE Bal Harbour Resort & Spa is a regional pioneer in curating a permanent art collection, with 400 works totaling $3.5 million that are exhibited at every turn.

In 2011, Bal Harbour launched Unscripted, a three-fold arts initiative. Its year-old Museum Access card program, which provides every resident and hotel guest complimentary admission to local museums, has been extended to private art collections, as well as several art fairs during Art Basel Miami Beach. Unscripted also provides personal tours led by experts, such as Unscripted curator Claire Breukel's annual tour of Art Basel. "We've grown each year to two major public art commissions, numerous art chats and access to key arts and culture venues," Breukel said. "And it's only the beginning."

For more information, visit ***oceanabalharbour.com, stregisbalharbour.com, rosenbaumcontemporary.com, onebalharbourresort.com*** *and* ***balharbourflorida.com.***

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