

Out and about There's so much to do at the W, you could very easily spend a week without leaving the confines of the hotel - chilling by the pool, playing tennis on the rooftop court, sampling treatments at the fabulous in-house Bliss Spa and clubbing at the adjoining WALL nightclub. But if you fancy venturing further a field, try the Shore Club (1901 Collins Avenue (001) 305 695 3100), the Mondrian (1100 West Avenue (001) 305 514 1500) or the Delano (1685 Collins Avenue (001) 305 672 2000) for sunbathing and the best of the daytime parties. Head to Mynt (1921 Collins Avenue (001) 305 532 0727), Liv (4441 Collins Avenue (001) 305 674 4680), or Baoli (1906 Collins Avenue (001) 305 674 8822) after dark to party the night away. Fashion addicts should head to the Bal Harbour shopping centre (655 96th Street Bal Harbour, (001) 800 847 9222), where you can enjoy some serious fantasy shopping at stores including Bulgari, Chanel and Dior. If you're feeling flush, make an appointment at the Saks Fifth Avenue club ((001) 305 865 1100), where you can relax in a private dressing room, glass of champagne in hand, while a personal shopper brings the clothes to you – heaven. Satisfy cultural cravings with an afternoon spent soaking up the stunningly beautiful architecture in Miami's Art Deco Historic District. Recognised as the largest collection of Art Deco architecture in the world, there are over 800 hotels, apartments and other structures built between 1923 and 1943 to see. Book a 90-minute walking tour through the Art Deco Welcome Centre (\$20, 1001 Ocean Drive (001) 305 763 8026) to see the curvy pastel and chrome Deco highlights.

Eating and drinking Pre-dinner, pop downstairs to W's Living Room Bar; barman Tom mixes the best cocktails around. Make a reservation at Mr Chow's (adjoining the W, (001) 305 695 1695); it takes dining to a whole new level of glamour – you'll never have eaten Chinese in such opulent surroundings! - and you're guaranteed to spot a famous face or two. For a more low key (and less pricey) alternative, try The Dutch ((001) 305 938 3111), located next to the Living Room Bar. It has a fun, relaxed vibe, and delicious modern American menu. For lunch, you can't beat Carpaccio (9700 Collins Avenue (001) 305 867 7777) – the fresh salads are light relief from the generally heavy food, and the huge plates of fish and beef carpaccio are delicious. For an all American experience, head to Smith & Wollensky (1 Washington Avenue (001) 305 673 2800) the fresh seafood and juicy steaks are divine.

The details Doubles at the W Hotel South Beach start from £290 (\$449) per night, based on two adults sharing. For further information and reservations call (001) 305 938 3000 or visit starwoodhotels.com

By Jess Tibbits

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