

## taste fort lauderdale

The **Food Network & Cooking Channel South Beach Wine & Food Festival (SOBEWFF®)** returns, along with the **Taste Fort Lauderdale** series, during the 16th annual festival, Feb 22-26, 2017. The five-day series with a star-studded line-up of talent kicks off with a Seaside Eats event at the Bonnet House Museum & Gardens, hosted by Anne Burrell, followed by events at Casa D'Angelo Ristorante hosted by Amanda Freitag and Angelo Elia, S3 hosted by Raúl Esparza, Marc Murphy and Chris Miracola, a Clambake at Point Royal at The Diplomat Beach Resort hosted by Valerie Bertinelli and Geoffrey Zakarian, A North Carolina Sisterhood at Burlock Coast at The Ritz-Carlton, Fort Lauderdale hosted by Ashley Christensen, Vivian Howard, Andrea Reusing, Gavin Pera and Ryan Cross, a Bloody Mary Brunch hosted by David Burtka and Neil Patrick Harris, and the newest event, DRINK Fort Lauderdale at F.A.T. Village. Visit [sobefest.com](http://sobefest.com) for details.



## center stage

The live music scene heats up with **Riptide Music Festival**, a two-day alternative & classic hits music festival on Fort Lauderdale beach Dec 3-4. Bands include AWOLNATION, Earth Wind & Fire, The B-52's, and A Flock of Seagulls. **Rock the Ocean's Tortuga Music Festival** celebrates 5 years on Fort Lauderdale beach with a three-day music festival featuring some of the biggest names in country, rock and roots music, Apr 7-9. Headliners include Kenny Chesney, Luke Bryan and Chris Stapleton. Spectators will line the waterways to watch more than 100 brilliantly illuminated boats sail along the New River and Intracoastal Waterway during the annual **Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade**, Dec 10.

The **BB&T Center** in Sunrise welcomes Barbara Streisand (Dec 3), Trans-Siberian Orchestra (Dec 16), Billy Joel (Dec 31), Bon Jovi (Feb 12), and Panic! At The Disco (Apr 15). The **Hard Rock Live** in Hollywood presents Donny & Marie (Dec 5), Pitbull (Dec 9), Don Henley (Jan 25), Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons (Jan 27-28), Lisa Lampanelli (Feb 4), America and Three Dog Night (Feb 18), and Jerry Seinfeld (Feb 24-25). Broadway shows at the **Broward Center for the Performing Arts:** Cinderella (Dec 13-25), The Little Mermaid (Feb 22-Mar 5), Matilda (Apr 25-May 7) and Finding Neverland (Jun 13-25).



## new on the menu

Bravo TV Top Chef Star, Josie-Smith Malave, opened **Bubbles & Pearls**, a champagne raw bar in Wilton Manors. **Nisi Restaurant** recently opened in Fort Lauderdale featuring a Mediterranean menu with a few "Asian touches at play." **One Door East**, located literally one door east of Valentino's in Fort Lauderdale, recently opened offering internationally inspired small plates and cocktails. **B Square Burgers + Booze**, gourmet burgers with a twist, opened on Las Olas Blvd in Fort Lauderdale. Another newcomer on Las Olas Blvd,

**Raw Poke Bar**, is a fast-casual Hawaiian eatery, focusing on raw, cubed fish salad. **American English Kitchen and Bar**, a new restaurant in Hollywood, features an eclectic mix of regional American and globally influenced dishes. At The Diplomat Beach Resort, at the Diplomat Landing, are **Bristol's Burgers**, featuring ingredient-driven burgers, and **Portico**, a rustic outdoor beer and wine garden.

**port everglades** welcomes two newly built cruise ships, **Holland America's ms Koningsdam** and **Royal Caribbean's Harmony of the Seas**, in Nov 2016. A fourth cruise ship will be added to the summer 2017 roster with **Carnival Cruise's Carnival Splendor**, and luxury cruise line **Crystal Cruises** will begin sailing from Port Everglades in Oct 2017.

**FLL news:** **Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport** opened Concourse G in Terminal 4 with new concession areas and five new gates, part of the first phase of a \$450 million expansion and modernization project. Phase Two will include an interactive walkway and nine new gates. When completed in mid-2018, the terminal will have 12 international and 2 domestic gates. The addition of Concourse A in Terminal 1 is underway and will include a Customs Inspection Facility with five gates handling both international and domestic flights and is expected to be completed May 2017.



**New international service includes:** **Emirates:** Dubai (Dec 2016) **British Airways:** London, Gatwick (July 2017) **Norwegian Air Shuttle:** Guadeloupe, WI (Dec 2016); Barcelona (Aug 2017) **Southwest:** Nassau (Aug 2016); Varadero (Nov 2016) and Havana, Cuba (Dec 2016) **JetBlue:** Havana, Camaguey and Holguin, Cuba (Nov 2016); Aruba (Jan 2017) **New domestic service includes:** **JetBlue:** New Orleans; Nashville; San Diego; and Chicago (Jan 2017) **Allegiant:** Grand Rapids; San Antonio; Destin; Ogdensburg, NY; Niagara Falls (Nov 2016); and Cleveland (Feb 2017) **Spirit:** Newark; Philadelphia; Akron-Canton (Nov 2016) **Frontier:** Cincinnati **Southwest:** Newark (May 2017) **United:** Washington Dulles (Dec 2016).

# WHAT'S NEW in Greater Fort Lauderdale

## new on the hotel scene

The **Conrad Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort** is expected to open in winter 2017 with 290 expansive studio and suite accommodations, four alfresco dining experiences, a 4,000 sq ft ocean view spa and fitness center, elevated deck oasis with an ocean-facing pool and plush cabanas, and 20,000 sq ft of flexible meeting and event space.



**HYDE Resort**, the beachfront sister property to the newly opened **Beachwalk Resort** in Hallandale Beach, opens in Jan 2017 with 362 fully appointed one bedroom suites, a pool, spa, and restaurant.

The **Le Meridien Dania Beach** at Fort Lauderdale Airport, formerly Sheraton Fort Lauderdale Airport & Cruise Port Hotel, is undergoing a \$30 million renovation and conversion and will feature 245 contemporary guest rooms, 20,000 sq ft of state-of-the-art flexible meeting space and two redesigned restaurants. Anticipated to open fall 2017.

The \$23 million **Tryp by Wyndham Maritime Hotel** opens March 2017. The eight-story, 150 room, maritime-themed hotel will cater to business and leisure travelers and offer a European-style tapas bar, featuring 11 aquariums.

A new \$21 million, 142 room **Wyndham Garden Hotel** in Dania Beach is expected to open late 2017 and plans to offer casual dining, flexible meeting space and an inviting lobby and lounge.

The historic Escape Hotel is being renovated and transformed into the **Gale Boutique Hotel**, with 96 rooms and 129 condo residences in Fort Lauderdale's North Beach Village. Estimated to open in late 2017.

A new 23-story **Four Seasons** will open in 2018 with 150 hotel rooms and 95 residences, two restaurants, a spa, fitness center, children's recreation room, "Beach Butlers" and ballroom and meeting facilities.

In downtown Fort Lauderdale, a dual-branded Starwood Hotel complex, featuring **The Dalmar** (209 rooms) will offer a rooftop lounge and sky lobby, an infinity pool and 24,000 sq ft of meeting and retail space. The **Element by Westin** (114 rooms) will also be part of the hotel complex. Opens spring 2018.

In addition to 136 loft-like rooms at **Aloft Weston**, the new property will offer 600 sq ft of meeting space and all the brand essentials such as WXYZ® bar, and a Splash pool. Opens Apr 2018. **Aloft Fort Lauderdale** will also provide loft-like rooms and all the brand's signature amenities, along with 1,500 sq ft of meeting facilities. Opens Jan 2019.

## hotel refresh

The **Diplomat Beach Resort** in Hollywood is undergoing a \$95 million transformation including guest rooms, lobby and restaurants & lounges. Completion fall 2016.

The **W Fort Lauderdale** is undergoing a \$55 million renovation restyle bringing a high-contrast, sleek design to 430 guestrooms & suites, Living Room (Lobby), WET Decks (2 Pools) and all the public spaces. The new guestrooms and suites will be complete by Nov 2016, followed by all public spaces by mid-Dec 2016.

The **B Ocean Resort Fort Lauderdale** has undergone an extensive renovation including a new front desk, meeting space, guestrooms, and the famous Wreck Bar. Completion fall 2016.

The **Renaissance Fort Lauderdale Cruise Port** is completing a total brand transformation with renovations to the hotel lobby, restaurants, and meeting space (guestrooms were refurbished in 2015).

The **Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort** is undergoing a \$5.5 million renovation including the transformation of the Porte cochere and lobby for a more inviting guest arrival experience, and a new oceanfront dining concept.

The **Fort Lauderdale Marriott Harbor Beach Resort & Spa** is renovating guestrooms with completion in mid-Nov 2016.

The Comfort Suites Airport & Cruise Port has been renamed Fort Lauderdale Airport/Cruise Port Inn as it transitions to **Four Points by Sheraton 17th Street** in Dec 2016.

The **Ikona Hotel** has opened its doors following a multi-million-dollar renovation that restored key features of the mid-century modern building while modernizing the interior design with smart technology and stylish amenities. The Ikona's sister properties, the **Fortuna Hotel**, opened this summer, and the **Mirra Hotel** is scheduled for 2017, rounding out the Gzella Collection portfolio.