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## Miami Restaurant Guide

### Best Meals in Miami

*Inspire your taste buds with the delectable and diverse dishes at these top Miami restaurants.*



- Enjoy the balmy Miami weather while dining in the garden of the Maison d'Azur at the Astor Hotel.
- *Moris Moreno*

- [Miami](#)

by [Kim Michele](#) Published February 20, 2009

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Being the culturally diverse city that it is, [Miami](#) is known for its incredible restaurants and varied choice of ethnic foods. From Argentinean steakhouses and Brazilian barbecues, to some of the world's best seafood and sushi, to Cuban, Venezuelan, French, Greek and Italian eateries—you can experience them all on your Miami vacation.

However, the art lies in knowing where the out-of-the-way, perhaps not so well-known places are. The ones that stand out above the rest, serve something scrumptious, have a great view or inviting energy, or serve food that you will never forget.

But when it comes to Miami, you don't have to be a local to know the best places to go for good food mixed with a little **Miami Beach** hospitality. Here are the best Miami restaurants we recommend for a Miami restaurant guide, and most certainly want to go back to for more.

Price code:

\$: Affordable (less than \$15 for an entrée)

\$\$: Moderate (\$16 to \$25 per entrée)

\$\$\$: Expensive (\$26 or more per entrée)

#### Michael's Genuine

Tucked away in Miami's famous [Design District](#), [Michael's Genuine](#) serves delicious fresh food straight out of a wood oven. Made from the best homegrown, organic ingredients, the food has a way of inspiring your taste buds while being refreshingly light on your stomach. A laid back bistro and neighborhood hangout, Michael's Genuine makes for great Miami dining for a family night out. The fact that it is farm-to-table sweetens the deal even more. Another plus: The menu changes regularly, so you're guaranteed to discover a new delicious dish to savor with each visit. To top that, it's also very reasonably priced. Lunch or dinner, you choose.

130 NE 40th St., tel. 305-573-5550. Hours: Mon. to Fri., 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. (lunch). Mon. to Thurs., 5:30 to 11 p.m.; Fri. and Sat., 5:30 p.m. to midnight; Sun., 5:30 to 10 p.m. (dinner). [www.michaelsgenuine.com](http://www.michaelsgenuine.com) \$\$



- While in Miami, treat yourself to a meal at Emeril's, the third outpost of the celebrity chef's flagship restaurant.
- © *Courtesy of Emeril's Miami Beach*

#### Emeril's Miami Beach

Celebrity Chef-owned restaurants are quite the rage these days, spurred on by numerous cooking shows and reality television. Most major cities boast a list of restaurants with a celebrity chef at the helm, and Miami is no exception.

After the success of his first restaurant in [New Orleans](#), [Emeril Lagasse](#) decided on the [Loews Hotel](#) in **South Beach Miami** (SoBe) for the location of his third restaurant, [Emeril's Miami Beach](#). He successfully intertwined the best of [Louisiana's](#) Creole cooking with the Latin influences of South Florida, resulting in a high-energy, sophisticated and vibrant restaurant.

Add a little [Caribbean](#) spice, a few secret ingredients and you will experience a whole new appreciation for Southern cooking. Feel like being spoiled? Enjoy Sunday brunch at the beach on Emeril's outdoor terrace with a New Orleans cocktail in hand. And if any of his signature dishes can be reproduced at home, then anyone who purchases Emeril's latest cookbook is certainly in for a real treat. A little pricy, but well worth it. Reservations suggested.

1601 Collins Ave., tel. 305-695-4550. Hours: Mon. to Sat., 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (lunch). Sun., 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (brunch). Sun. to Thurs., 6 to 10:30 p.m.; Fri. and Sat., 6 to 11 p.m. (dinner). [www.emerils.com](http://www.emerils.com) \$\$\$

## News Café

You can't visit South Beach without taking a walk down historic Ocean Drive. Look to the left and you'll see the beach, look to the right and admire the art deco buildings lining the streets. Then stop by the [News Café](#) for Sunday brunch and mimosas, sundowners, breakfast, lunch or dinner. A 24-hour international news café, everything on its vast and delicious menu is available any time, day or night. Sit outside at the sidewalk courtyard café and take in the breathtaking view. Want to catch up on international news or find a magazine from your home country? The News Café's international newsstand is the only place on the beach where you'll find that luxury. Needless to say they are as international as Miami's culture.



- The taco salad at Lime Fresh Mexican Grill.
- © Courtesy of Lime Fresh Mexican Grill

800 Ocean Drive, tel. 305-538-6397. Open 24 hours a day. [www.newscafe.com](http://www.newscafe.com) \$

## Lime Fresh Mexican Grill

Lime Fresh Mexican Grill is a long-time SoBe favorite for locals and passers—by. Everyone has heard of Lime, and most people have eaten there. Lunchtime at the tiny Mexican grill is packed with hungry patrons, eager to gulp down some of Lime's killer frozen sangria while deciding on their favorite Mexican dish. The food is freshly prepared, authentic and made to order. Place your order at the counter and then grab a seat outside in the cozy courtyard. Reminiscent of [Mexico](#), Lime is fun, trendy and inviting. And yes they do have low carb, low fat and even vegetarian dishes on the menu. So you can indulge in a "no guilt" meal whenever you want. Affordable and quick.

1439 Alton Road, tel. 305-532-5463. Hours: Mon. to Sun., 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. [www.limefreshmexicangrill.com/index/flash/](http://www.limefreshmexicangrill.com/index/flash/) \$

## Maison d'Azur

In contrast to the bustle of SoBe, **Maison d'Azur**, a French seafood brasserie, is set in a romantic outdoor courtyard at the [Hotel Astor](#). It's the perfect setting—peaceful, green and private. But this is not the only reason to come here. The chef has created an incredible menu of mouthwatering dishes guaranteed to take your taste buds to a whole new level. It's a taste of the south of [France](#) in Miami's own backyard. Perfect for a romantic date or quiet night out.

956 Washington Ave., tel. 305-531-8081. Hours: Mon. to Fri., 7 to 11 a.m. (breakfast); 7 p.m. to midnight (dinner). Sat. and Sun., noon to 5 p.m. (brunch). [www.hotelastor.com/dining.php](http://www.hotelastor.com/dining.php) \$\$\$

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