

Girl Time at Miami's Mondrian

Written by Jenny Kerr

Thursday, 23 June 2011 12:38 - Last Updated Thursday, 21 July 2011 12:24

It had been several years since my last venture to the land of South Beach.



I have realized even bringing up the name South Beach can conjure up debate. I've found people either love it or they absolutely hate it. I happen to be someone who loves Miami. I enjoy the color and variety that Miami provides. You can see some of the best looking people from the globe enjoying the beach or having cocktails at the European-like outdoor cafes. The ubiquitous (my three-year-old nephew taught me that word) Ferraris and Lamborghinis available to admire as they endlessly cruise Ocean Drive, the insane nightlife and world-class DJs playing their mind-numbing house beats. I also can't help but laugh at the ridiculous. Miami attracts all walks of life; there is no shortage of old leathery men wearing nothing but a banana hammock and a smile. And don't forget the distinct Miami cologne -- I never smell it anywhere else, but as soon as I enter the invisible space/time continuum that is South Beach, I am overcome by the scent. It makes sense since market trends have proven most Latino men spend more money on fragrances and hair grooming products than the average male. Also, it is a guarantee that if you are a girl walking around in Miami, you will be offered a ride in some strange foreigner's exotic car. This happened to us the very day we arrived and even more

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interesting, one man offered the three of us a ride in his two-seater car. Can't blame him for trying I guess.



My sisters and I planned to hold our annual girls trip in February. We couldn't remember the last time just the sisters spent some time together on a vacation. We zeroed in on Miami because there is no lack of fine dining and glamorous hotels in the area, and we wanted a somewhat short drive from Orlando. I had been checking out the property at the Mondrian for over a year now. Conceived by Dutch designer Marcel Wanders, he nicknamed the property "Sleeping Beauty's Castle", so this seemed like a perfect fit for our sisters' weekend. I have always been a fan of the Morgans Hotel Group with properties like the iconic **Delano** and **The Shore Club**, but we were not prepared to drop almost \$1000 a night either. The

[Mondrian](#)

was running a special on their website
(*check the bottom of the homepage*)
and we were able to snag the room for
\$356 including tax.

Perks:

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- Affordable price in comparison to other top-rated chic hotels in the area
- Great pool with sunset views of Biscayne Bay and downtown Miami
- Famed *Asia De Cuba* Restaurant just off the main Lobby
- Luxurious *Agua Spa* on premises
- Beach Cruisers available at the valet
- World-class design by Dutch Industrial Designer Marcel Wanders
- Trendy New York based [SoulCycle](#) 's studio resides on the third floor
- Mondrian Marina offers 26 boat slips and jet ski rental

Downfalls:

- Not on or near the beach
- Poor walking location
- Famed Sunday pool party cancelled due to a noise ordinance
- No sign at the entrance



When we arrived at the Mondrian, the valet and bellhops were very hospitable. I most enjoyed the repetitive patterns throughout the space, such as the circular plate-like design behind the front desk. You will be amused by the use of the eccentric with the Mondrian's famous floating head figurine that appears not only in the lobby but will also be staring at you from a wall in your own room. Central to the main lobby is a true masterpiece: an ebony colored floating staircase

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with art-nouveau details in the railing. I love the contrast of the dark with the stark-white interior with pops of gold. The use of scale with the over-sized lampshades, spindle carved columns and bell-shaped chandelier toppers throughout make you feel like Alice in a Miami wonderland.



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We were led to our room soon after check-in was complete. The view from both east or west is decent, considering the beach and bay are on either side. The rooms are quite spacious and we were surprised to see a full kitchenette complete with refrigerator, sink, kitchen table and microwave. The interior space uses white and accent lights of orange. I loved the placement of the diagonal floor rug along with the infamous floating head girl. The hallways and kitchen area use an old world nautical theme, which is a surprising but somehow welcomed combination with the modern bedroom. The bathroom is not overly large but the sink is interesting. Basically the countertop and sink bowl are one and the same. Imagine a flat counter top that slopes slightly left with the faucet and drain being on the lower end. Good in theory, but when I set my toiletry bag on the upper right side, it still managed to get wet. The shower, however made up in what the sink lacked with a powerful rain-like mist with excellent water pressure emerging from the center of a crystal chandelier.



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[http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/06/23/girl-time-at-miamis-mondrian/](#)

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