



*World famous Worth Avenue is just steps to the sea.*

# New Palm Beach

## A timeless classic revisited

**Fresh** on the heels of celebrating the 100th anniversary of its founding by oil tycoon Henry Flagler, Palm Beach has a new energy that's fast transforming its image as Miami's staid neighbour to the north. Its lush beauty, classic architecture and small-town character combined with a burgeoning cultural scene, influx of innovative new chefs and ever-evolving shopping district, makes Palm Beach, Florida even more welcoming than ever. Here's what's to discover in the new Palm Beach.

### History

To best understand Palm Beach's evolution, you need to first understand its past. The legacy of America's Gilded Age, the era between 1890 and 1925 characterized by unprecedented commerce, culture and wealth, is on fine display at Whitehall, the former estate of industrialist Henry Morrison Flagler. Now the Flagler Museum, this 55-room mansion, built in a Beaux-Arts style with massive Doric columns evoking the temple of Apollo, boasts a sumptuous interior in period styles from Italian Renaissance to Louis XIV. It's easy to imagine the Vanderbilts, Astors, Whitneys, and other affluent members of early Palm Beach high society mingling within the opulent Great Hall of gleaming marble.

Now a National Historic Monument, Whitehall has been newly renovated and features elevator access and the Café des Beaux-Arts, where visitors can enjoy an elegant Gilded Age Afternoon Tea in a railway conservatory room overlooking Lake Worth. The innovative Flagler Museum Music Series offers concerts throughout the winter with an exciting line-up of acclaimed classical and chamber music.





PHOTO: MICHELE PETERSON

*A bicycle tour is a prime way to see the sights.*

### Outdoor bounty

Another legacy of the Gilded Age is the Palm Beach Lake Trail, a wide paved path restricted to pedestrians, skaters and cyclists. The trail was originally built by Henry Flagler in 1894 for hotel guests. Now, it offers a safe pathway with beautiful views of the Intercoastal Waterway, West Palm Beach, and the mansions of Palm Beach. Rent a bike and pedal the scenic route or take a short stroll to soak up the natural beauty.

Or do some modern celebrity spotting by peering into the gates of mansions owned by the Trumps, radio personality Rush Limbaugh, Rod Stewart and other superstars. Also don't forget to relax in the tranquility of Pan's Garden, a botanical garden oasis filled with more than 300 native Florida plant species, created on an abandoned parking lot.

A major Palm Beach attraction is its Atlantic Ocean shoreline with sandy public beaches ideal for beachcombing or strolling. Watch for the historical plaque near Worth Avenue marking the former site of the Palm Beach Pier. Erected in 1929, it served as a hub until damaged by hurricanes and removed in 1969. Now it's a popular spot for photo-ops.

You'll find even more active options north at John D. MacArthur State Park, a preserved eco-system of front barrier island



PHOTO: MICHELE PETERSON



where you can participate in a ranger-guided nature walk that includes birdwatching for pink roseate spoonbills, great blue heron, and ibis wading in the mudflats during low tide.

## Culinary diversions

If the fresh air and exercise gives you an appetite, the Leopard Lounge in the Chesterfield is an early evening institution with its Happy Hour, piano bar and people watching. A new go-to spot is HMF at The Breakers, a glamorous lounge that toasts classic Palm Beach culture with new twists on time-honored cocktails. Try a Railcar #91, a heady blend of Courvoisier VSOP, fresh lemon juice, local honey and orange foam. The drink is named after Flagler's oak-paneled private railway car.

While old school institutions like Charley's Crab and the Palm Beach Grill (try the kosher hot dog with a side of deviled eggs) continue to draw a loyal crowd, an infusion of inventive chefs is fast transforming Palm Beach's food scene.

The place to begin is on South County Road, where James Beard Award nominee Clay Conley (formerly of Azul

at Miami's Mandarin Oriental) heads up two hot spots. At Buccan, you'll find small-plate *pintxo* (the Basque equivalent to tapas), such as wood-fired barbecue quail and conch ceviche with mango. At Imoto, a sushi bar featuring fish from Tokyo's famous Tsukiji market, enjoy Asian-inspired dishes such as wagyu short ribs over kimchi fried rice.

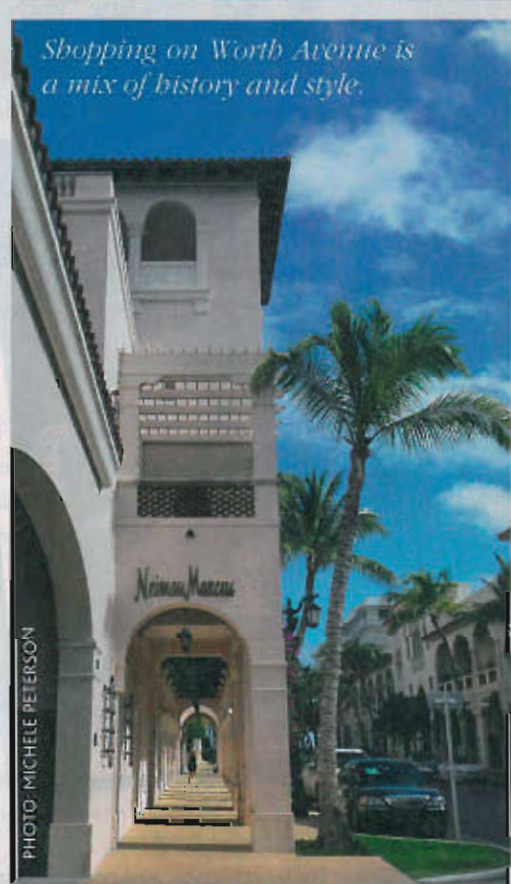
## Hotel scene

Also evolving is the hotel scene. Another Flagler legacy, The Breakers Resort just completed a 10-year, \$250 million USD revitalization program that retained its Italian-Renaissance ambiance, but included a redesign of all guest rooms and suites. Even if you don't overnight, it's worth visiting for its legendary Sunday brunch. A Palm Beach tradition for more than 25 years, the lavish buffet is held in the elegant Circle Dining Room, replete with a hand-painted dome ceiling, ocean views and couture-clad patrons.

Also timeless is the 80-room Brazilian Court, with its Mediterranean Revival architecture, mahogany woodwork and elegant courtyard. Located on a residential street, the

*Palm Beach is blessed with a vast coastline of sand dunes.*

*Shopping on Worth Avenue is a mix of history and style.*





*Café des Beaux-Arts is located in the airy Flagler Kenan Pavilion.*

PHOTO: MICHELE PETERSON



*Flagler Museum music concerts feature acclaimed international musicians.*

PHOTO: FLAGLER MUSEUM

