

Newsday



The city's nightlife choices are vast, including a visit to the Art Deco district of South Beach. ■ More photos: newsday.com/travel

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Special to Newsday

As the sun sets and the sound of the waves has you completely relaxed, Miami is ready to deliver a jolt of energy in a way you may not have imagined. The rule of mega nightclubs over Miami's nights are over. Smarter, creative options are rising for savvy visitors who want more out of their free time than speed cocktails and pounding electronic beats. Featured below are five options for a fun evening once you've rinsed the sand off and you're ready to explore Miami after dark.

After a day at the beach, the city offers plenty of nighttime fun beyond the mega club experience

EL TUCAN

Head off the beach to Miami's mainland for a throw-back old-style dinner and show. El Tucan, in the popular Brickell neighborhood, channels the glitz and glamour of Cuba's mid-century golden era, with crystal chandeliers, crushed velvet accents and lush tropical foliage. A resident Latin orchestra plays between live acts that perform traditional rumba and Latin fusion sounds twice a night.

The dinner menu created by chef Jean Paul Lourdes features Latin-inspired cuisine (Mexican street corn, suckling porchetta) and is served family style for \$85 a person, with innovative cocktails. After 12:30 a.m. the venue turns into a traditional nightclub, with a mix of DJ and live percussion beats. **WHEN | WHERE** Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m.-3 a.m. (ages 18 and younger admitted before 11 p.m., dinner seatings at 8 and 11 p.m.; 1111 SW 1st Ave., Miami

INFO General admission \$10, 305-535-0065, eltucanmiami.com

SOUNDSCAPE WALLCAST

Looking for something culturally enriching after all those margaritas on the beach? On select Saturdays from November to May, the New World Center broadcasts its New World Symphony performances on a 7,000-square-foot projection wall at Miami

Beach's SoundScape theater. The orchestra, directed by Michael Tilson Thomas, plays classics such as Handel's Water Music and Brahms Symphony No. 1. The event is free to the public and does not require a ticket. Bring a blanket, some food and a bottle of wine, and enjoy a full concert under the stars. Most shows begin at 7:30 p.m.; arrive at least half an hour early to secure a prime viewing location. SoundScape also broadcasts movies every Wednesday at 8 p.m. from October through May, rain or shine. Among the movies on the schedule this season are recent releases such

See MIAMI on C18



Check out Wallcasts on a 7,000-square-foot projection wall at Miami Beach's New World Center. The orchestra plays classics, all for free.

Miami under moonlight



There's a "secret" nightclub inside Bodega, accessible through a faux port-a-potty door. And did we mention Bodega's tacos?

MIAMI from C17

as "Jurassic World" and "Minions" and modern classics such as "Forrest Gump."

WHEN | WHERE Symphony Wallcasts on Dec. 12, Dec. 19, Jan. 30 and Feb. 20 at 7:30 p.m. and April 1, April 9, April 23 and May 7 at 8 p.m. Movie Wallcasts every Wednesday at 8 p.m. through the end of May. 500 17th St., Miami Beach. **INFO** Free, 305-673-3330, nws.edu

IZZY'S FISH & OYSTER

Named after executive chef Jamie DeRosa's daughter Isabella, Izzy's pays tribute to summers growing up on the shores of New England with a laid-back 40-seat dining room with gray stone-tiled floors, re-



The Basement has a 2,000-square-foot ice skating rink, four-lane bowling alley and bar with everything from craft cocktails to beer.

claimed wood ceilings and a 15-seat gleaming white marble raw bar. Just two blocks from the sands of Miami Beach, you could easily make this your first stop post-sundown and enjoy traditional New England fare

along with whimsical interpretations such as golden potato gnocchi with oysters, American caviar and fresh herbs. Or just go big with the bay hopper, a shareable shellfish platter that provides oysters, clams, mus-

sels and shrimp (four of each) with blue crab salad and a half lobster (\$55). At 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays only, guests can join bartender Maxwell Parise for a nightcap. He offers off-menu late-night happy-hour specials, including his famed shucking hot oyster shooters and signature Izzy's Fizzy to pair with select late-night bites and half-off oysters. If you are with a big group, go off-menu again for a punch bowl serving 17 that must be ordered by name — One Leg at a Time. It includes fresh lime juice, Himalayan salt syrup, cabernet, apples, blackberries, a full bottle of tequila and a house-made cinnamon cream drizzle (\$96).

WHEN | WHERE Dinner daily, 6-11 p.m., brunch on Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. 423 Washington Ave., Miami Beach

INFO Entrees \$17-\$28, 305-397-8843, izzysmiami.com

BODEGA TAQUERIA Y TEQUILA

Craving tacos with a side of nightlife? Look no further than Bodega, known for its tasty tacos and its "secret" nightclub with a full bar, two-level lounge and plenty of thumping beats. The front of the house includes a kitchen inside an Airstream trailer adorned with Day of the Dead skulls. Tacos are sold individually but just one won't do. Among the most popular are Texas pulled-pork with charred onions, fried jalapeños and sweet hickory barbecue sauce, and shrimp po'boy with small, lightly breaded crustaceans and Sriracha rémoulade.

The nightclub is accessible through a faux port-a-potty door and is four times the size of the dining room.

A line for the club usually forms by 11 p.m., but if you arrive between 8 and 9 p.m. you can order your food and eat it in the club. Plenty of specialty tequila shots and cocktails highlight the bar scene.

WHEN | WHERE Open daily noon to 5 a.m.; happy hour 6-8 p.m., 1220 16th St., Miami Beach

INFO Tacos \$7-\$11, 305-704-2145, bodegasouthbeach.com



Just blocks from the beach, Izzy's Fish & Oyster offers a gleaming raw bar.

ICE SKATING AT THE BASEMENT

The Basement at the Edition Hotel is not your standard flashing lights / pounding music dance club. Situated on the ground level of the hotel, The Basement boasts a 2,000-square-foot ice-skating rink and four-lane bowling alley with a bar that serves everything from craft cocktails to Pabst Blue Ribbon beer.

Complete with its own DJ-driven soundtrack, the bowling alley is engulfed in a rainbow of neon lights, and the ice skating rink features a mini-Zamboni that cleans up the skating surface every hour. Windows between the rink and the lanes allow for plenty of viewing in either direction. Best of all, you can go ice skating or bowling well before the traditional 11 p.m. start of the nightclub scene, so if you eventually feel like heading over to the dance club side, there won't be any velvet ropes or bouncers to contend with.

WHEN|WHERE Bowl Sunday-Thursday, 5 p.m.-2 a.m., Fridays and Saturdays, 5 p.m.-5 a.m.; ice skate daily 5 p.m.-midnight.; nightclub Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 11 p.m.-5 a.m.; 2901 Collins Ave., Miami Beach

INFO Skate rentals \$25 an hour; lane rentals \$50 an hour for 4; 786-257-4548; nwsdy.li/editionhotel