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CHECK IN, CHECK OUT

## **Miami Beach: The Angler's Boutique Resort**

By **STUART EMMRICH**

### THE BASICS

This complex of four modest-size buildings — two dating from the 1930s — is a surprising bit of elegance on an otherwise uninviting strip of lower Washington Street. It feels almost like a throwback to the South Beach revival of two decades ago, when picturesque Art Deco hotels along Ocean Drive, like the Park Central and the Colony, were being rescued from the wrecking ball and starting to attract New Yorkers down for a quick weekend break in the sun. Certainly, there is little of the over-the-top flash of the sleek behemoths (the Shore Club, the Setai, etc.) now colonizing the upper reaches of Collins Avenue. But the [Angler's](#), which began accepting guests this summer, feels as if it might be poised to bring some of that heat back downtown.

### THE LOCATION

The Angler's is not a place for water enthusiasts. The beach is a two-block walk away (though the hotel does provide a nifty black-mesh beach bag containing towels and a bottle of cold water) and the hotel's pool isn't a great alternative to the Atlantic. The smallish pool, with limited sun and just six chaise longues, is perhaps more appropriate as a gathering place for a few friends who want a quick dip and a cocktail or two than as a featured amenity for a hotel with 31 (soon to be 49) guest rooms.

### THE ROOMS

Even the smallest rooms — all designed in soothing earth tones and featuring amenities like iPod docking stations — are surprisingly spacious, with many including private balconies. The custom-crafted (and quite comfortable) king-size beds are from the interior designer J. Wallace Tutt, best known for his work on the Versace mansion on Ocean Drive.

### THE BATHROOMS

Spacious, with white marble floors. The roomy shower is supplied with Aveda bath products, and any towels used during the day are quickly replaced during turn-down service.

### AMENITIES

As of late December, the hotel's health club was still under construction, but guests are offered passes to a nearby gym. In-room [spa](#) services are offered, including a deep-tissue massage (\$180 for 80 minutes) and a "lemon sugar" hot stone massage (\$190). Maison d'Azur, the hotel's elegant French restaurant, is already attracting a buzzy clientele with a menu featuring dishes like lobster bouillabaisse (\$42) and steak frites (\$36). and a D.J. playing everything from

[Diana Ross](#) to [Kanye West](#). And the place definitely catches the SoBe

spirit late at night. On a recent evening, well past midnight, a group of patrons had turned part of the dining room into an impromptu dance floor. They were certainly having fun — more so, perhaps, than the guests who the next morning could be heard complaining about hearing the [music](#) in their room as they tried to sleep.

#### THE BOTTOM LINE

The Angler's combines the best of the new and the old South Beach — retaining the laid-back vibe that characterized the town in the early '80s while upping the ante with state-of-the-art amenities and superb service from a staff that is both attractive and competent. (“Now, that could be a South Beach first,” said a friend who has suffered through too many bungled check-ins with runway-worthy desk clerks who can't seem to use a computer or a credit card machine.) Rooms start at \$250 a night (plus 13 percent tax) for a king room, and can go up to \$900 or more for a duplex “villa” with direct access to the pool.

The Angler's Boutique Resort, 660 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach; (305) 534-9600;  
[www.theanglersresort.com](http://www.theanglersresort.com).

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