

US

My

MIAMI

CONTENT CREATOR, WRITER AND PHOTOGRAPHER, SHARON VAN TIENHOVEN MOVED TO MIAMI IN 2017 AND NOW LIVES IN CORAL GABLES, A SMALL CITY SOUTHWEST OF DOWNTOWN MIAMI, WITH HER HUSBAND AND THREE SONS. @MINIANDMEBYSHARON



What do you love about Miami? It's a melting pot of different cultures, with a majority from Latin American countries and each neighbourhood comes with its own vibe. South Beach ❶, has a beachy, sporty feel and the most tourists; Wynwood is an urban and creative area with lots of street art, food and shops; Brickell is the financial centre, with luxury condos, shopping, rooftop bars and restaurants; and Miami Design District is the place to go to for luxury shopping, great architecture and high-end dining.

What about historic parts? Calle Ocho, which is better known as Little Havana ❷ and originated in 1978 to bring the Hispanic community together, is known for great Cuban and Latin American restaurants, playing dominos in the park and salsa dancing. We live in Coral Gables, nicknamed 'The City Beautiful', which was incorporated as a city back in 1925. It's more residential but

also known for its superb dining, history and world-famous Biltmore hotel. Buena Vista is a cool spot south of Little Haiti that's a bohemian retail sanctuary of artisanal makers and small local businesses.

And the (street) art scene? Wynwood is perfect to enjoy street art outdoors at the Wynwood Walls ❸. There's also a small indoor graffiti museum (276 NW 26th St). Pérez Art Museum Miami (1103 Biscayne Blvd) is a modern and contemporary art museum with a great view of the water. Miami Design District has the Institute of Contemporary Art Miami (61 NE 41st St) and also runs free art tours every other Saturday.

Recommended places to eat? Zak the Baker (295 NW 26th St) in Wynwood may well be the best bakery in town with amazing pastries, coffee and breakfast and lunch menus. La Natural

(7289 NW 2nd Ave) in The Little River area has the best pizzas, natural wines and rotating small plates that mostly consist of seasonal vegetables. For an informal Mexican fresh farm-to-table experience, try the Michelin-starred Los Félix (3413 Main Hwy) in Coconut Grove. Upstairs, is Krüs Kitchen ❹ with a seasonal kitchen supporting local farmers and vendors. They also have a small market and wine store.

And the nightlife? With all its Latin influences, Miami is buzzing at night. Tigre (620 NE 78th St) is a laid-back place at the Miami riverside, with great crafted cocktails and small Argentinian plates. The best rooftop bar, with an amazing view of the city, is the EAST Miami hotel's Sugar (788 Brickell Plaza). Ball & Chain (1513 SW 8th St) and cocktail bar Cafe La Trova (971 SW 8th St) are great for experiencing the Latin American culture, with live music and salsa dancing.

Best hotels in the city? Esmé Miami Beach Hotel ❺ (1438 Washington Ave) is a boutique hotel with an amazing interior design. It feels like a mini village with small restaurants, outdoor alleys and a rooftop pool. Located close to Wynwood and Miami Design District is The Vagabond Hotel Miami (7301 Biscayne Blvd). It has a cool, creative interior, a pool area and delicious food at the Mr. Mandolin restaurant. And Mr. C Coconut Grove (2988 McFarlane Rd) has a superb view of Biscayne Bay and the Coconut Grove Skyline.

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Esmé Miami Beach Hotel ❺



Little Havana ❷



Wynwood Walls ❸



Lifeguard station at Miami South Beach



Krüs Kitchen ❹



Miami South Beach Area ❶