



February 1, 2010

IF YOU GO TO SOUTH FLORIDA

More on where to eat:

Zagat's top rated restaurants in the Miami area are, in order: Palme d'Or, Romeo's Café, Pascal's on Ponce, Michy's, La Brochette Bistro, Nobu Miami Beach, Hy-Vong, OLA, Matsuri, Joe's Stone Crab, Azul, Il Gabbiano, Francesco, Osteria del Teatro, Aura, Prime 112, Micheal's Genuine Food & Drink and Spiga.

On a tighter budget:

Garcia's Seafood Grille & Fish Market, a no-frills place at 398 N.W. North River Drive in Miami (305.375.0765), at the mouth of the Miami River, has had its own fleet of fishing boats for 40 years. It's open 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. weekdays, to 4:30 p.m. Sundays.

Tobacco Road, Miami's oldest bar at 626 S. Miami Ave. (305.374.1198), is a favorite of humorist Dave Barry, who recommends its cheeseburgers and beer late at night. Also live music.

Tips:

- The Black Eyed Peas are performing at 8 p.m. Saturday at the American Airlines Arena. Tickets are almost sold out, but keep checking www.aaarena.com.
- For a look at downtown's lights, Miami River and Biscayne Bay, check out the rooftop bar at the new **Epic Hotel**, 270 Biscayne Blvd.
- The **Delano** and other chichi hotels on South Beach don't let visitors casually wander inside; tell them you're going to the bar for a drink. Check the names of the bars first on your iPhone.
- Park your car and explore Downtown Miami on the free Metromover, which has 20 stops; **download the free DWNTWN City Guide and Map**.

Essential Web sites:

Nola.com - For the New Orleans' outlook

Find the five parties you can attend without being on a VIP list and other useful info at this **Miami Herald site**, which plans to include places to find New Orleans food. **Miami.com** has lots more tourist information.

southfloridasuperbowl.com -- Site of the host committee, with a Super Bowl Visitors and Events guide, visitor information, stadium traffic and other details (kickoff about 6:28 p.m. Feb. 7 -- so you have the whole day to play)

sun-sentinel.com/superbowl - The Fort Lauderdale newspaper's coverage.

Miamiandbeaches.com, 800/933-8448 (the Greater Miami Convention & Visitor Center)

Sunny.org, 800-22-SUNNY (Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitor Center).

If you're broke and still are going without a place to stay, maybe you can find a friendly sofa at **Couchsurfing.org** or **Placestostay.net**. The truly desperate can look at **Sleepinginairports.com** (The Miami and Fort Lauderdale airports both are included).