

GOTHAM

Miami Nabes New Yorkers Will Love

BY ERIN RILEY

We've searched Miami's most upscale neighborhoods to bring you properties and places New Yorkers will love.

MID-BEACH/BAL HARBOUR

Terraces at Faena House.



Baz Luhrmann spent decades directing movies like *Moulin Rouge!* and the remake of *The Great Gatsby*, films that attracted as much attention for their astonishing design and dramatic visual effects as for the dramas themselves. His latest project? Providing a backdrop for the daily drama of the lives of some of Miami's wealthiest residents as the creative director of the [Faena Saxony Hotel](#) (3201 Collins Ave.), an anchor of the six-block-long multi-use project (including luxury condos) at the heart of Miami's Mid-Beach area. Luhrmann is just one of the star architects and designers that developer Alan Faena has enlisted to work on the multi-use project; others include Rem Koolhaas (the architect for the arts center) and Foster & Partners, which will design the ultra-luxury condos that the likes of Goldman Sachs honcho Lloyd Blankfein will call home.

Spanning Collins Avenue and stretching between 25th and 50th Streets, the Mid-Beach area is emerging as the luxury beachfront neighborhood of choice for many out-of-towners in downtown Miami. "Buyers coming from New York really want to be on the sand, and they particularly like these developments that have a hotel component," says Jeffrey Fields, who has been working extensively with New York-based buyers. "They like the brands, they like the five-star ratings, and they like being taken care of in a full-service building—just as if their home had suddenly become a five-star hotel." These buyers, eager for the intoxicating combination of luxury and the beach, "are transforming the area," he says of Bal Harbour and its neighboring communities, where more such luxury condo developments are springing up.



Japanese eatery Makoto attracts Sofia Vergara and other celebs.

Who's there: While some of Miami's richest reside in the nearby Indian Creek Island (home to New York billionaire Edward Lampert and Victoria's Secret model Adriana Lima), enclaves from Bal Harbour to Mid-Beach are home to power locals like Miami Heat owner Micky Arison.

Where to hang out: What better to attest to the popularity of Mid-Beach (between 23rd and 63rd Streets) than its spate of new hotels and restaurants. The trendy Miami Beach Edition (2901 Collins Ave., 786-257-4500) marks hotelier Ian Schrager's return to Miami. At the Thompson Miami Beach (4041 Collins Ave., 786-605-4041) award-winning chef Michelle Bernstein opened Seagrape to rave reviews. It quickly became a power-crowd favorite. At Bal Harbour Shops, Cindy Crawford and Sofia Vergara are fans of the upscale Japanese eatery Makoto (9700 Collins Ave., 305-864-8600), known for its robata-style dishes.

Sunset drinks: At Mid-Beach, the newly opened patio bar 27 at Freehand Miami (2727 Indian Creek Dr., 305-531-2727), designed by power duo Roman & Williams, is quickly becoming a must-stop spot for weekend drinks.

Where to shop: Miami's luxury shopping mecca Bal Harbour Shops (9700 Collins Ave., 305-866-0311) is adding 250,000 square feet in 2015 to accommodate the lengthy waiting list of luxury brands, with Richard Mille and Tomas Maier set to debut this summer.

Culture: The public art program Unscripted Art Projects commissions a series of site-responsive contemporary art pieces and programs throughout the public areas of Bal Harbour Village.

Read more at <http://gotham-magazine.com/personalities/articles/miami-hottest-neighborhoods-and-properties#0i2Q6IBkdj7bjXoi.99>