

TRAVELOGUE

MIAMI VICE?...MIAMI NICE!

By Barbara McGovern

For many years Miami had a bad reputation, much of it deserved. People saw Miami as a town full of criminals, drugs and decay. These perceptions came from shows like Miami Vice; CSI Miami and Surfside 6 and they had big impact on the view that the world had of Miami. Of course not all the misconceptions were wrong. Times, they have been changing, in a big way. Now Miami is now a city that encourages people to dream. This is a tropical paradise that accepts it's dubious past, enjoys its present and looks to it's future. It is a multi-cultural city that embraces it's heritage and is inspired by it.



Miami is a city that throbs with life. Some of the most interesting architecture in the county can be found right here. Everything from Art Deco, Mediterranean Revival and MiMo masterpieces are here. You can spend days or even weeks just absorbing the unique styles of it buildings. Visit the distant cultural districts of the city, from Little Haiti, Coconut Grove, Coral Gables, Downtown and Little Havana. Perhaps the most historic district is Downtown, with everything from a large Tequesta Indian village from 2000 years ago, Spanish Missions, slave plantations and forts, to Henry Fagler's Royal Palm Hotel.



The overriding flavor of Miami is Latin. Little Havana, Calle Ocho Street, is the most famous Latin area. Art galleries, museums, cigar factories and parks fill the area. Visit Domino Park or stop in one of the many restaurants where you can get Cuban sandwiches, seafood from Spain or food from every country in Latin America. Your stomach will love you. Sip a Cuban coffee, the aroma of which is

everywhere, and enjoy the pervasive exotic music. The traditions of the people of Miami are well preserved. From the struggles of their native lands, they have take everything that has gone before them and they forged a new life. This is what makes Miami such an amazing city. It is inspired by it's past and eagerly looks forward to it's future.

Don't forget that Miami has a few other things going for it other than it's great location — wonderful people and food (try the Grouper Sandwiches and Stone Crabs). From the beauty of Everglades National Park to the spectacular beaches, to the other National Park, Biscayne, with it's spectacular living coral reef, there is something for every one. From the serenity of nature to the wild and crazy scene of South Beach, you can't go wrong with a trip to Miami.

For more information on Miami Beach, visit www.miamiandbeaches.com

