

# Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood

## A Super Vacation Destination

By Melissa Wolcott and Al Martino



Photos courtesy of Seminole Hard Rock

We recently traveled to Ft. Lauderdale to see the King Tut exhibit (see page 23) at the Ft. Lauderdale Museum of Art. We decided to stay at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel/Casino in Hollywood since it was close by. We were quite amazed by the wonderful complex they have — much larger and more amenities than the Tampa location. It opened shortly after the Tampa Hard Rock, so is also quite new.

The 86-acre resort features a 130,000-square-foot casino (open 24 hours a day), a lush 4-acre lagoon tropical pool area with a theme-park-style water slide, and authentic Seminole Chickee poolside cabanas complete with TVs and refrigerators. In addition, the resort has a European-style spa and fitness center, and the Seminole Paradise shopping/entertainment complex.

In keeping with South Florida chic, the guest rooms and suites reflect a contemporary yet comfortable style. They have pillow top bedding and twice daily maid service. Plus, with the business traveler in mind (they have a large convention business) there is a business center/desk.

The full service Contour Spa in the complex is all about personal attention and relaxation — from holistic body treatments to makeovers, it's all available.

Having several restaurants within the hotel/casino provides guests with nice variety of dining choices. Of course one of them is a large Hard Rock Cafe. We particularly enjoyed fine dining in the lovely wood paneled Council Oaks Restaurant, and can honestly say we had one of the best wait staff experiences we've ever had. They couldn't have been more friendly, helpful and accommodating. We must mention them by name: Assistant Manager Rod Thorogood, and wait staff Greg Fallon and Lewis Lees. They treated us like "whales" (Vegas-speak for high-rollers) even though we are actually more minnow-ish. However we ate like whales as we feasted on delicacies such as lobster bisque, Maryland crab cakes, and prime beef.

The Hard Rock casino features poker tables, and favorite familiar slot machines.

Just outside the door from the casino is Seminole Paradise, an entertainment district with 25 trendy retail shops, 12 more restaurants and 10 entertainment venues. It's set up with curving streets and lush tropical landscaping along a 12-acre lake. Hard Rock Live features diverse entertainment, and a few upcoming acts include the Steve Miller Band on 2/13-14, Kid Rock on 2/16, and The Moody Blues on 2/22, a championship boxing match on 2/24, Dennis Miller on 3/09, and Regis Philbin with Susan Lucci on 3/16.

On the property is also the Seminole Okalee Indian Village and museum, which shows the history, the life and the works of the Seminole Indians. There are even deep-water alligator wrestling and snake shows in their 750-seat amphitheater.

We went there just for a place to stay while we visited Ft. Lauderdale, and came away having found a great new getaway destination — you never have to leave the complex to have it all!

For more information, call 800-937-0010 or visit [www.seminolehardrock.com](http://www.seminolehardrock.com).

