

< PLACES TO STAY

The Catalina

1720-1756 Collins Avenue, Miami, FL 33139, | [United States Of America](#) ◆◆◆

From **£100** per room per night

By Rowena Carr-Allinson | Posted: Tuesday 08 November 2011

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If you're watching your pennies but still want a [place to stay](#) in the heart of South Beach's Art Deco district, on Collins Avenue, **The Catalina** is the perfect place. Balancing budget with bling, it has a groovy, party atmosphere and doesn't skimp on too many of the necessary frills.

From the teeny tiny 'It's a Small World' to extra-large format 'El Grande' types, all the rooms come with Tempur-Pedic Swedish Mattresses, lovely goose down duvets and all-white décor with a splash of rock 'n' roll red. It's worth choosing your room carefully, though: the 'B' rooms are quiet (and recommended for business travellers), while the 'South Beach Rockstar' is on the noisy end (and aimed squarely at party-goers). Here, though, the downside of decibels is neatly counterbalanced by a complimentary bottle of vodka.

The Catalina has a couple of decent eating options: Maxine's Bistrot or the hip Kung Fu Sushi, which both come with fabulous terraces for al fresco dining. For a pre-dinner drink, you can hang out at the Red Bar and make the most of the free happy hour cocktails every night. Other freebies worth mentioning include the free airport shuttle, 'first come first served' free red cruiser bikes (ideal for exploring the neighbourhood), and the beach loungers on Miami's famous white beach.

And if you prefer to hide yourself away at the hotel and soak up the rays, there are two pools to choose from: the very sleek rooftop pool with its gorgeous exotic wood and white décor and its private cabanas or the Bamboo Pool, a private tropical oasis surrounded by tall, lush bamboo trees.

What's hot?

- The party-hearty vibe

- The friendly staff



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- The party-hearty vibe

- The friendly staff

- The funky rooms

What's not?

- The noise levels at night

Need to Know: The Catalina

Number of rooms: 192

Check-in/check-out times: 3pm and 11am

Room service: Yes

Swimming pool: Yes

Spa: No. But there is an in-house masseuse

Dogs welcome: Yes – as long as they're 10lbs or under

Eating and drinking: For Chinese, Thai, Japanese and Sushi there's Kung Fu Sushi with its pop art-inspired décor and beautiful outdoor terrace. For more classic tastes, Maxine's Bistrot & Bar serves up everything from burgers to crispy squid, and Challah bread French toast. For breakfast, the lounge-style Red Bar is all about coffee, bagels and croissants as well as Starbucks coffee, and at night it serves cocktails, too.

Near to? The beach, the shopping on Lincoln and the hip hotel bars like the Delano, The Shore Club and The Sagamore

Getting there: The complimentary airport shuttle takes you from Miami International Airport to the hotel (approx 11 miles/17 km) in about 20 minutes

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Best room: An 'El Grande' room in the hotel's Dorset building. Their largest rooms, the 280-square foot hideaways come with a king-size bed, queen-size pull-out sofa, desk, plasma TV, a coffee maker, cordless phone, daily newspaper delivery and turndown service.

Best dish: It has to be the Kung Fu Crunch roll at The Catalina's Kung Fu Sushi

Fashion/design credentials: The hotel's signature, sleek all-white look was put together by owner Alan



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