

Miami/South Florida Venues

By JANA SCHIOWITZ

A Grand Space in Coconut Grove

Originally constructed in 2003, the **Cruz Building** in Coconut Grove recently underwent some renovation work to its interior. The facade resembles a French row house, with natural keystone and travertine columns, iron balconies, authentic gas-flame lanterns, and Gothic stone sculptures. The 10,000-square-foot venue has three floors with indoor and outdoor areas. On the ground floor, the grand staircase courtyard is adjacent to the English Bar room, which has a 40-foot-long bar and can accommodate 150 to 275 guests. After ascending the grand staircase from the courtyard, guests reach the royal mezzanine, which has a terrace for cocktail parties. The Cruz Ballroom on the third level can accommodate about 275 seated guests and has an adjacent alfresco area for extra entertaining space. (3157 Commodore Plaza, Coconut Grove, 305.508.9500)



A Cultural Center

The **Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center** opened in October after five years of construction. The \$53 million center in Cutler Bay is made up of two buildings designed by local firm Arquitectonica. This new center has a 966-seat main stage theater, activities building with a lab theater, dance rehearsal studio, and room for a future cafe. A vast outdoor space that links the two buildings can accommodate more than 700 for events like concerts and festivals. (10950 SW 211 St., Cutler Bay, 786.573.5316)

An Ocean Drive Boutique Hotel



Spanish hotel chain Room Mate Hotels, which already has 14 properties in its portfolio, now includes Miami boutique hotel the **Room Mate Waldorf Towers**. On Ocean Drive, surrounded by cafes, shops, and nightclubs in the renovated Waldorf Towers, the South Florida property opened in September and is the chain's second

in the United States. The 44 designer rooms have high-end bed linens, a private, spa-like bath, and amenities for business travelers like free Wi-Fi and room service. (860 Ocean Drive, Miami, 786.439.1600)

An Upscale Seaside Shack

Chef Andrew Carmellini opened the **Dutch**—an American restaurant, bar, and oyster room inspired by country inns, corner taverns, seaside shacks, and roadside joints—at the W South Beach in November after much success at its New York location. The 170-seat restaurant features indoor and outdoor space, a 14-seat private dining area with a floor-to-ceiling wine wall, and salads, sandwiches, snacks, and desserts on the root-inspired menu. The Dutch's patio has large, suspended lighting and greenery that runs up the walls. Vintage maps, books, model boats, and Florida memorabilia decorate the white brick walls in the main dining room. (2201 Collins Ave., Miami, 305.938.3111)



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