

# ADVENTURA™

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SHE'S GOT THE WORLD ON A STRING

Time  
to Party

TIPS & TRICKS FOR  
YOUR HOLIDAY  
FESTIVITIES

Dress  
Up!

IT'S FINALLY  
THE SEASON

Up  
Close  
and  
Personal

THE BEST IN  
BEAUTY

# HOLIDAY SWINGIN'

OUR MASSIVE HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE IS BACK



ART AT THE AIRPORT • THE NEW BMW 7-SERIES • AND MORE



the / zimmerman / agency

(continued)



# THREE WAYS TO PLAY

IF YOU CAN'T MANAGE THE TIME TO HOP A PLANE AND ESCAPE THIS SEASON, DON'T STRESS. WHETHER IT'S AROUND THE CORNER, OVER THE CAUSEWAY OR BEYOND THE 7-MILE BRIDGE, THERE'S A SPOT YOU CAN GET TO BY CAR THAT'S BOUND TO HELP YOU RELAX AND RESET BEFORE THE MADNESS OF THE HOLIDAYS SETS IN.

**E**ven a one-night staycation at the gloriously opulent yet comfortable Arquesiana Resort & Spa can wash away months' worth of stress and make you feel like a new person. From the moment you motor up the driveway lined with gleaming Rolls-Royces and are greeted by the valet to the moment you check in—they actually do seem happy to see you—and are graciously offered a bellini or chilled water to the time you (reluctantly, we're willing to bet) check out and head back to real life, the entire experience is fit for a royal. I'm gushing, you say? Maybe so, but not without reason. It's not that often that you

## OVER THE 7-MILE BRIDGE: The Gates Key West

# 3 Hours

Driving onto Roosevelt Boulevard in Key West from Miami, one would never expect to find a place like The Gates. At least, this seasoned Key West visitor wouldn't. The high-traffic thoroughfare is one I always think of as a means to an end on the far side of the island. But I have been enlightened. Once inside the front doors of this cool, contemporary, comfortable and casual spot, you'll forget the hectic nature of what's going on outside its front doors. The boutique hotel, once a Days Inn, is one of those places that actually does deserve to be described with the overused term "a gem" of a place. The design is decidedly modern in the rooms, with whitewashed beams and cypress platform beds and local art on the walls, which wrap around the lively pool and its accompanying bar. The hotel is unique in a number of ways: there's no restaurant on-site, but there is a gourmet food truck, The Blind Pig, which offers up delicious Cuban, Bahamian, Caribbean and Florida-inspired tapas designed by Chef Dave (formally, David Fuhrman, whose CV includes stints at Hot Tin Roof, A&B Lobster House and Conch Republic Seafood Company), along with sandwiches and burgers. Custom-designed blue-and-white bikes created just for The Gates' guests are available for tooling around town. And the only rum distillery in Key West, Legal Rum Distillery, has partnered with

THIS PAGE: Whitewashed woods and local art add charm to the rooms at The Gates (below), where a bedside tablet keeps guests informed about the weather and anything else they need to know. OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The famous Key West sunset behind The Gates; The Blind Pig food truck feeds hungry visitors from the hotel and nearby businesses; the pool is just steps from every guestroom.





the hotel, so their rum is featured in all of the rum-based drinks served at Rum Row, the hotel bar (and in the signature delicious welcome cocktail you're offered when you check in). If you enjoy a stogie, you can purchase the legendary Rodriguez Cigar Factory cigars at the hotel and enjoy them al fresco in The Rodriguez Cigar Garden just off the bar. On that note, whether you enjoy cigars or not, it's worth a visit to the Rodriguez Cigar Factory tucked away on Fitzpatrick Street in Key West, where you can watch the product being hand-rolled by several generations of the Rodriguez family and you may just end up sipping a cafecito and shooting the breeze for a couple of hours with the effervescent Danny Rodriguez. And that's not the worst way to while away an afternoon in one of the most laid-back cities in the world. 🍷

*The Gates Hotel, 3824 N. Roosevelt Blvd., Key West, 305.320.0930; gateshotelkeywest.com.*

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