

The Definitive Design Lover's Guide to Palm Beach

This storied South Florida destination is a mecca for shopping, dining, and playing in style.

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Glitzy, glamorous, preppy, and a little bit kitschy, Palm Beach is a land of luxury, known for its tropical vibe and old-world style. It's home to legendary resorts, historic landmarks, exquisite mansions, and upscale shopping, which attract people of all ages to its prim-and-proper shores.

Apart from its stunning beaches, sceney restaurants, and Rodeo Drive-esque shopping on Worth Avenue, Palm Beach has long been a social fixture for the who's who of America and have always attracted a stylish and wealthy crowd (there are more billionaires in Palm Beach than any other city in Florida). Palm Beach's notable residents include former president John F. Kennedy and Jackie O; designer Lilly Pulitzer (who dressed everyone from the Vanderbilts to Jackie O to British royals); makeup and skincare pioneer Estée Lauder, to name just a few. Its architectural significance and many of its landmarks are due to architect Addison Mizner, who transformed the city in the early 20th century with his Mediterranean Revival and Spanish Colonial Revival. His legacy lives

on in historic buildings like The Everglades Club, The Breakers, Via Mizner, the William Gray Warden House, and the Kennedy's Winter White House, La Querida.

Palm Beach is a beloved destination for snowbirds, particularly from the New York area, who come to enjoy the warm weather each winter. And while it has always been a stylish destination, in recent years, Palm Beach has welcomed new design-conscious hotels, five-star dining, and a new generation of artists.

We tapped Palm Beach's most iconic tastemakers and designers to curate the perfect guide to Palm Beach, including interior designer Carleton Varney, a veritable icon who has worked at Dorothy Draper (the oldest continually operating design firm in the country) for decades; designer and heiress Aerin Lauder; interior designer Jim Dove, who operates a showroom in the city; and local designer and entrepreneur, Amanda Lindroth.

Now's the time to flock to one of the most stylish cities in America, just in time to enjoy the sunny winter.

Where to Stay

Colony Palm Beach



COURTESY THE COLONY PALM BEACH

You (quite literally) can't miss Colony Palm Beach, a quintessential Palm Beach hotel with its pale pink facade and Wes Anderson-like charm just off Worth Avenue. The well-heeled crowd has been coming here since it opened in 1947, and the hotel is constantly reinventing itself. Lauder recently designed and curated the two-bedroom Villa Jasmine and transformed it into a contemporary villa with old-school glamour, featuring much of her decor items.

"I've always been a Colony Hotel gal through all of its iterations," Lindroth adds. "Its current glamorous moment is a tour de force." Dove praises current owners Andrew and Sarah Wetenhall for their thoughtful restoration.

"I send all of my style-conscious friends to the Colony," he says. "Jaw-dropping upgrades include DeGournay custom scenic

The Breakers



COURTESY THE BREAKERS

A historic Renaissance Revival-style hotel first built in 1896, The Breakers is synonymous with Palm Beach and Gilded Age luxury. Its art and architecture was inspired by Rome's Villa Medici and it's easy to see why dignitaries, celebrities, and notable figures have been coming here for a century, with its exquisite landscaping, glamorous interiors, and amenities. There are four pools, a sumptuous spa, and two championship golf courses.

"If you're coming to Palm Beach and you don't stay at The Breakers, you're not coming to Palm Beach," says Varney, who has led several redesigns of The Breakers over the years.

The Brazilian Court Hotel

Varney has also helped redesign this iconic hotel, which trades explosions of color for a more subdued and elegant Spanish Colonial aesthetic. This historic landmark is intimate with just 80 rooms, and has winding paths of lush, tropical courtyards and gardens throughout. Many come here for seclusion (or for Café Boulud).

White Elephant Palm Beach

Sister property to White Elephant Nantucket, this Palm Beach hotel is housed in the former Bradley Park Hotel, originally built in 1924. The hotel is recognizable by its black-and-white interiors, including its striped awnings and there's a major focus on art, from paintings to sculptures, which are inspired by the owner's personal art collection. White Elephant brings a funky, modern vibe to the city through its chic design and globally inspired Lola 41 restaurant.

Eau Palm Beach



COURTESY THE EAU PALM BEACH

Just steps from the Atlantic Ocean, Eau Palm Beach is a beachside resort that encourages relaxation. It's located just south of the bustling Palm Beach, making it the perfect beachy getaway. Its rooms are designed by Jonathan Adler and the Eau Spa is a true destination spa (it spans 42,000 square feet). It's also perfect for any design lover traveling with young kids or teens alike.

Four Seasons Resort Palm Beach

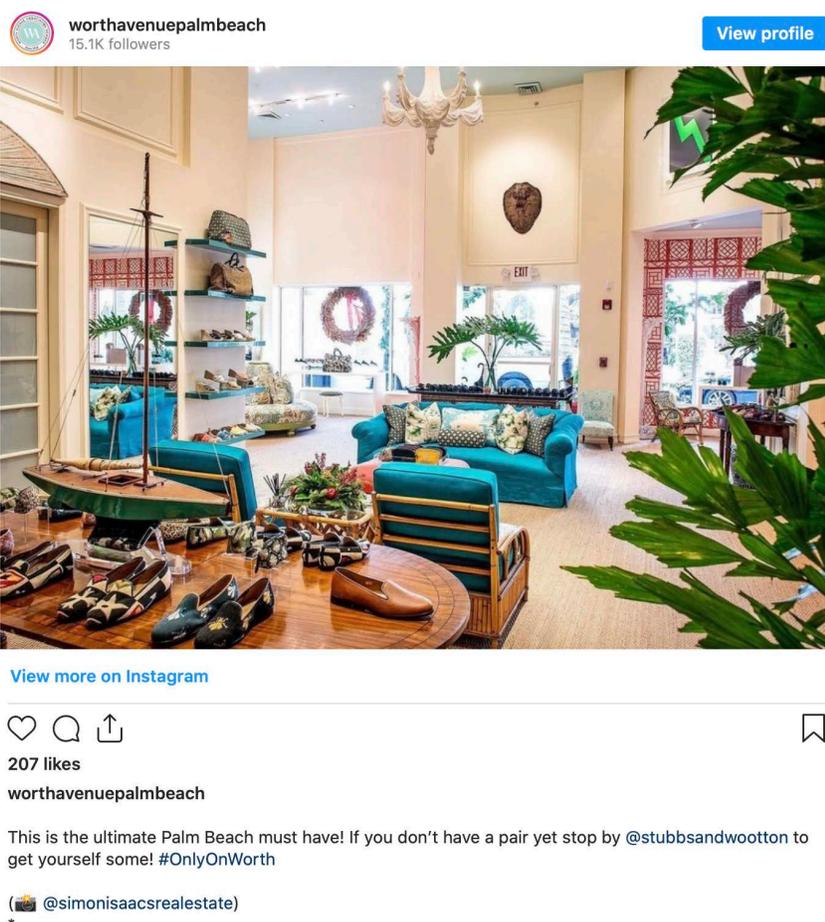
With breezy oceanside rooms, pastel hues, and an undeniably elegant atmosphere, Four Seasons Resort Palm Beach is where to come when you want the hotel brand's unparalleled five-star service. Apart from the spacious rooms, relaxing pools, and beachside service, the Four Seasons team can arrange just about any bespoke experience, from a polo picnic to private shopping.

Where to Shop

Worth Avenue

You simply can't visit Palm Beach without spending an afternoon on Worth Avenue, which has more than 200 shops and restaurants. Spanning four blocks, you'll find stores like Chanel, Gucci, Louis Vuitton, and Graff, as well as local boutiques, restaurants, bars, and more. There are also walking tours offered weekly, which takes you through the enchanting history of the area.

"No visit to Palm Beach is complete without a stroll down legendary Worth Avenue, Palm Beach's answer to Rodeo Drive," Dove says. "It's one luxury retailer after another, along with high-glam eateries such as Le Bilboquet, Bice and the most romantic restaurant in the world, Renato's."



Favored among designer Carolina Herrera, basketball player Carmelo Anthony, royals, and even the Pope, 29-year-old smoking slippers brand Stubbs & Wootton is a Palm Beach staple. The brand's slippers for men, women, and kids are handcrafted in Southern Spain and feature both chic monograms and cheeky motifs. For example, velvet slippers might feature a Scotch on one foot and a lit cigar on another, or even a skull and crossbones.

"Palm Beach is a deeply encoded society with its own particular manner of dress," Dove says. "For men, a navy blazer or a brightly colored cashmere sweater is de rigueur. But there is no single article of men's apparel that screams Palm Beach as much as a pair of velvet smoking slippers from Stubbs & Wootton. Embroidered with all kinds of witticisms and emblems, they are habit-forming. I've seen pictures of individual's closets with literally hundreds of pairs of these shoes. I'm not there yet, but close."

Antiques Row

There are few better places in the world to shop for antiques than Palm Beach, which has highways and streets lined with shops carrying items from Europe and Asia spanning centuries.

“For décor-aligned shopping, nothing beats Antiques Row, all along South Dixie Highway beginning south of Belvedere Avenue for about a mile or so,” Dove says, adding his studio can also be found along the highway.. “There is everything from high-end European antiques dealers to mid century modern specialists to consignment and thrift shops that are always fun to peruse.”

Varney recommends going to Patricia’s Gallery on Dixie Highway. “She is a classic, and she’s got the best eye of anybody in that business,” Varney says. He also recommends James & Jeffrey.

Kassatly’s

Family-owned store Kassatly's, nearly 98 years old, is one of the most famous fine linen stores in all of Palm Beach. The store carries fine linens, appliqued table pieces, placemats and napkins, cashmere items and so much more.

“I’d rather spend \$5,000 for sheets for my bed than buy a diamond ring,” Varney says. “And this is where you should go to buy fine linens.”

Il Papiro

Famed Florentine stationery maker Il Papiro’s last-remaining store is on Worth Avenue, and is the perfect spot to find unique handmade stationery, notebooks, and other handmade treasures. Fun prints and colorways make the store fit in nicely with Palm Beach’s specific style.

The Royal Poinciana Plaza

For a day of shopping, the newly developed Royal Poinciana Plaza has international designer boutiques, like Hermès, Asprey London, Cartier, Jimmy Choo, Kiton, and Oscar de la Renta, alongside restaurants, contemporary boutiques, bars, and galleries. The outdoor mall is fun to walk around and enjoy a drink soon after.

Casa Branca

Whether you’re looking for something for the home or simply want to see more of Palm Beach’s playful yet elegant interior design style, Casa Branca is a chic showroom where you can shop for wallpaper, fabrics, art, accessories, pillows, furniture, and so much more. The shop is the showroom of interior designer Alessandra Branca, who splits her time between Chicago and Palm Beach.

Mary Mahoney

A quintessential Palm Beach store filled with printed tableware, island-inspired glassware, and high-end brands like Lalique, Mary Mahoney is a must-see for any interior lover. Whether you're picking up a gift, a memento of Palm Beach, or something for your home, the shop is a perfectly curated selection that embodies the Palm Beach spirit of playful shapes and colors.



Where to Eat and Drink

Sant Ambroeus

Palm Beach has long attracted New York socialites and the city's jet-set crowd, so it only makes sense one of Manhattan's most-loved Italian restaurants would make its way to Palm Beach. Recognized for its signature coral hue, delectable pastas, Italian gelato, baked goods, and spritzes, Sant Ambroeus (located in Royal Poinciana Plaza) is the place to see and be seen. Lauder loves to come here for coffee and breakfast, while Dove recommends stopping by for a "pastry, gelato, afternoon espresso, or alfresco lunch," followed by an afternoon of shopping at the nearby luxury stores.

"Lunch at Sant Ambroeus is a little treat," Lindroth says. "I like to sit inside because the oh-so-Milanese interior is meticulously on brand. My daughter and I love to order the pasta because we love the way they swirl it on the plate with their beautiful, old-fashioned service."

Pizza Alfresco

Casual, simple, delicious, but make it chic (this is Palm Beach, after all). Pizza Alfresco is the Palm Beach-ified version of your neighborhood mainstay pizza place, with alfresco dining under towering palms and royal blue umbrellas. Lauder loves Pizza Alfresco for its "casual comfort food, where you can sit under the twinkling lights."

Tidy, light-wood tables, blue accents, and wonderful architecture set the scene for a positively delicious traditional pizza experience. You can never go wrong with the Tartufo Nero pizza, with shaved black truffles and truffle oil.

"The buzziest of all places is the fabulous Pizza Alfresco, tucked into a courtyard off Via Mizner," Dove says. "Fair warning: Stay away if you don't want to be seen."

Lindroth calls it one of the prettiest restaurants in America, adding that "Javier and his brilliant staff are my idea of wonderful."

Renato's



COURTESY OF RENATO'S PALM BEACH

Dove calls Renato's one of the most romantic restaurants in the world—and for good reason. Offering both indoor and outdoor dining, Renato's is just as much the place to come for high-quality Italian food (think: fresh seafood and innovative ingredients) as it is for the ambience. We recommend sitting outdoors under the pink bougainvillea, but the gold-tinged, romantic indoor ambience is just as special.

“They have an elegant, old-world patio that is always filled with the most stylish people,” Lauder says.

Café L'Europe

Wine lovers can't skip Café L'Europe, a Palm Beach mainstay of more than 38 years. Serving continental cuisine from France, Spain, and Italy with other global influences, the restaurant is favored among those in-the-know. There is an impressive 2,000 bottle wine list and more than 40 wines by the glass. It is one of Lauder's favorites.

Benny's on the Beach



COURTESY BENNY ON THE BEACH

For those craving a casual, beachside lunch, Varney recommends Benny's on the Beach. "It's a wharf restaurant, and the food is spectacular and the pier is beautiful," he says. They serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner and specialize in seafood for every type of vacationer, whether you're after something more elevated, like lobster, or classic, like fish and chips.

Trevini Restaurant

Fine Italian dining can be found at Trevini, whose chefs hail from Italy and specialize in cuisine from both northern and southern regions. Flavorful, but not too-rich pastas and dishes is what makes each dish a hit. "Trevini is a newer restaurant and many go for the five o'clock special," Varney says.

Green's Pharmacy

This luncheonette and pharmacy is like a step back in time. Founded in 1938, Green's Pharmacy has an 82-seat luncheonette as well as a working pharmacy.

"It's an old school classic that has been around forever and has the best fountain soda, vanilla milkshakes and grilled cheeses," Lauder says.

Flanigan's



COURTESY OF FLANIGAN'S

Dove calls Flanigan's the "best-kept secret" of Palm Beach. This "down and dirty sports bar," as he calls it, is the kind of place where everyone knows your name. The perfect bar to grab a drink or catch a game, Flanigan's not only attracts firemen, healthcare workers, and contractors, but also the upper-echelon crowd seen at the city's most exclusive private clubs.

"Sit at the bar at one of the wooden booths for a pile of loaded nachos the size of a Thanksgiving turkey," Dove says. "The drinks are big and cheap, the service is beyond friendly, and the vibe is as leave your blazer in the car."

Where to Explore

Society of the Four Arts

For a dose of art and culture, there's no better place to visit than the Society of the Four Arts, which feature programming like art exhibitions, speakers, films, concerts, and educational programs.

"It's a wonderful place to visit; they have a beautiful garden and inspiring exhibitions," Lauder says.

Palm Beach Yacht Club



COURTESY PALM BEACH YACHT CLUB

You might not make it in, but for the experienced Palm Beach goers, [Palm Beach Yacht Club](#) is an institution. The membership-based club attracts socialites, notable figures, and important people from across the globe.

“The best food in Palm Beach is at the Palm Beach Yacht Club,” Varney says.

International Polo Club Palm Beach

“If you don’t have a little polo in your life, you’re not coming to Palm Beach,” Varney says.

One of the premier polo destinations in the world is [International Polo Club Palm Beach](#), which welcomes global champions each year. The best time to watch polo is in the winter, when the polo season reigns, to watch epic championships between skilled players.

Flagler Museum



COURTESY FLAGLER MUSEUM

A Gilded Age estate turned museum, Flagler Museum was built by Henry Flagler in 1902 as a private home. It's a National Historic Landmark and open to the public for guided tours. This stunning property has been impeccably restored and preserved for future generations and provides a unique glimpse into life at the turn of the 20th century.

Palm Yachts

Charter a boat for the day via Palm Yachts, where you can cruise under the sun on fully restored 17-foot Boston Whalers with cabana-striped Bimini tops. Perfect for a picnic cruise, your captain can stop at the sand bars, island hop, or enjoy sunsets with family and friends. Bring a rum punch and five of your friends (there is a capacity of six) to enjoy a day on one of these chic boats.

Biking

Rent an electric bike and cruise around the city to see some of the area's most notable structures, including Villa Mizner, the architect's last home; Riverside Baptist Church, listed on the National Register of Historic Places; Villa dei Fiori, built by the Jell-O heir; and La Guerida, owned by the Kennedy family for more than six decades.