

ESCAPE



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: GALLEY PATIO; POOL DECK; INTERIOR OF GALLEY; STANDARD KING ROOM WITH A CITY VIEW.

STAYCATIONS

Center of Attention

Combining an ideal location with great amenities, the Hilton unleashes the best of West Palm Beach

By Mary Murray

If West Palm Beach is the gateway to the Palm Beaches, then the Hilton West Palm Beach is your key to it all. Since opening in 2016, the Hilton has gained a reputation as a hot spot for visitors and locals alike. Although connected to the Palm Beach County Convention Center via a convenient covered walkway, it breaks the “convention center hotel” mold through a commitment to welcoming public spaces, interiors and art inspired by the city’s coastal vibe, and a food and beverage program anchored by a stellar grill house.

Nestled in downtown West Palm Beach, the Hilton is within walking distance to many restaurants and activities, such as the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, the Rosemary Square retail and entertainment complex, and the city’s vibrant waterfront, which comes alive on Saturday mornings with a world-class green market. Nearby dining highlights include RH Rooftop, a chandelier-bedecked atrium with grand skyline views, and The Regional, chef Lindsay Autry’s love letter to Mediterranean cuisine infused with her Southern heritage. To explore it all and venture even farther, rent a complimentary bicycle at the Hilton’s front desk.

Back on property, one of the best ways to enjoy a lazy afternoon is at the hotel’s expansive pool deck. For the ultimate in chic social distancing, reserve a private cabana and indulge in a bottle of Champagne—or two—while you kick back in shaded comfort. Each cabana includes a television and access to a full menu of cocktails and bites. The pool itself is massive, making it easy to carve out your own splash section should you need a refresh.

The ultimate end to the perfect day at the Hilton is with dinner at Galley. Executive chef Guillermo Eleicegui channels his Argentinian upbringing into a menu that showcases inter-



national delicacies, the majority of which are prepared on a wood-burning grill or in a pizza oven. Start with some luscious roasted zucchini over harissa yogurt and pistachio dukkah or the shrimp *pintxo*, a grilled kabob of shrimp tossed in a sweet soy sauce. The mains range from mushroom and truffle pizza, to numerous steak and seafood options, to a braised Wagyu short rib served with truffle potato and salsa criolla. And, since you’re on vacation, you simply can’t skimp on dessert. An absolute must is the oven-baked cookie topped with sea salt, vanilla ice cream, and a divine caramel sauce.

Amid these uncertain times, the Hilton has done its part to uphold strict safety precautions. All guests are required to wear face masks in public spaces, and the Hilton brand has partnered with Lysol and the Mayo Clinic to establish new “CleanStay” procedures for cleanliness and disinfecting. These steps, combined with the hotel’s inherent cool factor, make for a carefree staycation you can feel good about. (hiltonwestpalmbeach.com) ◀

