



STAFF WRITER

WHERE TO EAT & DRINK

MIAMI BEACH

The ScapeGoat:

Nestled in Miami Beach's South of Fifth neighborhood, The ScapeGoat is an intimate bar known for its classic cocktails, inventive contemporary libations, and carefully curated selection of wine, beer and spirits. An Ariete Hospitality Group (AHG) concept, this edgy drinking den is the perfect destination for any occasion. The menu is divided into two sections: Shaken and Stirred. Under Shaken, imbibers can find an assortment of creative concoctions such as the Sherry Cobbler – Fino sherry, fresh orange, fresh lemon; and Paper Plane – bourbon, Aperol, Amaro Nonino, lemon. Drinks under Stirred take a more classic approach. Offerings include Rob Roy – scotch, Carpano Antica, bitters; Old Pal – rye, Campari, dry vermouth; and a variety of Negronis and Old Fashioneds. The distressed, stained mirrored ceiling, rustic wooden tabletops and leather stools exude a sense of sexy sophistication. Eclectic décor elements, globe-shaped light fixtures and textured, tiled walls complete the look. The ScapeGoat is located at 100 Collins Avenue CU4 on Miami Beach. Telephone: (786) 275-6488; www.scapegoatsofb.com

COCONUT GROVE + CORAL GABLES

Ariete:

Since opening in 2016, Chef Michael Beltran's beloved Coconut Grove restaurant Ariete has garnered rave reviews and collected an impressive handful of accolades. Ariete was recently honored by the Michelin Guide as one of the first restaurants in Florida to receive a star (one star) as well as being dubbed "Restaurant of the Year" by Eater Miami, crowned Miami New Times' "Best New Restaurant," a feature in Bon Appetit magazine and multiple nods from The New York Times. In 2020, the talented toque was named a semifinalist for "Best Chef: South" by The James Beard Foundation. The renowned neighborhood restaurant features a contemporary menu of New American cuisine with robust Cuban influences. Here, dishes are ever-evolving to reflect the constantly changing bounty of each season and the seemingly boundless energy of Beltran's creativity. Much like the fare, cocktails at Ariete are bold but elegant, each one meant to complement Beltran's dynamic cuisine. Located beneath the restaurant is The Cave; an intimate private dining area available for special occasions and private events. Ariete offers indoor and outdoor dining in the lush, foliage-lined patio. Beyond its acclaimed fare and progressive bar program, Ariete is well-known for its weekend brunch, the monthly chef's tasting series (Versos Sencillos) and Duck Press Experience. Ariete is located at 3540 Main Highway in Coconut Grove. Telephone: (954) 765-3030; www.arietecoconutgrove.com

Eva

The latest concept by Ariete Hospitality Group (AHG), opened October 2023 at CocoWalk, just steps from AHG's other Coconut Grove concepts. Eva offers a delicious taste of the Mediterranean through the unique culinary prism of chef/restaurateur Michael Beltran and executive Chef Ashley Mancada, as well as an exquisite wine list featuring over 40 selections from Greece, Lebanon, Palestine, Croatia, Slovenia, Spain and Italy. Sporting a soothing, sandy color palette studded with glamorous gold accents, Eva is rustic yet modern, a sprawling space encompassing 4,100-square-feet of indoor space alone. Nestled within Eva's space is The Oyster Bar which opened in September 2023 as an intimate experience, specializing in raw bar classics, delectable small plates, and thoughtfully curated libations to pair perfectly with the bounty of the sea. Eva and The Oyster Bar are located at 3015 Grand Avenue at CocoWalk in the heart of Coconut Grove. For more information on The Oyster Bar and Eva, visit www.evacoconutgrove.com

DOWNTOWN MIAMI

Brasserie Laurel:

The most recent restaurant addition to the acclaimed Ariete Hospitality Group (AHG) portfolio of food & beverage concepts, Brasserie Laurel is a contemporary brasserie imbued with the spirit of a classic French cookery as well as chef/owner Michael Beltran's extant culinary considerations and deft understanding of classic and contemporary techniques. Here, guests will discover an upscale take on a neighborhood French boite, a place as welcoming for raw bar and a glorious glass of wine or a sophisticated supper. Located at Miami Worldcenter in downtown Miami, Brasserie Laurel's opening both helped foment and signal a rediscovery of French cooking in Miami, a city that is currently considered the national epicenter of culinary cool. The menu consists of sweet and savory appetizers, delectable entrees, accompaniments and sublime desserts, all designed to deliver impressive flavors and a gourmet, gastronomic adventure. The bar program is as thoughtful and artfully considered as the menu. Five signature cocktails are currently on offer with flavor profiles carefully calibrated to stand alone at Happy Hour or enjoyed with food. Brasserie Laurel is located at 698 NE 1st Avenue, G170 at Miami Worldcenter at the base of Miami Worldcenter's Caoba residential tower along the development's 7th Street pedestrian promenade. Telephone: (305) 330-9048; www.brasserie-laurel.com. Follow Brasserie Laurel on social media @laurelmiami.

El Vecino:

The May 2023 opening of El Vecino ("the neighbor") marked the third opening by Miami's Michelin-recognized Ariete Hospitality Group (AHG) at Miami Worldcenter. Owned/operated and created by Chef Michael Beltran, the concept is a must-try for cigar devotees and neophytes, cocktail enthusiasts and downtown denizens looking for a chic, sophisticated spot for a fabulous cocktail or wine (by the glass or bottle). Featuring a state-of-the-art air purification and humidification system, El Vecino is as welcoming to aficionados as it is abstainers. The upscale space features a comfortable ambiance that encourages lounging. El Vecino also serves as a spot for those seeking a proper pour of any kind. Like all AHG concepts, the cocktail menu is thoughtful and provocative with a wine list carefully calibrated to complement the cigar offerings. El Vecino is located at 698 NE 1st Avenue Suite G-172 at the base of Miami Worldcenter's Caoba residential tower along the development's 7th Street pedestrian promenade. For more information, visit www.elvecinomi.com and follow on Instagram @ElVecinoMiami.