

Best night out ever – Miami

So, London's Nightlife Exchange is with Miami! Zane Lowe has given us a sneak preview of what London can expect on November 27 (see left), but what does a night out in Miami feel like when you're Stateside? Sultry heat and looking cool by the pool... according to Miami-based *Time Out* writer Linda Lee.

The Miami Heat

The excitement started with basketball superstar LeBron James' stunning announcement, on live television in July, that he was leaving the Cleveland Cavaliers to join the Miami Heat. Heat fans have stayed nuts ever since, paying up to \$7,500 for a courtside seat for one game. LeBron and fellow star players Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade are earning their \$110 million salaries (each, spread over six years). Whether it's behind-the-back passes, reverse two-handed slam dunks or three-point plays, the Heat thrill.

Bikini eveningwear

Only in South Beach would Fashion Week mean bathing suits. With models stalking the runway in \$700 bikinis, the shows (some as late as 10pm) are the ultimate party time. The guys look otherworldly too, but that may be because of the hours they put in at the opulent seraglio-style David Barton Gym at the Gansevoort, open until 11pm. Big names in Miami swimwear include Cavalli, Qiss Qiss, White Sands Australia, Trina Turk and True Religion,



plus Parke & Ronen for the guys. It's not just bathing suits, either. It's froofy beach wraps. The vintage, retro, celebrity and hand-made sunglasses at Artssee Eyewear are available until 10 pm in Herzog & de Meuron-designed 1111 Lincoln Road, and stilettos are available everywhere.

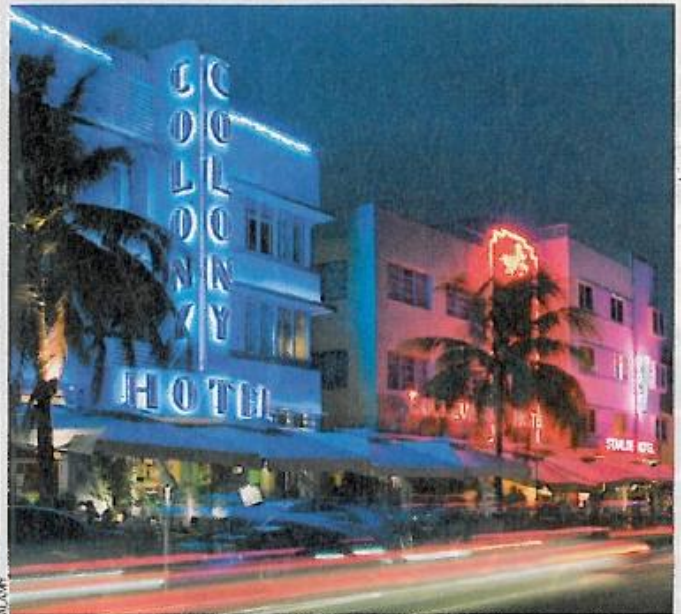
Conceptual beverages

The lounge/art gallery Cafelina in Miami's warehouse district has drinks with a coffee theme: the café con leche martini, the espresso martini, and just plain-old coffee. It's especially crowded on Second Saturdays (after the Wynwood art walks). At the Living Room in the W South Beach hotel, the bar genius Elad Zvi makes cocktails



with spirits, herbs, infusions, spices and fresh ingredients all based on a customer's aura. Fratelli Lyon restaurant in the Design District observes the concept of lowering its carbon footprint by doing away with bottled water and

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serving its own still and sparkling versions, as well as sodas made on the spot. Also worth a try is Materva, a canned soda made with yerba mate, originally from Cuba and produced in Miami since 1955.

Thursday night at a rooftop pool

Miami has the climate, the energy and the party-hearty attitude to make the hotel rooftop pool the destination, especially if it has great views. The Club 50 lounge, with stunningly beautiful pool, is on the 50th floor of the Viceroy Hotel in Downtown, overlooking Biscayne

Bay. A more modest affair is on the eighth-floor rooftop of Soho Beach House, in formerly unfashionable Midbeach – it's right on the beach, so who can resist? The Gansevoort's rooftop plunge pool is a real highlight too. Other places like coolhunting paradise the Webster offer rooftop pools without the pool... cosy banquettes, a glimpse of ocean, and a bar that attracts a select but hip crowd. Why Thursday night? Because in a Latin-Miami consensus, Thursday night is the beginning of the weekend.

Looking good – the mani-pedi

No fashionable person would go out without proper grooming, and in body-baring Miami that means a mani-pedi is essential. (Men get them too – and facials, eyebrow shaping, intimate body waxing and nose-hair trims.) Mani-pedi appointments are at popular hotels like the Standard, at spas, even at gyms. Brownes on Lincoln Road and in the Design District offers a salt soak, a scrub, a massage, some filing and shaping and two coats of polish, or a professional buffing, for around \$70. Miami Beach boys prefer Sloane Square Barbers & Shoppe: complete with bar, offering massages, shaves and, of course, haircuts and margarita pedicures. Pay \$85 a month and get as many trims as you want. Now that's grooming.



