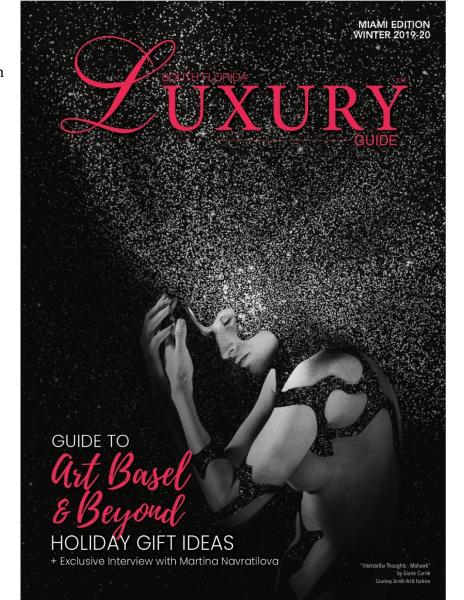
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THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR.

No matter your faith, we can all agree that holiday cheer is good for the soul. Mix that with food from one of these top Miami restaurants, and you'll have yourself a merry little Christmas.

BY BECKY RANDEL

PREPARE TO BE WOWED

Perhaps no Sunday brunch buffet in Miami compares to that of Jaya at The Setai, where stations upon stations of fresh food from cuisines around the globe are available, each more mouthwatering than the next. On Christmas, expect the typical Sunday offerings-and then some-along with free-flowing Champagne and live jazz in the luxury hotel's immaculate courtyard. 2001 Collins Ave., Miami Beach; 855.923.7899; thesetaihotel.com

FEELS LIKE HOME

La Petite Maison, which originally opened in Nice, France, then expanded to London and Dubai, has been quietly thriving in Brickell for over a year. Combining French Mediterranean and Niçoise cuisines, the menu promises an exceptional meal in an equally spectacular space. The restaurant is available to host private events throughout the holiday season and will be open for Christmas dinner. 1300 Brickell Bay Drive, Miami; 305.403.9133; lpmlondon.co.uk/miami









SOUTHERN FRIED CHRISTMAS

Chicken and biscuits for Christmas dinner? What about lobster mac and cheese? Sign us up. Yardbird Southern Table & Bar, Miami's favorite Southern food locale, is once again offering a special menu for the holidays. Previous seasons' menus have featured items such as Charleston she-crab soup, pecan hickory-smoked prime rib and crave-worthy desserts such red velvet firecracker cake with eggnog ice cream. Wash it down with some signature bourbon punch. 1600 Lennox Ave., Miami Beach; 305.538.5220; runchickenrun.com

BEACHFRONT BRUNCH

For a sunny Christmas brunch, head to AQ by Il Mulino at Acqualina Resort & Spa, where you can expect live music, a visit from Santa and an all-you-can-eat buffet featuring carved meats and fish, fresh sushi, homemade pasta, seafood, madeto-order omelets and dessert-plus unlimited mimosas, bloody marys, mojitos and prosecco. 17875 Collins Ave., Sunny Isles; 305.466.9191; acqualinaresort.com

LOCALS' FAVORITE

Just whispering the name Sylvano can get you in trouble with protective locals, but we can't help but talk about this restaurant's excellent Italian food, inviting ambiance and constant stream of sporting events-for the true fans. The popular Miami Beach restaurant, which recently opened a Design District location, will be open on Christmas. 1925 Liberty Ave., Miami Beach, 305.673.3959; 2426 NE Second Ave., Miami, 786.703.8200; sylvanos.com



Choosing wines can be stressful for any celebration host. Luckily, we have a few bottle suggestions that can help get you through the holidays.

BY JACQUELINE COLEMAN

WHITE CHRISTMAS

A perfect table-pleaser, the Tablas Creek Vineyard Côtes de Tablas Blanc is a blend of Viognier, Grenache Blanc, Marsanne and Roussanne white grape varieties. Apricots, lemon, some light spice and fresh minerality give this wine from Paso Robles, California, a beautifully clean, lingering finish-a wonderful accompaniment to your holiday spread. \$30; tablascreek.com



ROSY-CHEEK RED

Don Melchor Cabernet Sauvignon is a remarkably expressive red wine: strong, sturdy and quite striking. If you are planning on hosting the meal of all meals, treat your guests to the dark complexity of this Chilean cabemet. Concentrated red and black fruits and spice mingle flawlessly with structured tannins and fine acidity. Serve with a hearty celebratory dinner of steak, pâtés or truffles. \$100; donmelchor.com

BUBBLY & BRIGHT

Consider toasting to the new year with Bruno Paillard Extra Brut Première Cuvée. Creamy fine bubbles blend gently with crisp acidity and soft minerality for an easily enjoyable, yet complex Champagne. Take your celebration to the dinner table and use it as a complement to a soft cheese such as brie or a raw shellfish appetizer. \$50; champagnebrunopaillard.com



Jacqueline Coleman is a certified sommelier and wine writer. Visit her website at historyandwine.com.

A Sweet & Savory New Year

Ring in 2020 with good friends, plenty of drinks and great food.

BASEMENT BASH

At Basement at The Miami Beach Edition, an open bar, ice skating, bowling and a headlining DJ combine for an unmatched NYE party, basementmiami, com

GOLDEN GLAMOUR

Glamour reigns at Faena Miami Beach, which is offering prix-fixe. NYE dinners at its award-winning restaurants surrounded by dancers, costumes and more. faena.com

BRICKELL'S FAVORITE PARTY

Marion and next-door sister lounge El Tucán know how to throw a partyand NYE is no different. Expect dazzling entertainment, flowing drinks and divine meals at both hot spots. marionmiami.com; eltucanmiami.com

HOLLYWOOD STYLE

Celebrate NYE with the Jonas Brothers at Fontainebleau Miami Beach; various dining packages are available, including one for families. fontainebleau.com/nye

INVENTIVE DINING

Barton G. is a local mainstay, and is the perfect spot to ring in the new year with an unforgettable party, holiday menu twists and nonstop action. bartong.com

CLASSIC 305

It wouldn't be NYE in Miami without Mr. Worldwide, who is once again hosting a concert at Bayfront Park. This year, he's including a VIP Food & Wine Party in a designated area with unlimited food and drink, worldwidenye.com

