



BLACKBOOK

AFTER HOURS

MIAMI VICE

The latest high-octane openings elevate the city's nightlife to yet another echelon



Clockwise from left, the low-lit, natural vibe at *Catch*; dusk falls on the pool at *The Freehand*; braised pulpo with veggies at *The Raleigh Hotel's Restaurant Michael Schwartz*



Miami's annual Art Basel week may be the city's unrivalled social apex, but thanks to the arrival of sophisticated new hotels, restaurants and lounges, America's warm-weather capital now buzzes with year-round nocturnal excitement. The most game-changing debut has to be **The Freehand** (thefreehand.com), a BoHo-styled "luxe-hostel" designed by cutting-edge New York architects Roman and Williams. Opened just in time for last winter's Art Basel festivities, it doubles as a groovy hideaway and after-hours hot spot thanks to the Broken Shaker – its hip, tiki-styled lounge whose inventive cocktail menu (from agave-spiked tequila to raisin-accented Old Fashioneds) is luring the creative crowd.

With the Broken Shaker serving as louche end point, Miamians are now beginning their evening at new restaurants such as the sprawling seafoodery **Catch** (emmgrouppinc.com), at The James Royal Palm, or **Restaurant Michael Schwartz**, at the nearby, newly upgraded Raleigh Hotel (raleighhotel.com). Named after the legendary Design District restaurateur, the latter looms above the Raleigh's cinematic swimming pool and features a menu divided by portions, from Snacks to Extra Large. Stand outs include a classic steak tartar (Small) to an (Extra Large) grilled local fish.

After dinner, Gale South Beach & Regent Hotel – another youth-focused newcomer – is luring revellers to both **The Regent Cocktail Club** and **Rec**

Room (galehotel.com). The former opened in partnership with Amy Sacco, the towering blonde behind New York's truly legendary Bungalow 8 and No 8 lounges, and sports an underground, basement-grunge vibe. Up above, the retro-themed Rec Room is more grown-up, with dark wooden interiors, leather banquettes and classic cocktails, including six speciality drinks each evening.

Finally, there's the **Foxhole** (foxholebar.com) at the back end of South Beach, a true hole-in-the-wall watering hole with tan banquettes, a sleek cement bar and 1990s-dominated playlist. There's bottle service for higher rollers, though the menu of 30 beers more than gets the job done. Afterwards, head back to The Freehand to sleep off all the fun. ■ DAVID KAUFMAN