

## Miami Spice 2022: Where To Eat From August 1 To September 30

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For anyone who loves food, the months of August and September in Miami are always something to look forward to. Miami Spice is a two-month-long restaurant promotion, organized by the Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau's (GMCVB) 21 years ago, initially with the goal of attracting tourists to Miami during its low season. While that's certainly no longer a problem, the Miami Spice tradition is one locals and visitors look forward to each year.

This year, lunch/ brunch menus will be priced at \$28, while dinner will go for either \$45 or \$60, a slight increase from last year— and for the first time, two different tiers. These prices include an appetizer, entrée and dessert. (Tax, tip, and libations are additional.) According to GMCVB, “the two different price points for dinner this year were introduced to maintain the program’s commitment to value and allow a greater variety of restaurants to participate, with a continued emphasis on flexibility and options. The difference between the two tiers reflects cost of the entrees and ingredients used. Restaurants may choose to offer one or two dinner menu option(s) so long as the menus reflect value and savings when compared to their current menu prices.”

Some of the new additions this year include Leku at the Rubell Museum (they are hosting an early preview, so diners can enjoy their Miami Spice offerings as early as now); Chug’s Diner by chef Michael Beltran, which was recently awarded a Michelin Bib Gourmand; Hoja Taqueria by the team behind Broken Shaker; Casa Isola, the Italian outpost by James Beard-nominated chef José Mendín; and Michelin-starred New York import Cote Miami.

The kitchen at Kaori in Brickell is now helmed by Cuban-Chinese-Colombian executive chef Raymond Li (formerly corporate chef at El Cielo Hospitality Group, who started his family-focused Li’s Dimsum concept during the pandemic) where he serves artful, umami-laden pan-Asian plates. “Our menu this year is a mix between our signatures and [new] dishes we introduced a few months ago, all highlighting the restaurant’s sophisticated simplicity,” Li shares. A special they are offering this year is the Crispy Prawns, Li’s homage to the late Joël Robuchon, which he learned to make during his time at L’Atelier de Joël Robuchon in Paris.

For vegans and anyone interested in plant-based cuisine, Full Bloom Vegan Cuisine in Miami Beach, voted Best US Vegan Restaurant by TripAdvisor in 2021, is participating for the first time this year. Owner Omar Barberini shares that they will be serving some of their popular dishes that best showcase their globally inspired cuisine crafted by Venezuelan-born vegan executive chef Chris Rojas, who worked previously at Norman Van Aken’s Norman’s 180 and Zuma.

Chef Adrienne Calvo, who recently celebrated 15 years of her signature brand of cuisine, Maximum Flavor, has been participating in Miami Spice for 10 years. “We love Miami Spice and how it makes Miami extra foodie-centric during August and September,” she enthuses. “Everyone is obsessed about where they’re going and what they’re trying. The energy is contagious!” Her namesake Chef Adrienne's Vineyard Restaurant and Wine Bar will be offering a Miami Spice dinner menu this year, in addition to lunch. Guests can look forward to bestsellers like brown sugar crusted salmon, 24-hour braised short ribs, sweet corn tamalito, and new items like the wahoo sashimi.

Her Cracked restaurant is also joining for the first time this year. “We wanted to offer a new option for our loyal fans and give an opportunity to those who haven’t tried [the restaurant] yet to experience it. Putting everything on a concise, curated menu where guests can pick from three courses, gives them three great opportunities to fall in love with Cracked!”

Here are the restaurants participating in Miami Spice 2022, by neighborhood:

## **Coconut Grove**

Chug's Cuban Diner

Isabelle's Grill Room & Garden

Jaguar Restaurant

Nave

Peacock Garden Bistro

## **Planta Queen**

**Sushi Garage Cocowalk**

**The Key Club**