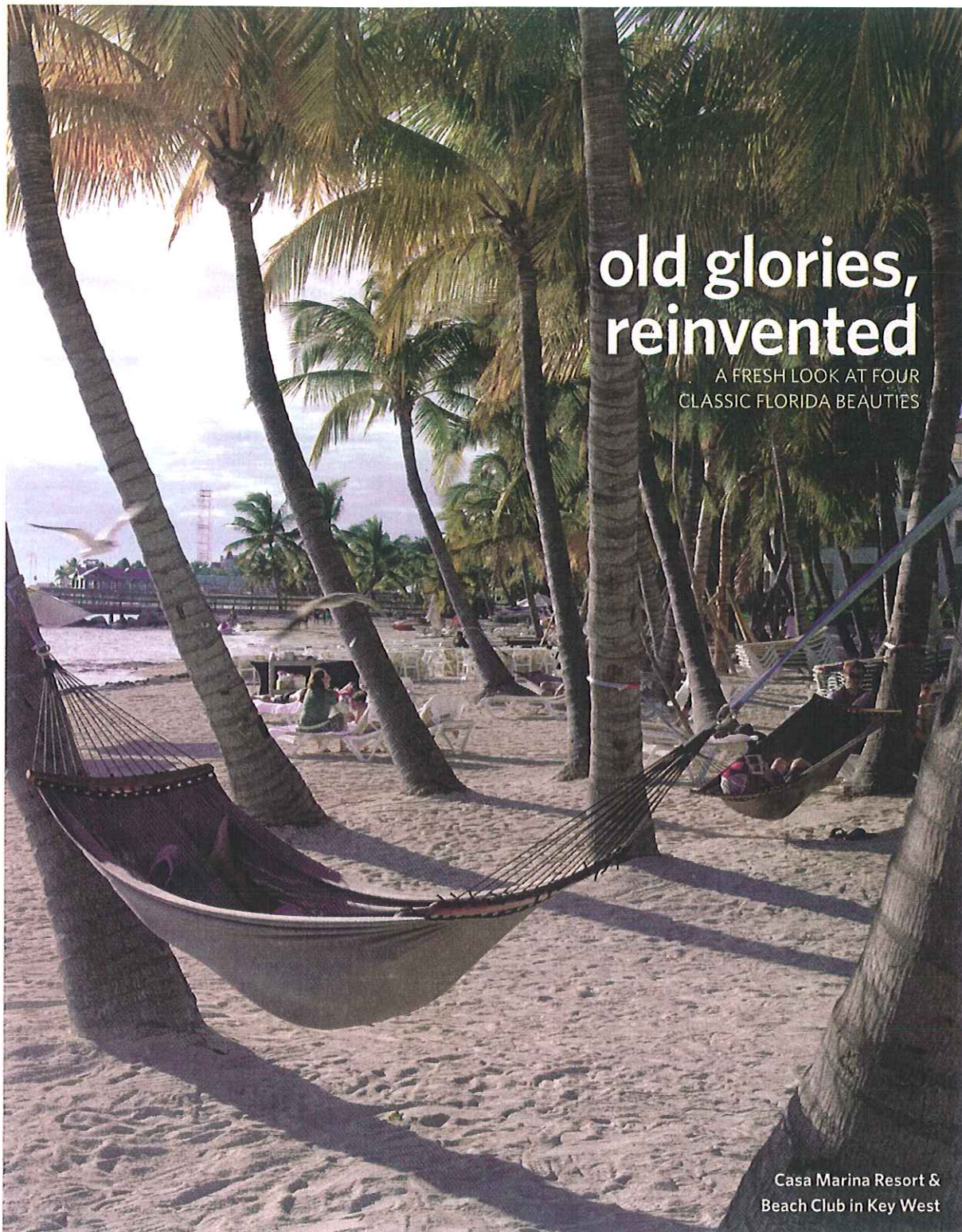


the good life

haute art + sexy swimsuits + summer reads



old glories, reinvented

A FRESH LOOK AT FOUR
CLASSIC FLORIDA BEAUTIES

Casa Marina Resort &
Beach Club in Key West

PHOTOGRAPHY JON WHITTLE

TRAVEL Like fine wines that improve with age, we find these historic resort hotels become more captivating the longer they've been around — and the more times you visit. Recent updates ensure they can easily compete in today's dazzling hotel scene.

Key West's Casa Marina Resort & Beach Club just debuted a slew of improvements that capture the railroad tycoon's original vision, including his sea infatuation. A stunning pool-and palm-flanked path, known as the Water Walk, starts in the >>

>> luxe lobby and ends poetically at the Atlantic Ocean, where the beachscape's swaying hammocks, curvy palm trees and secluded massage cabanas are also new.

Architect Addison Mizner's classic Mediterranean-Revival **Boca Raton Resort & Club** has been "wowing" guests since 1926. But the freshest reasons to visit are a new beach club with three redesigned pools and iron chef Masaharu Morimoto's eponymous sushi bar set to open this summer.

The Moorish-style **Don CeSar Beach Resort in St. Pete Beach** just unveiled Spa Oceana, with treatments that incorporate local sand in a pampering foot exfoliation and a rooftop garden overlooking the Gulf of Mexico. Enjoy sea sounds via complimentary Bose headphones — or just opt for the real thing.

Five million dollars restored the Donald Ross-designed, 18-hole golf course at the **Biltmore Hotel & Resort in Coral Gables** to its vintage glory with reworked greens, fairways and bunkers. — JEANINE BARONE

**CASA MARINA
RESORT & BEACH CLUB**
866.397.6342,
casamarinaresort.com

**BOCA RATON RESORT
& CLUB**
888.491.2622,
bocaresort.com

**DON CESAR BEACH
RESORT**
866.728.2206,
doncesar.com

**BILTMORE HOTEL &
RESORT**
800.915.1926,
biltmorehotel.com



CHECKING IN

secrets of a concierge

We asked the Grand Bohemian Hotel's Patricia Clifton, who has been with the hotel since its opening and is a member of the prestigious Les Clefs d'Or concierge organization, to show us the side of downtown Orlando only locals know.

The best live jazz in town can be found nightly at the Grand Bohemian Hotel's Bösendorfer Lounge. Stay a little longer from 11:00 p.m. to close on Friday and Saturday nights for neo soul and acid jazz. grandbohemianhotel.com

For a striking skyline view dine at Manuel's on the 28th, one of the city's oldest restaurants. manuelsonthesth.com

Save room for lip-smacking cake (caramel apple, lemon rum) from everybody's favorite Dessert Lady, who has a new shop downtown. dessertlady.com

Gather for drinks at the new Aroma Coffee & Wine Bar for its selection of over 75 wines, many by the glass. 407.426.8989

Zou Zou Boutique's trendy dresses (zouzouboutique.com) and Siegel's fashions (siegelsonline.com) are among the best for local shopping. — KLS



Casa Marina
Resort &
Beach Club

+ + + + +

MAKE PLANS

Keys artist J. Seward Johnson has a creative way of paying homage to images that are etched in our communal consciousness. His bronze life-size sculptures are part of the new **Icons** exhibit at the **Key West Museum of Art & History**. Pose with Marilyn in her billowing white dress or step inside the frame with the *Girl with the Pearl Earring*. Through June. 305.295.6616, kwahs.com — KELLY LADD SANCHEZ