

# CORAL GABLES

JULY / AUGUST 2023

MAGAZINE

## The Best of Coral Gables

CUISINE • CULTURE • SHOPPING • ENTERTAINMENT



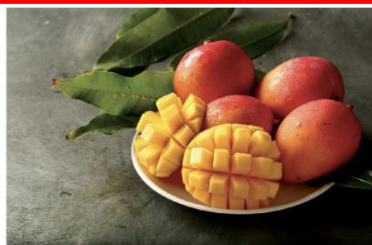
LIVING / EVENTS

### Best Bets for July and August



#### "NATIVE GARDENS" AT GABLESTAGE

Cultures and gardens clash in the latest GableStage production, "Native Gardens" by Karen Zacarias. Watch as well-intentioned neighbors turn into feuding enemies after a young couple purchases a home next to a well-established couple with a prize-worthy English garden. An impending barbecue and delicate disagreement over a fence line soon spiral into an all-out dispute, exposing both couples' notions of race, taste, class, and privilege. Read the review on page 36. Performances: Wed. at 2 and 7 pm, Thurs. to Sat. at 8 pm, and Sun. at 2 pm, through July 16. Tickets range from \$45 to \$75, with a streaming option available (\$27). 1200 Anastasia Ave. [gablestage.org](http://gablestage.org)



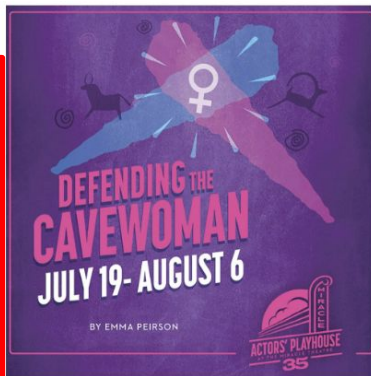
#### MANGO FESTIVAL AT FAIRCHILD GARDEN

It's that time of year again! Stop by Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden on July 8 or 9 for the annual Mango Festival held all-day long (10 am to 5 pm). Shop from a wide variety of unique mangos or purchase a tree for your home garden; enjoy tastings, cooking demos, and mango-inspired activities and classes; attend lectures offering insight into various mango types, growing techniques, storing, and harvesting; and enjoy fresh mango smoothies, specialty mango cocktails, delicious food, live music, and family-friendly games. Tickets are \$19.95 and \$9.95 for adult and child members respectively and \$24.95 and \$11.95 for nonmember adults and children respectively. Kids six and younger are free. 10901 Old Cutler Road. [fairchildgarden.org](http://fairchildgarden.org)



#### URBAN SKETCH CRAWL

The Coral Gables Museum is exploring the city's architecture and history through a new lens this summer with its Urban Sketch Crawl series. The program, held on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 6 pm, provides a tour of the city with an artistic element. In addition to guides providing historical context, tours will also have art teachers to give pointers and creative direction. Each one has a different focus: July 12 is Art in Public Places, July 26 is Back to the Beginning, August 9 is Recent Renovations, and August 23 is Paist Buildings. Tickets are \$15. 285 Aragon Ave. [coralgablesmuseum.org](http://coralgablesmuseum.org)



#### "DEFENDING THE CAVEWOMAN" BY ACTORS' PLAYHOUSE AT MIRACLE THEATRE

A mid-life existential crisis unfolds as "Defending the Cavewoman" digs deep into the caves of the female psyche, debunking the stereotypical myths about how women think. It's a tongue-in-cheek, affectionate look at the quirks and idiosyncrasies of both men and women, from the modern female perspective. Don't miss the United States

## ARCHITECTURE &amp; PUBLIC PLACES

**BEST PLACE TO WALK YOUR DOG:  
GRANADA GOLF COURSE**

Just make sure your four-legged friend (and you) can make the whole two-miles-plus trek – or cut it off halfway and grab a gelato at Le Parc.

**BEST HISTORIC LANDMARK: BILTMORE HOTEL**

Built in 1926, just before the big hurricane hit. After falling into disrepair, now refurbished to its glory days. Stunning lobby, biggest pool in Florida, always a "wow."

**BEST PLACE WE MISS THE MOST: BURGER BOB'S**

This classic Coral Gables 1950s-era diner closed during the pandemic but is expected to return sometime next year (hopefully).

**PEOPLE'S CHOICE: TARPON BEND**

It's been years, but we'll always remember our favorite happy hour spot, where people crowded around the bar and spilled out onto the sidewalk.

**BEST PEOPLE-WATCHING SPOT:  
MIRACLE MILE**

There's nowhere else in the city with such a high volume of people, and no better place to get a glimpse of Gables style; a veritable parade.

**PEOPLE'S CHOICE: GIRALDA PLAZA**

Choose any restaurant, grab a seat, and eavesdrop on your neighbors. Or view passersby from the Cebada rooftop overhead. Jammed with humanity on weekend nights.

**BEST PLACE TO TAKE OUT-OF-TOWNERS:  
FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN**

What other city is lucky enough to have an 83-acre botanical garden, dense with rare plants, palm groves, a butterfly house, and grand vistas for festivals and public events?

**PEOPLE'S CHOICE: GIRALDA PLAZA**

No better place to show off the Gables' foodie scene to your jealous friends from up north.

**BEST PUBLIC ART: THE PLAZA CORAL GABLES**

The Plaza has been controversial for its size, but the quality is undeniable, including an array of courtyard sculptures and fountains that are world class.

**BEST PARK: SALVADORE PARK**

It was the best park (with the best tennis

courts) even before its new renovations, but now it has a zipline and inclusive playground features too. Woohoo!

**BEST PLACE TO MEET MEN: MANKIND GROOMING & SERVICES**

This place doesn't just have to be for men – women can come play a round of pool, have a beer, or enjoy the cigar room upstairs.

**PEOPLE'S CHOICE: HILLSTONE**

The counterpart to Ms. Right are the well-dressed, eligible bachelors with high-paying finance jobs. We're just saying.

**BEST PLACE TO MEET WOMEN: THE GRAMERCY**

Come for brunch or an evening drink and leave with a date. This is where all the gals come dressed to impress.

**PEOPLE'S CHOICE: HILLSTONE**

The post-work happy hour spot for professionals over 30, with a bevy of beautiful, well-dressed, successful women.

**BEST PLACE TO MEET INTELLIGENT MEN/  
WOMEN: BOOKS & BOOKS**

At least you know they read! Plus, what better way to get a date than "accidentally" reaching for the same copy of "Catcher in the Rye"? ■