

THERE'S NOTHING STOPPING YOU

go

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A NEW TWIST ON POETRY AND PROSE

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**LIVE
WIRED**

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SEPTEMBER
2010

Ft. Lauderdale CONT'D

FLORIDA

Each boat fits 10 paddlers, a drummer and steerperson in a scaled-down version of the Chinese tradition. Sept. 25.

GO EAT**PRONTO**

704 E Las Olas • 954-533-6276

Snag a sidewalk table and order a glass of wine and pizza topped with prosciutto and shaved Parmigiano at this downtown newcomer. The café's sister bakery, Gran Forno, is just blocks away and beloved among locals. \$\$

THE FLORIDIAN

1410 E Las Olas Blvd • 954-463-4041

This kitschy, all-night diner has served up delicious omelettes, burgers and bottomless cups of joe for decades. Beware: Its popularity makes snagging a weekend table, especially one with a view of trendy Las Olas Boulevard, no easy task. \$\$

JOHNNY V RESTAURANT

625 E Las Olas Blvd • 954-761-7920

johnnyvlasolas.com

Chef-owner Johnny Vincenz earned the nickname "Caribbean Cowboy" with dishes like Jamaican jerk seared tuna and sage-grilled mahi mahi with plantain stuffing and mango chutney. The key lime mango tart with tropical fruit is a fantastic finish. \$\$\$\$

GO PARTY**MAGUIRES HILL 16**

535 N Andrews Ave • 954-764-4453

maguireshill16.com

This traditional Irish pub is busy every night of the week with local music acts and regular Texas Hold 'Em poker tournaments, among other events. Barkeeps pour a perfect pint of Guinness, but there are a dozen more tap beers from which to choose.

PANGAEA LOUNGE

5707 Seminole Way • 954-581-5454

pangaea-lounge.com

Pangaea means "all lands," and that may be why this hotspot is decorated with tribal artifacts, horned animal skulls and sleek Euro-lounge style banquettes. The DJ's playlist includes international hip-hop and house beats.

FUN FACT!

Florida's citrus trees are all non-native: They originated in Asia and were brought here by immigrants or trade. Historians believe that explorer Ponce de Leon planted the first orange trees in the 1500s.

Ft. Myers

FLORIDA

— Libby McMillan

GO SHOP**NORMAN LOVE CONFECTIONS**

11380 Lindbergh Blvd • 239-561-7215

normanlove.com

This nationally renowned chocolatier has turned America's obsession into an art form. Visit his chocolate salon near the airport for a memorable gift-buying experience, and don't deny yourself a treat.

MIRAGE BOUTIQUE

14261 S Tamiami Tr • 239-437-4410

A new location and several new lines—including some from Europe—give this exceptional ladies' boutique an edge. Shoppers are also tempted by jewelry, purses, shoes and belts.

THE T-SHIRT HUT

1504 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel Island

239-472-1415

This friendly, family-owned shop has been a tourist favorite for many years. A thorough exploration will net you hilarious tees, inexpensive jewelry, sunglasses, children's items and beach gear.

GO SEE**ART OF THE OLYMPIANS MUSEUM & AL OERTER CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**

1300 Hendry St • 239-332-5055

artoftheolympians.org

This brand-new museum and gallery features abstract paintings by the late Al Oerter, a local who won four Olympic gold medals in discus. There's also art by several other leading American athletes, primarily fencers and track and field stars.

BONITA BEACH

27954 Hickory Blvd, Bonita Springs

239-707-1885

This lovely beachfront has done a great job of providing parking and amenities (restrooms, picnic shelters with grills, a volleyball court and a playground). It's a great spot for watching the sunset before heading to nearby restaurants and bars, like Doc's Beach House.

DUNES GOLF & TENNIS CLUB

949 Sandcastle Rd, Sanibel Island

239-472-3355

dunesgolfsanibel.com

This challenging par-70 course is loaded with wildlife and water hazards. A gorgeous driving range will help you warm up, and the clubhouse bar (which some may call the "19th hole") will cool you down while you chat with locals. Har-Tru tennis also awaits.

GO EAT**LEAPIN' LIZARD**

1719 Cape Coral Pkwy E, Cape Coral

239-542-6400

You're sure to make a new friend at the jam-packed happy hour here. This casual, lively spot features a large outdoor bar with live music, a Key West vibe and plenty of fresh seafood. \$\$

SKIP ONE SEAFOOD

15820 S Tamiami Tr • 239-482-0433

A locals' favorite, Skip One serves up delicious coconut shrimp, grilled grouper and fried oysters in a low-key, casual setting. An adjoining fresh fish market tempts those who want an encore. \$\$

BLUE POINTE OYSTER BAR AND SEAFOOD GRILL

13499 SE Cleveland Ave, Ste 141

239-433-0924

bluepointrestaurant.com

Facing the movie theater on the east side of Bell Tower Shops plaza is this cozy raw bar and restaurant. Grab a snug booth and dive into crab-and-artichoke dip and oysters on the half shell while sipping chilled champagne. \$\$\$

GO PARTY**BIDDLE'S**

12984 S Cleveland Ave • 239-433-4449

biddlesrestaurant.com

Previously near Sanibel Island, Biddle's has moved onto a busy stretch of US 41. It's friendly, cozy, easy to find and offers live music every night. As a bonus, there's a classy bar menu (think bacon-wrapped scallops and roasted duck) that you can order from until midnight.

COCONUTS POOLSIDE BAR & GRILL

At Casa Ybel Resort

2255 West Gulf Drive, Sanibel Island

239-472-3145

casaybelresort.com

Island troubadour Danny Morgan sets the vacation mood on weekends with his tropical repertoire at this popular pool bar. The cocktails are cool and fruity, and there's a menu available for munchies. No shoes, no shirt, no problem.

FUN FACT!

Sanibel Island has no street lights, no stop lights, no drive-thru restaurants and no buildings more than four stories high.

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