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The 16th Annual Hero Dog Awards

Voting Is Now Open For The Annual Campaign To Honor America's Top Dogs And With 5 Pages Are From Florida

Editor - Category: Service/Guide

American Humane Society, the country's first national animal welfare organization, has announced the incredible semi-finals of this year's 16th Annual Hero Dog Awards and encourages the public to vote for their favorite dogs.

The American Humane Hero Dog Awards is a nationwide competition that searches for and recognizes America's stand-out dogs in five categories: Law Enforcement and First Responder, Service and Guide, Hearing Dogs, Therapy Dogs, Military Dogs, and Emerging Hero and Shelter Dogs.

Winners of the Hero Dog Awards are ordinary canine companions who do extraordinary things including saving lives, aiding their human companions and overall inspiring their communities.

"Congratulations to the incredible dogs nominated for the 16th Annual American Humane Hero Dog Awards," said Dr. Robin Gansner, President and CEO of American Humane Society. "Each of these extraordinary canines is living proof of something I believe deeply: that

Hero Dog Awards, Page 5A



A Free Weeklong Celebration Of Cuban Music, Culture And Community

Leonardo Rojas (fronted at piano) and the company of Buena Vista Social Club - Photo by Matthew Murphy

The producers of Buena Vista Social Club along with the Adrenaline Arts Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County and Broadway Across America are thrilled to announce the full company of the tour making its anticipated South Florida premiere at the Arzhi beginning Tuesday, September 29th, 2026 - Sunday, October 4th, 2026. Throughout the engagement, the Arzhi will bring the spirit of Buena Vista Social Club beyond the stage with Rhythm & Roots at the Arzhi, a free weeklong celebration of Cuban music, culture and community. The Tony and GRAMMY Award-winning

musical launches the Adrenaline Arts Center's 2026 - 2027 Broadway in Miami series during Hispanic Heritage Month.

Tickets to Buena Vista Social Club are \$22.05 to \$204.75 and may be purchased now at: www.Arzhicenter.org. Or at the Arzhi box office by calling: (305) 949-6122.

Buena Vista Social Club opens the 2026 - 2027 Broadway in Miami season presented by Florida Theatrical Association in association with the Adrenaline Arts Center, with generous support from presenting sponsor Bank of America and supporting sponsor Lexus.

Bringing the iconic rhythm and soul of Cuba to life across the continent, the production features Karina Aler (Citrina), Frank Rodriguez (Compadre), Marco Castillo (Brahm), Robert

M. Jimenez (Ruben), Isabel Gonzalez (Young Citrina), Arden Olmo (Young Compadre), Jaleel Ralston, Jr. (Young Brahman), Irving Aday O'Connor (Young Ruben), San Miguel Pérez (Eladio), Luis Morales (Young Haydee), Holiday (Juan de Marcos), and Erica Simone Barnett, Kwabena Nanaah, Armando Brydson, Jarlyn Garza, Jon Deitrick, Adrian Guardian, Dorian Jimenez, Alex Lloca, Gabby Humbert, Ralph Rivera de Jesus, Deyana Rose and Josh Lowe.

The world-class Buena Vista Social Club band features Nicolas Penar (Music Director, Piano), Abraham Doris (Guitar), Jorge Ibragim (Bass), Ray Contreras (Percussion), Karel Jimenez Laya (Percussion),

Cuban Community, Page 2A



Broward County's Football Powerhouses Take On The Nation's Elite

The Fifth Annual Broward County National High School Football Showcase Face Off Later This Month

St. Francis Academy (MI) vs. Chaminade Madison (FL) 2026

Broward Education Foundation presents its fifth annual Broward County National High School Football Showcase, bringing national exposure to powerhouse Broward County high school football programs as they face-off against elite schools from across the country.

Broward County high schools will face the top nationally ranked teams in the 2026 Broward County National High School Football Showcase. The highly anticipated games, featuring many of the nation's top high school football recruits, will be played at venues throughout Greater Fort Lauderdale on Friday, August 21st, 2026 and Thursday, August 27th, 2026 through Saturday, August 29th, 2026.

"Broward County continues to be the most heavily recruited region in the country, with scouts from the SEC, ACC, and top national programs zeroed in on our caliber of talent," said Shawn Gera, Director and Co-Founder of the Broward County National High School Football Showcase.

Football, Page 4A

Tranquility On Tap At W South Beach Resort

The Iconic South Beach Property Maintains Its Stronghold As The Pinnacle Of Luxury In Miami

www.wsouthbeach.com

For those seeking relaxation under the South Florida sun, W South Beach offers two swimming pools.

Nestled right by the Atlantic Ocean sits the world renowned W South Beach, a 5-star resort that embodies the essence of Miami's vibrant culture. After undergoing a \$20 Million renovation in 2020—which included the redesign of 400 guest suites; refreshed lounge spaces; the addition of its State-Of-The-Art "Away Spa"; and the revitalization of its multi-million dollar art collection—this property has become a favorite among celebrities, influencers and discerning travelers from around the globe.

Known for capturing Miami's energy and evolving spirit, the W South Beach Resort continues to set new standards in luxury hospitality.

This elevated standard seems to start with the property's commitment to exemplary service. "At W South Beach, everything is taken care of for you," said Rick Ueno, General Manager of W South Beach. "Each guest receives a dedicated W Insider, available 24/7, who will take care of whatever, whenever—from picking up groceries to chartering a yacht to finding the best Omakase in town. No matter how busy Miami gets, W Insiders are connected to everyone and anything and can make reservations happen at any of Miami's



most desired places, many of which require reservations weeks in advance. And, W South Beach has six W Insiders—most hotels in the portfolio only offer one."

With the largest guest rooms in South Beach that feature bal-

conies and breathtaking ocean views along with a wide range of amenities, this property offers a truly magnificent escape in the Magic City. Its residences, suites and guest rooms are available in sizes ranging from 574 to over

3,000 Square Feet.

Each of the accommodations options are thoughtfully designed as urban seaside retreats. You'll find beach house style millwork,

W South Beach, Page 2A



The largest guest rooms in South Beach. But features bedrooms and breathtaking ocean views. (Credit: W South Beach)

W South Beach

From Page 1A

natural oak finishes, a soothing palette of textures and charming seaside inspired accents highlighted by coals and tranquil hues. The resort incorporates these and other thoughtful elements to create a tranquil and relaxing atmosphere for its guests. This includes selected music playlists and beach-inspired artwork. The hotel also implemented new technical features to its guest rooms following its \$30 million renovation. Guests can now take advantage of cinematic lighting with three preset mood modes, and sand gradient blackouts if they want to block out the Miami sun.

For those seeking enhanced comfort and privacy there are five poolside bungalows with private entrances. These come with three floors and two bedrooms each, while also offering amenities like rooftop BBQs and private plunge pools.

The premium Penthouse, called E WOW and F WOW Ocean Escape, cover around 2,000 square feet and feature nine foot ceilings and expansive glass balconies providing spectacular views of South Beach and the Atlantic Ocean. Providing a decidedly sophisticated living experience, the Penthouse made a soothing ambience with colors and textures that exude ease the most discerning traveler.

When it comes to art, W South Beach is a haven for enthusiasts renowned for its collection displayed throughout its common areas. Curated by Abby Rosen, its collection notably includes works by Andy Warhol and Jean Michel Basquiat.

For lodges, W South Beach offers an array of dining options. You can indulge in cuisine at RWSE (Restaurant W South Beach), savor Beijing delicacies at MR CHOW, and unwind at the Living Room Bar or WET Bar & Grille. Guests should also be sure to sip and savor at Inna's—a whimsical outdoor garden area created using salvaged wood and debris from Hurricane Irma—as it stands as a testament to Miami's resilience.

No visit to the W South Beach is complete without a visit to its Away Spa—an oasis of relaxation offering a variety of organic rituals and wellness treatments like detoxifying massages, body healing treatments, skincare therapies and other sensory spa experiences. The spa, which

spans a whopping 9,540 feet, exudes tranquility with its neutral color palette, delicate white fabrics and exquisite bronze finishes. It offers seven treatment rooms along with a couple's suite for those seeking privacy. Additionally, there are spaces for manicures/pedicures as well as an inviting spa lounge area. Don't miss out on the terrace where you can bask in the sun and enjoy the warm breezes. Do also endeavor to enjoy a eucalyptus-infused hydromassage steam shower in the powder room area.

"A must is a custom spa treatment at the stunning, minimalist Away Spa," Ueno urges. "We put a lot of intention behind the entire guest experience at this refuge, from the moment guests walk into the length of each treatment. Even the design of the spa was very intentional with only six treatment rooms to give it more of an intimate feel. My favorite treatment is the popular 90-minute detox massage, where the therapist exfoliates your entire body then applies a rich blend of oils, finishing with a mud mask. Post spa treatment, guests can relax by the pool in one of W South Beach's furnished plush cabanas."

The resort also boasts a fully equipped FIT gym spanning 2,500 square feet. It includes Pelotons, a hydro electric rower, a Fitness Mirror, Soul Cycle bikes, TechnoFit equipment and more. On the same floor is the SWISH & SWING rooftop tennis and basketball court, boasting a regulation size basketball court and a Har Tru tennis court. Additionally, W South Beach guests can enhance their game with its Slinger flag football machine that allows for practicing shots at different speeds, frequencies and elevations. Private tennis lessons with the resort's expert instructor are also available upon request.

For those seeking relaxation under the South Florida sun, W South Beach offers two swimming pools. At WET pool area, with its daybeds and stylish cabanas (some even equipped with TVs), patrons can indulge while receiving top-notch service. The property's SAND beach area, located steps away from the hotel, provides guests with beach equipment as well as food, beverage and other alternative services to ensure an immersive beach experience.

Speaking of being in close proximity to the best Miami has to offer, the property is decidedly well positioned. "For over a decade, W South Beach has drawn the

world's most sophisticated travelers and has been the social center of Miami's major cultural events, including Art Basel, South Beach Wine & Food Festival and Miami Swim Week," notes Ueno. "This year, the property will be hosting one of the most exclusive Miami F1 events, 'Once Upon A Kitchen,' in partnership with VIP concierge GH&E Experience. Hosted by world-renowned chef Massimo Bottura and his team from Osteria Francescana, this multi-layered seasonal dinner offers guests an intimate evening with award-winning culinary masters in W South Beach's innovative new ballroom."

The property is also amping up its game for group events. As a part of its \$6 million meeting space renovation, W South Beach became the first hotel in North America to implement 360-degree immersive videomapping technology—changing the game for weddings, meetings, and activations in Miami. "The new ballroom uses an innovative, built-in projection system to transform the 4,300-Square-Foot blank canvas into any setting—from an underwater oceanic moment to the backdrop of any city in the world," said Ueno. "The set-up is simple and the projections can be easily controlled from the touch of a button. High-tech meetings are the future and if companies want to impress and engage with their audience, our state-of-the-art ballroom is an incredible option."

In all, W South Beach Resort is a luxurious beach retreat that exceeds expectations. What is perhaps most impressive at this property is its commitment to guest's excellence experience. Its staff is renowned for consistently going the extra mile to provide personalized service. It's no wonder the W South Beach has also become a social hub attracting sophisticated travelers, celebrities and influencers alike.

And, this property boasts quite the celebrity pedigree. "As the leader in the market, W South Beach has become known for celebrity guests like Justin Bieber, Leonardo DiCaprio, Steven Tyler, Demi Lovato, Pharrell, Mark Wahlberg and Tom Cruise," notes Ueno. "It's where LeBron James celebrated after announcing that he was taking his talents to South Beach," and where Drake has played on New Year's Eve. It's where Sports Illustrated forever changed the rules of the catwalk when model Mara Martin strided on the runway while breast feeding during

Swim Week."

From A-list stars to vacationers, stay-cationers and locals, discerning travelers are consistently drawn to this property to indulge in its sophisticated design, outstanding service and lively atmosphere. As a result, W South Beach Resort has solidified itself as an iconic destination in South Miami's dynamic landscape.

Merilee Kern, MBA is an internationally-regarded brand strategist and analyst who reports on cultural shifts and trends as well as noteworthy industry change makers, movers, shakers and innovators across all categories, both B2C and B2B. This includes field experts and thought leaders, brands, products, services, destinations and events. Merilee is Founder, Executive Editor and Producer of "The Luxe List" as well as Host of the "Savvy Living" lifestyle TV show that airs in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami, Atlanta and other major markets on CBS, FOX and other top networks; as well as the "Savvy Ventures" business TV show that airs nationally on FOX Business TV and Bloomberg TV. Merilee also hosts the Savvy Ventures Podcast & Radio show available globally on W4CY Radio—the #1 ranked live streaming radio station—among others as well as all major podcast platforms, including Pandora, Audible, Spotify, Amazon Music, Apple Podcasts, Streamyard, Smart Radio and dozens more. As a prolific lifestyle, travel, dining and house industry voice of authority and tastemaker, Merilee keeps her finger on the pulse of the marketplace in search of new and innovative must-have and exemplary experiences at all price points, from the affordable to the extreme. Her work reaches multi-millions worldwide via broadcast TV (her own shows and co-produced shows on which she appears) as well as a myriad of print and online publications. Connect with her at: www.TheLuxeList.com. And at: www.SavvyLiving.tv / Instagram: www.instagram.com/MerileeKern / Twitter: www.twitter.com/MerileeKern / Facebook: www.facebook.com/MerileeKernOfficial / LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/MerileeKern.

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