

With new hotels, a thriving arts community and a continually expanding craft beer scene, here's the latest news from the most popular tourism destination on the Gulf of Mexico: St. Pete/Clearwater.

Cutting-Edge Culture Continues with New Museums and Exhibitions

The arts are alive in St. Pete/Clearwater with new museums and exhibitions on the horizon for 2018, affirming the area's reputation as an arts mecca and cultural destination.

- **Imagine Museum, Opened January 2018** | Displaying the explosive growth and diversification of the Contemporary American Studio Glass movement, the newest museum in St. Pete's up-and-coming Central Arts District brings more than 580 pieces of studio glass art to the area, expanding on the existing Chihuly Collection.
- **The James Museum of Western + Wildlife Art, Opening April 2018** | Downtown St. Pete's newest museum will be home to 400-500 premier works of art from Tom and Mary James' personal collection of more than 3,000 pieces. The couple has invested nearly \$50 million into the 80,000-sq. ft. museum, which will feature 30,000-sq. ft. of gallery space, a 2,500 sq. ft., two-story indoor sculpture court with an indoor waterfall and more.
- **Dali x Duchamp** | Discover how two inventive, irreverent individuals forever changed how we see art – and artists – at The Dali new special exhibition, Dalí/Duchamp. On display through May 27, 2018, this singular exhibition is the first of its kind dedicated to the friendship and mutual influence of two of the twentieth century's greatest artists – the father of conceptual art, Marcel Duchamp, and Salvador Dalí, the champion of traditional painting and the imagination.
- **Museum of Fine Arts** | As the only Southeast U.S. venue of the *Star Wars™ and the Power of Costume* travelling exhibition tour, MFA St. Pete welcomes guests to take a journey into the Star Wars™ universe through April 1, as characters are brought to life through a dramatic presentation of more than 60 original costumes.
- **Museum of the American Arts and Crafts Movement, Opening May 2019** | Comprised of businessman and collector Rudy Ciccarello's extensive collection, the five-story, 137,100- square-foot building will house furniture, pottery, tile, metalwork, lighting, photography and other decorative arts from the American Arts and Crafts movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

TripAdvisor Names Clearwater Beach Best Beach In United States, 7th In World

Becoming tradition, TripAdvisor ranked two of the area's beaches in its top seven in the U.S. **Clearwater Beach captured the No. 1 spot once again.** That distinction also made it the only beach in the U.S. on the Top 10 in its list of the **25 Best Beaches in the World at No. 7.**

Not far behind **was St. Pete Beach at No. 7** in the U.S. making the St. Pete/Clearwater the only Florida destination with two beaches in the Top 10.

The annual list is voted on by members of the world's largest online travel community. Winners are determined based on the quality and quantity of traveler reviews and averaged ratings gathered over a 12-month period.



The Fenway Hotel in Dunedin is Reincarnated – An Icon of the Jazz Age Reborn



As St. Pete/Clearwater obliterates tourism records, hotel developers are breathing new life into timeless landmarks with renovations and redevelopments galore in 2018.

In scenic Dunedin, the **Fenway Hotel** (pictured) is due to open in Q2 of 2018 following a \$11 million renovation to the 1920's-era Dunedin icon. The Mediterranean-style waterfront building is being transformed into a member of the Marriott International Autograph Collection, featuring 83 rooms and a

rooftop bar, pool and restaurant. Located in the heart of the city's urban core, **Hyatt Place St. Petersburg Downtown** opened its doors on Sept. 26, 2017 in what will become St. Pete's tallest building. The 15-story, 175-room hotel is part of a larger mixed-use development called One St. Petersburg, which includes a 41-story condominium tower and extensive retail.

It's not just new hotels pulling out all the stops for guests, one of downtown St. Pete's most treasured landmarks, **The Vinoy**, unveiled 102 transformed tower rooms in Nov. 2017, as part of its \$50 million multi-year renovation and redevelopment. The new look evokes a sense of whimsical allure and luxury with vintage fashion photography from the 1940s, flamingo feather wallpapered ceilings, faux-alligator embossed headboards and accented with a hint of the Vinoy's signature pink hue, creating a picture-perfect homage to the luxurious and fanciful brand. Over in St. Pete Beach, the **Sirata Beach Resort** announced a \$15 million renovation including a redesign of the current 382 rooms and suites, pools and more, set to be premier this fall. In addition, the **Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach Resort & Spa** unveiled an extensive, multi-million-dollar renovation to its guests rooms, meeting and events spaces at the end of Dec. 2017, bringing a more modernized look to the 287-room resort, while the **Bilmar Beach Resort (picture right)** in Treasure Island announced the completion of a full renovation to all 166 studios, efficiencies and suites, as well as refreshed exterior look to match its new "beach chic" design.

Explore the Country's Next Culinary Destination

It's no wonder **Garden & Gun** named St. Pete as one of [The South's Best Foods Towns](#) on the culinary rise, with places serving up create your own charcuterie boards, fresh ingredients from an on-site garden, no reservations or phone, 400 plus beers and wines to go. Several new culinary spots have popped up around St. Pete/Clearwater with unique characteristics and downright delicious food, the latest to come on the scene with Japanese small plates and renowned ramen is **Ichicoro Ane**. Check out these new and different culinary delights via the video [HERE](#).



Explore Florida's Largest Craft Beer Scene with the "Gulp Coast" Craft Brewery Passport

With Florida's oldest craft brewery, Dunedin Brewery, it's only fitting that St. Pete/Clearwater boasts the largest craft beer scene in the state. The St. Pete/Clearwater Craft Beer Trail runs North to South from Tarpon Springs to St. Pete with **38 craft breweries** calling the area home, dotting the map throughout the destination. Now you can explore the area's beer culture and visit the breweries – in revitalized warehouses and historic buildings – and get rewarded for it! Visit each "stop" along the trail and ask the bartender for a stamp at each location. More information on this adventure can be found at [GulpCoast.com](#).