

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, Opened April 2018** | Downtown St. Pete's newest museum is 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 features 30,000-sq. ft. of gallery space, a 2,500 sq. ft., two-story indoor sculpture court with an indoor waterfall and more.
- **Museum of Fine Arts, St. Pete** | Through August 5, 2018, the first museum established in St. Pete will be the final stop for the first American exhibition dedicated solely to African American women artists working in abstract art, *Magnetic Fields: Expanding American Abstraction, 1960s to Today*. In addition, an extensive exhibition of internationally renowned photographer and winner of a Lifetime Achievement Award from NAACP, Herb Snitzer, will be showcased in the *Can I Get a Witness* exhibition.
- **Dali x Clyde Butcher** | Beginning this summer, visitors to The Dalí Museum will be able to immerse themselves in stunning images of Dalí's homeland on a grand scale. *Clyde Butcher: Visions of Dalí's Spain* will be on display from **June 16 - Nov. 25, 2018** and provide a view of Dalí's surroundings as seen by Florida's greatest nature photographer, Clyde Butcher. For Salvador Dalí, the landscape of his homeland was always an essential feature of his work and outlook on life. The Dalí Museum sought Butcher's talents to capture the spirit of Dalí's Mediterranean home, located in one of the world's most dramatic landscapes.
- **Museum of the American Arts and Crafts Movement, Opening Fall 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.

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](#).



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 September 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.

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. The Vinoy also welcomes guests to its new chef-driven, marina-front restaurant, Paul's Landing, March 2018. The waterfront restaurant in downtown St. Pete delivers uninterrupted views of the Vinoy Marina, resort pool and Beach Drive in an easygoing elegant atmosphere. 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.

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.