

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. **Opening Jan. 23, the Imagine Museum** will bring more than 580 pieces of studio glass art to St. Pete, displaying the explosive growth and diversification of the contemporary American glass movement. See below for what else is to come:

- **The James Museum of Western + Wildlife Art, Opening April 2018** | Downtown St. Pete's newest museum will be home to approximately 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 120-seat theater, event space, 2,500 sq. ft., two-story indoor sculpture court with an indoor waterfall, store and café.
- **Dali x Duchamp** | Explore the unique and inspiring relationship between Salvador Dali and the father of conceptual art, Marcel Duchamp, coming to the Dali Museum, **Feb 10 - May 27**. The exhibition brings together around 60 works, including some of Dali's most inspired and technically accomplished paintings and sculptures, and Duchamp's ground-breaking assemblages and ready-mades. It will also showcase the less familiar: photographs by Dali, paintings by Duchamp, correspondence and collaborations between the two artists.
- **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, Nov. 11, 2017 – April 1, 2018, 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.
- **The Chihuly Collection** | A museum-style gallery showcasing the work of superstar glass artist Dale Chihuly, reopened in a new, larger space in downtown St. Pete in Oct. 2016. This was the first permanent exhibit in the world for Chihuly.

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](#).



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 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. Petersburg with **33 craft breweries** (and more on the horizon) 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! The "Gulp Coast" Craft Brewery Passport is complete with maps, selected tastes, tour information and descriptions for all 33 breweries. 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. For gluten free folks and/or cider lovers, 3 Daughters Brewing just added an eight-tap cider bar featuring six exclusive to "The Orchard." Add to the trail the advent of ['Beerlato'](#), a combination of seasonal local beers

and fresh gelato flavours, and the Gulp Coast is really living up to its name! Check out this 360 Degree video of the brewery [HERE](#).