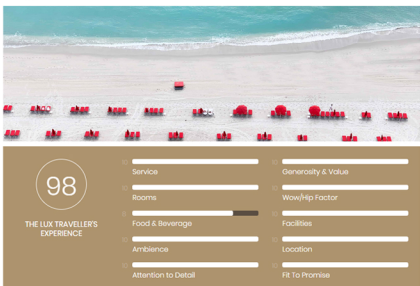


Acqualina is an Italian inspired, beachfront resort located in Sunny Isles, 15 min away from famous South Beach. It has been awarded Forbes Five Star and Five Diamonds, so The Lux Traveller just had to check out!

When travellers think Miami, South Beach is often the first place that comes to mind. If you are a young couple coming to Miami to party then yes, South Beach is a good location and the hotels to consider there are either The Setai or 1 Hotel.

However when it comes to families and couples looking for relaxation, there is no better location than Sunny Isles Beach. It is a peaceful, beautiful and clean neighbourhood with a gorgeous stretch of beach and very nice people.



Check-in

The minute I walked into the lobby I felt at home. Air of luxury envelopes you from the minute you walk in, and better still, check in comes with a drink of your choice – sparkling water, juice or a flute of champagne. Rooms are normally ready by 4pm, but if you arrive early you could use the resort facilities to get into the 'Acqualina' mood.

Accommodation

Acqualina offers 54 guest rooms and 44 suites all designed by Isabel Trarash, celebrated Miami designer. Her feminine touch comes through in flower decorations, fur throws, artwork. Colour scheme of whites and greys is soothing for the eye and sets you in the mood for relaxation.

Intracoastal rooms and suites start from 60 sq meters. Suites feature a separate living room, outdoor terrace, bedroom with a very comfortable bed and a spacious marble bathroom for two with bath and separate shower.

Oceanfront Apartments are my favourite – they start from 110 sq meters and offer a dining space for four, full kitchen, separate study or child's bedroom and of course incredible ocean views from every floor to ceiling window.

Another feature I love about the resort is that there are no long impersonal corridors and endless search for your room once you get out of the lift. The lift opens on your floor and there are only four doors in the foyer. The resort has been planned in a very clever way and every suite feels like your own residence in a highly desired residential building. If you love feeling like a local on your travels, this hotel is definitely for you.

Facilities

Acqualina is very family friendly. It has multiple swimming pools, daily kids' activities and kids' entertainment. Spacious resort grounds and the beach are very private, so your kids can run around and play without adults worrying about them.

For fitness lovers there is a good gym and for those who appreciate a little pampering, there is a gorgeous spa by ESPA. I had a divine full body massage, that sent me to sleep in no time. The therapist was very knowledgeable and recommended a few good stretches and nice ESPA body products to relax the tired muscles.

And then of course there is a beautiful beach with excellent service and those famous red umbrellas. You can choose to lounge on the grass or sunbeds by the water (no extra charges for any of the beach services unlike many other hotels).

The atmosphere by the beach is relaxing and elegant, quite similar to glorious European beach resorts Sardinia or South of France.

Dining

Acqualina offers three restaurants with my favourite Costa Grill located right on the beach. It is a great place to linger a little longer on sunny afternoon with a glass of French rose, delicious salad or a plate of sushi.

Il Mulino New York is a fine dining Italian serving traditional dishes like Porcini & Truffle risotto and Spagettini Alle Vongole in an elegant setting. This restaurant has been awarded the Forbes Travel Guide Recommended Award so it's a must to visit Il Mulino even if you are not staying in the hotel.

For breakfast or casual dining there is AQ Chop House. It serves a delicious buffet breakfast in the mornings and Italian inspired dishes at night. I had a quick dinner there on one of the evenings and it's food was delicious. Quiet setting, perfect for families.

The Lux Traveller Loves

Ultra stylish setting with signature red umbrellas.

Only four suites per floor and only 98 rooms and suites in the whole hotel.

Modern design with comfort, elegance and privacy in mind.

Impeccable service.

Family friendly activities and services.

Splitting Hairs

My only advice would be to book a Seaview suite as the view and the size are really worth it. The view of the back is pleasant, but doesn't compare to the spectacular uninterrupted view of the Atlantic.

All in All

I am biased, as I fell in love with this hotel. Without a doubt, it's one of the best hotels on the West Coast. Perfect for families or a romantic vacation. Highly recommended by The Lux Traveller!

