

ESCAPE

STAYCATIONS

Rest ASSURED

At Acqualina, safety protocols pave the way for EXCLUSIVE new experiences

By Daphne Nikolopoulos

The need to distance and be vigilant about safety doesn't exactly make for a relaxed vacation. But it can also be an opportunity to innovate, as Acqualina Resort & Residences in Sunny Isles Beach has proven.

Acqualina has implemented some of the highest safety protocols in the industry, including electrostatic disinfectant tools for sanitizing interior and exterior spaces, and contactless temperature stations in public areas. Guest rooms are equipped with personal protective equipment in chic, portable packages, and high-touch items like remotes are sanitized and wrapped for individual use. Hand sanitizer dispensers are everywhere, pool and beach furniture is distanced, and service staff wear masks and gloves.

For a AAA Five Diamond resort, that's just standard. Acqualina has gone well beyond the notion of safety by making social distancing a luxurious endeavor.

Alfresco dining has reached a new level of exclusivity through private beachfront dinners, which allow guests to have the seaside lawn all to themselves. Equally suited to romantic tête-à-têtes and family dining, these candlelit meals



SOCIAL DISTANCING MADE CHIC (CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE): BREAKFAST IN BED; A HAMMOCK FOR ONE; PRIVATE BEACH DINING AND PICNICING; ROOM SERVICE WITH A VIEW.



under the stars are served with rose petals, sea breezes, and a soundtrack of waves lapping the sand. The menu features shareable appetizers plus three courses, including a pistachio-crusted sea bass guaranteed to elicit cravings for months afterward.

At lunchtime, the best option is a picnic hamper with Champagne and an impressive lineup of antipasti, salads, cheeses, tuna poke, cookies, and, naturally, chocolate-covered strawberries. It comes with a blanket you can spread out anywhere along the lawn, pool, or beach (or on your suite balcony, for that matter). The property has plenty of private nooks for the ultimate distanced experience.

The Spa has its own COVID-19 prevention guidelines, including reduced capacity and extra time between treatments to properly sanitize the rooms. Some of the communal spaces

are not yet open, and staff wear appropriate PPE for the guests' protection—so there's no excuse for not indulging in a spa day. Acqualina's facials are some of the most advanced anywhere. The Brightening HydraFacial MD, for example, grants an instant antiaging boost through lymphatic drainage, Britenol spot corrector, and LED light therapy.

Kids get their own exclusive activities through the AcquaMarine Kids Club. Families can reserve a 90-minute private camp session for up to five children, during which campers will discover the ocean and its creatures through hands-on activities outdoors and in the clubhouse, all while having the full attention of counselors.

The idea is to go over and above on safety, so guests don't have to think about it and can focus on the good life instead. How novel. (acqualinaresort.com) ◀◀