

LISTS

The 12 Best Cuban Restaurants in Miami

From Eighth Street and Bird Road to Collins Avenue and Le Jeune Road, here are the 12 best Cuban restaurants in Miami.

By Nicole Lopez-Alvar | March 20, 2024



Miami is home to some of the best Cuban restaurants in the world, thanks to its proximity to the island of Cuba and the rich history of Cuban exiles who migrated to the city for a chance at a new life. Versailles is one of those exceptional restaurants. Versailles photo

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Miami is a city of exceptional things. It's where early-morning coladas are delivered through a ventanita. It's where parties are incomplete without a platter of croquetas and sweet pastelitos de queso covered in sugar. It's where drivers cut each other off by rolling down their car windows and signaling with their hands. Because then, and only then, do Miamians think it's OK to creep up on somebody else's lane.

In other cities, folks are repeating the adage: Don't discuss religion or politics. In Miami, it's best to keep your thoughts about the best frita to yourself. And if you ever feel like starting a heated argument over a game of dominos, just ask who serves the best moro in town. Or the creamiest batido de mamey.

If you take offense to our omissions – or dislike our inclusions – let us know. We can always discuss it over a cafecito outside of the ventanita at Versailles. In alphabetical order, here are the twelve best Cuban restaurants in Miami.



Pastelitos at Chug's Diner in Coconut Grove

Chug's Diner photo

Chug's

3444 Main Hwy., Miami

786-353-2940

chugsdiner.com

Michael Beltran distinctly remembers the day he got his nickname. It was his first day as a high school freshman; Beltran walked in late to class, a chocolate milk chug in hand. Today, Chug is the name of the restaurateur's Cuban-American diner, a successful pop-up he's since expanded into a permanent, full-service eatery and modern-day ventanita. Where once stood a tiny grab 'n' go, Chug's now shows off an airy, open design inviting morning, afternoon, or late-night dining, complete with diner-style booths and a bar with lounge-style seating. True to the diner ethos, a crave-worthy menu of Cuban-American eats covers breakfast, lunch, and dinner. While you can order lechón hash to start your day or grab a frita patty melt for lunch, don't miss out on the curated selection of Pastelito Papi's famous fruit- and meat-stuffed pastelitos, or the house Cubano sandwich served on fresh-baked Cuban bread from the diner's bakery. In 2022, Chug's was awarded a Michelin Bib Gourmand for its approachable, excellent fare.