

TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By **ALEXANDRA COHEN**

HOLLYWOOD'S DIPLOMAT BEACH RESORT: A number of years ago, my family joined friends for dinner at the Diplomat Beach Resort in Hollywood, Florida (<http://www.diplomatresort.com>).

Looking around at the beautiful facilities, I distinctly recall hoping to experience the hotel in its entirety one day.

Recently, that wish came true, our visit coming soon after the completion of a \$100 million transformation of this oceanfront, all-encompassing destination resort offering a fresh new take on vacationing for all business and leisure travellers. From the Atlantic coast to the Intracoastal, the reinvented resort pays

homage to the hotel's storied past as a social hub, with a modern take on design and amenities, including a luxurious spa and more than 10 new culinary concepts.

JEWISH CONNECTION: Hollywood, Florida is considered to be one of the most vibrant Jewish communities in the United States. The city is home to some 40,000 Jews. There are no less than 12 synagogues and temples here: Chabad Ocean Synagogue; Chabad of Walnut Creek; Congregation Ahavat Shalom; Hollywood Community Synagogue (Chabad); Mishkan Yisrael; Temple Beth El; Temple Judea of Carriage Hills; Temple Sinai of Hollywood;

Temple Solel; Torat Moshe; Tree of Life Congregation; and Young Israel of Hollywood/Fort Lauderdale. Many of the grade school level children in the community attend Brauser Maimonides Academy, located in Hollywood, and the major, Josh Levy, is also Jewish.

ACCOMMODATIONS: The Diplomat is now part of Curio Collection by Hilton, a global set of upscale hotels handpicked for their unique character. We stayed in a gorgeous Oceanview Double Deluxe Room with a balcony, providing a beautiful and completely unobstructed view of the ocean. With 1,000 guest rooms – including a Presidential suite, 515 king rooms and 484 double

rooms, with 96 being suites – The Diplomat is the largest hotel in Broward County.

DINING OPTIONS: For kosher food in Hollywood, you can try Sara's, Big Apple Pizza, the Grand Café Espresso Bar, Hummus Factory, La'Chaim Meets China, Levinsky Roasting, Levy's Kosher of Hollywood, Mizachi's Pizza Kitchen, Mozart Cafe, Pita Star, Redwan's Pita Bakery, Sylvia's Kosher Place, Yum Berry Cafe and Sushi. At the Diplomat let us certainly recommend breakfast at Point Royal (<http://www.pointroyal-fl.com>), a coastal restaurant also open for lunch and dinner.

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TRAVEL TALES

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This is a large dynamic buffet filled with almost every breakfast option imaginable, from house-made pastries and an inventive cereal bar, to egg dishes, salads and grains.

Our first dinner was also at Point Royal part of famous chef Geoffrey Zakarian's approachable American cuisine, complete with indoor/outdoor seating and a grand yet modern Raw Bar. We started off with the seafood platter, known appropriately as The Diplomat. We then shared some tossed heirloom lettuces, which included

shaved carrots, radish, and aged sherry vinaigrette. The yellowfin tuna tartare, with avocado and chili-sesame seed vinaigrette, was next, followed by an order of roasted Maine diver scallops, which included baby turnips, fennel, herbs and smoked fish chowder. All in all it was an amazing meal, which we capped off with the most decadent of desserts, a Black Forest meringue pie.

The next night, we also enjoyed a superb meal at Monkitaill (<https://www.monkitaill.com>), which won the top spot for Best

Hotel Restaurant in *USA Today's* 2017 Readers' Choice Awards. After eating there ourselves, we now understand why it was selected for this honor. Celebrity chef and restaurateur Michael Schulson is at the helm; Monkitaill is his seventh restaurant. The menu is a contemporary take on the classic izakaya, featuring sharable small plates and sushi as well as an array of specialty cocktails and saké. Surrounding an open robata-yaki kitchen in the heart of the restaur-

ant is a private dining area overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Tucked away beyond Monkitaill's main dining room is Nokku, a discreet cocktail lounge with four private rooms, each having full karaoke capabilities.

ACTIVITIES: In addition to the two beachfront pools, there is also jet skiing, ocean kayaking, paddleboard rentals, and the property's newest addition, the Dip + Slide water play area. Designed with an interactive water bucket

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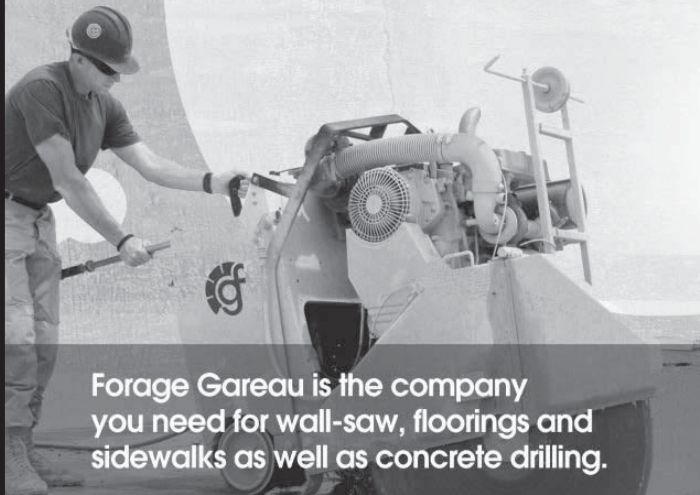
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THE CUMMINGS CENTRE HAS ANNOUNCED THE creation of The Helen Levy Leadership Development Program Fund through the Cummings Jewish Centre for Senior Foundation. Thanks to the generosity of Helen Levy, the Cummings Centre will launch the program in the Fall of 2018. Helen Levy is a Past President of Federation CJA Women's Campaign, a Past President of Israel Cancer Research Fund and a graduate of the Wexner Heritage Program. Anyone interested in information regarding the Helen Levy Leadership Development Program can contact Lynn Gordon, Director of Volunteer Services at 514-734-1791 or via email at lynn.gordon@cummingscentre.org. For those individuals interested in donating to the Helen Levy Fund, please contact Diane Dupuis at the Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors Foundation at 514-734-1825 or at diane.dupuis@cummingscentre.org.

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LEAVING LABOUR

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I do not know whether Labour will form a government under its present leadership. But I am certain that I wish to play no part in helping it do so. Electoral success is not the same as moral legitimacy. An institution that turns a blind eye to the injustice festering in its own ranks surrenders its claim to moral leadership of the country. And "comrades" who tacitly offer a safe space for intolerance, or turn their faces from the

suffering caused by racism (or misogyny, or any of the ills that afflict Labour) are not really comrades at all. There is life beyond Labour, and I will try to find it.

Yours sincerely,
Jamie Susskind

TRAVEL TALES

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that playfully tips over when full, the area entertains young travelers and is strategically located to give parents a direct line of sight from the lagoon pool so they can still relax poolside. Pool amenities include complimentary towel service and full-service poolside lunch and spa services. I had the opportunity to experience a 50-minute Diplomat Signature Spa Treatment, which I must strongly recommend. Be sure to make your spa reservations well in advance as space is limit-

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THE CABANA EXPERIENCE: Exclusively designed for The Diplomat, specialty cabanas created by fashion designer Trina Turk, are available for rent on the lower floor of the pool deck, providing a relaxing and stylish oasis for the day. We were fortunate to spend an entire day in a private poolside cabana where we were pampered by the pool concierge and spoiled with generous amenities. While spending the day in our cabana, we ordered lunch from Playa, a Beachfront Nuevo-Latina restaurant and bar featuring an extensive rum and tequila selection.

BOUCHER BROTHERS ON THE BEACH: We were thrilled to discover that The Diplomat partners with the multi award-winning Boucher Brothers Management (<http://www.boucherbrothers.com/about-us>) to pamper guests during their day on the beautiful Hollywood Beach. We got to spend a day lounging in private daybeds and relaxing on a chaise for a luxurious take on 'fun in the sun'. The team from Boucher Brothers could not have been nicer in setting us up, and they in fact came back several times over our stay to adjust the umbrellas and make sure everything was okay. Lunch and drinks were available right at our chairs. To reserve, call (954) 602-8690.

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