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 **Travel**

Gloria Estefan's Vero Beach Escape

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Pop star Gloria Estefan has been a music maven for decades. Now, the Miami denizen and her husband, Emilio, are making music in the resort business. Their latest hit is Costa d'Este Beach Resort, the Estefan's oceanfront hotel in Vero Beach.

The intimate \$50 million luxury resort that opened two years ago features 94 stylish rooms, including four suites, the gourmet Cuban-fusion Oriente restaurant and lounge, the al fresco Cabana Bar, a European-style spa, an infinity-edge pool, and a fitness room—all of which are

reflective of the simple yet elegant styles and tastes of the Estefans themselves. For instance, general manager Awilda Rivera notes that a beautiful orchid, Gloria's favorite flower, can be found on a beaded curtain that is illuminated each night. Yet that's just one of her personal touches at Costa d'Este, a "home away from home" for the couple, when they're not relaxing at their nearby home in Vero Beach.

"There's a warm sense of style without being overwhelmed and flavors of South Beach without all the hustle of Miami," Rivera adds. "Everything is very clean, streamlined, and clutter-free. When you pull up, there's a sense of arrival in its simplicity, whether it's the waterfall, the sounds of the ocean, or the Nag Champa incense in your room."



The Estefans have actually been involved in the hotel and restaurant business since the early 1990s, starting with their first Cuban restaurant, Larios on the Beach on Ocean Drive in South Beach. Soon after, they acquired the Cardozo Hotel in Miami. Today, the Cuban couple has seven restaurants and three hotels. The design scheme for Costa d'Este Beach Resort is centered on various organic geometrical expressions, namely the circle. Drawing inspiration from sunrises, bubbles, and nesting sea turtles, Todd Tragash and Isabel Saavedra-Tragash of Miami-based STA Architecture successfully created a chic oasis that celebrates nature and heavily reflects the Estefan's old Miami personality. Gloria and Emilio who were personally involved in all aspects of the design process, previously worked with STA on their Vero Beach home and Miami Beach corporate headquarters. "Costa d'Este reflects the laid-back vibe and environmental consciousness of Vero Beach," Emilio says. "It's one of the main reasons we first fell in love with the community." Rates start at \$249 per room. 877-562- 9919, costadeste.com.

THE AGENDA

LIFTOFF If you've never seen a rocket blast off from its launch pad, now's your chance. If the weather holds, head up to the Kennedy Space Center on July 30 where NASA's Atlas V rocket will launch a new satellite. 866-737-5235, kennedyspacecenter.com.

ONE LOVE What better way to take in a warm summer night on the ocean than at Captain Hiram's in Vero Beach with reggae star Beres Hammond? Sink your toes in the sand and feel the vibe on July 21. 772-589-4345, hirams.com.



MANATEE MARVELS Hop in a kayak on August 30 and paddle near Round Island in the waters of Island River Lagoon where you'll be able to spot manatees and dolphins as they swim right up next to you. 772-466-1600 ext. 3333, manateecenter.com.

— By Scott Kauffman