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TRAVEL + LEISURE

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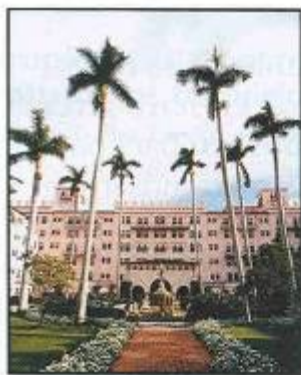
Where to Stay • What to See • What to Buy

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reports



BRINGING BACK *BOCA*



Boca's New Look Clockwise from top left: The Old Homestead Steakhouse; the resort's reception lounge; the hotel's original façade.

In 1926, legendary Palm Beach architect Addison Mizner ventured south to the frontier swamp of Boca Raton to build the 100-room Cloister Inn, which would eventually grow into the 1,043-room **Boca Raton Resort & Club**. Eighty years on, the property is undergoing an ambitious 21st-century makeover, courtesy of new owner LXR Luxury Resorts, which has commissioned an all-star ambience team to do the job. Thierry Despont, who recently put his stamp on the bar at the Dorchester, in London, has lightened the resort's Spanish-revival promenades with oyster-hued armchairs, epic Florida à go-go murals,

HOTEL

and marble-and-limestone floors. Alexandra Champalimaud, known for her work at New York's Carlyle Hotel, is designing a series of Boca Bungalows with black tongue-and-groove floors, white wood furniture, and striped awnings. And Tony Chi, who just completed renovations of the Park Hyatt, in Washington, D.C., has created a sister restaurant to New York's Old Homestead Steakhouse (the originator of the \$41 Kobe-beef burger). Mizner loved the flamboyant interior, but Chi's tongue-in-cheek Titanium Bar—hung with full-size papier-mâché cow heads—might have thrown even him for an aesthetic loop. *501 E. Camino Real; 561/395-3000; www.bocaresort.com; doubles from \$459.*—Tom Austin