



# A PRO VIEW OF PALM BEACH

*This posh resort offers a variety of places to eat and things to do. But count pennies, prices can be astronomical*

**By Dick Miller** Associate Editor, GOLF Magazine

Any veteran of the Professional Golfers' Assn. Merchandise Show will tell you that it's four days of work and beneath the facade of an annual social reunion of back-slapping, hand-shaking and drinking, buying merchandise four days this year from January 23d to the 26th will be as strenuous as four days of tournament golf.

Unless you're mixing this business trip with vacation, you won't have a lot of spare time—just late afternoons and evenings. This time shouldn't be wasted searching out the restaurant you visited two years ago that had lean and tender roast beef and waitresses.

This article is geared to save you time and aggravation.

You're going to Florida in the midst of "in-season." Expect prices to be high and bars and restaurants overcrowded. A 15 per cent tipping policy is expected. Also, Florida has a 4 per cent state tax.

If possible, keep a daily diary of your expenses; obtain receipts or use credit cards. This is a business trip. If you club isn't picking up the tab, it's all tax deductible. Don't forget when entertaining a business associate that his wife also is a business expense.

Since it's height of the season, reservations should be made for dinner, especially in Palm Beach. This affluent playground swells to about 40,000 people during "in-season."

**O'Hara's** is one of the better restaurants in Palm Beach. Just a healthy brassie shot north of the Breakers Hotel on South Country Road, O'Hara's exudes a New Yorkish atmosphere. The cuisine is excellent and the service good. Two bars and a small dance floor occupy the north end of the building. The clientele of the bars is evenly mixed between singles and marrieds.

For excellent French and Italian cuisine it's **Petite Marmite Restaurant** on Worth Avenue. The restaurant is posh and expensive, but well worth it. It's one of the "with it" spots for the Palm Beach set.

Next to it is the **Taboo** bar. A smorgasbord is served every noon except Sunday. But it's after 10 p.m. that the bar begins to swing, with shiny-maned women wearing long dresses with slipper sandals and men in blue or red blazers sporting slacks and loafers without socks. To be considered Palm Beach *de rigueur*, wear the same.

If you like great spaghetti, it's **Testa's Restaurant** on Royal Poinciana Way. For dessert—not to be missed—try their fresh strawberry pie.

Coat and tie is recommended at most restaurants for dinner.

Late night action in Palm Beach at most restaurants moves to the wee hours at the Taboo Bar, O'Hara's and across the street at **Trude Heller's**, a small discotheque where the midnight swingers connect with the electric sounds of folk rock music.

As every pro knows, who owns a pair of alligator shoes, Palm Beach's chic **Worth Avenue** is Florida's Fifth Avenue. There's **Saks**, **Bonwit Tellers**, **Elizabeth Arden** and **Van Cleef and Arpels**, just to mention a few stores shadowed by the Royal Palms. Tucked away, just a flip wedge shot off the main shopping drag, are flowered-strewn mews with charming pubs and boutiques, **Lilly Pulitzer** among them. (It's where to

*(Continued on page 90)*

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## Palm Beach

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send your wife shopping, providing you've just won a \$100 Nassau.)

The 87 store stopping mall in West Palm Beach just off I-95 is less expensive than Worth Avenue. In fact, West Palm is consistently less expensive. It's a year-round sprawling community and isn't geared to those who talk like they have money in their mouths.

Three restaurants are within a 15 minute drive from Palm Beach Gardens. **Frederic's Steakhouse** on North Dixie Highway, West Palm; **The Flame**, Yacht Club Drive, North Palm, and the **New England Oyster House**, U.S. 1, North Palm. At the latter a buffet is served every noon. At all, reservations for dinner are a must.

Night life in West Palm varies from a jigger-full of swinging bars to jai alai and the dog track. The track is adjacent to the West Palm Beach Airport at Belvedere Road and Congress Avenue. Opens nightly at 8, Saturday matinee 1:30; closed Sunday, admission \$.50 to \$1, parimutual betting.

The **Jai Alai Fronton** is on West 45th Street. Opens nightly at 7:30. Saturday matinee 1 p.m., closed Sunday; also parimutual betting.

In West Palm the bars don't begin to swing until after 10 p.m. **The Kandy Bar**, downtown West Palm on South Narcissus Avenue, is one of the best. When strippers aren't dancing on the bar, there's a nudie light show flashing behind the bar. Warning: Proceed at your own risk if approached by a young damsel who wants you to buy her a champagne cocktail.

About 20 minutes south of West Palm on South Dixie Highway is the **He & She Scene** discotheque. It caters to the young set. If you're over 30, it'll make you feel a decade older. It's a boy meets girl bar via the vibrations of acid rock. Disconnected sounds blare until the wee hours and are enough to put a kink in the rhythmic swing of Samuel Jackson Snead.

Another recent entrant to the nightlife scene is **Mr. Tee's** on Coconut Row, not far from the posh Royal Poinciana Shopping Plaza. The door reads "Members Only," but don't let that stop you—no one is likely to ask questions. It's a good spot for a night cap after an evening of theater at the Royal Poinciana Playhouse. □

