

A white room evokes summer at the Delano.



restaurants in South Beach hotels. Among the best: Nobu in the **Shore Club** (www.shoreclub.com, from \$315). Along with its famed Japanese restaurant, the resort features 309 rooms and bungalows—with hand-painted fabrics and teak furnishings, on a tranquil stretch of sand north of the Art Deco District.

The trend toward brand-name chefs continues to converge on Miami hotels. Nuevo Latino chef Douglas Rodriguez's latest venture is **Ola** at the **Sanctuary Hotel** (www.sanctuarysobe.com; from \$215), a swank 30-suite boutique off the beaten path northeast of Lincoln Road. Its neighborhood, across from the Jackie Gleason Theater, is still transitioning out of a forgotten state, giving it the air of being on the edge of something big. This area is the place to head if you actually want to sleep at night without Ocean Drive's throbbing soundtrack in your head. Another mellow option is the **Hotel St. Augustine** (www.hotelstaugustine.com; from \$139), two blocks off Ocean Drive and the beach in the South of Fifth district. The restored 1937 art deco jewel has 24 loft-style rooms decorated with modern, maple-wood furnishings, a "spa-bar" filled with hydrating skin products, and beach towels—a notable amenity in Miami.

Bargain hunters are in luck. Located in the thick of things on South Beach, the **Clay's Hostel** (www.clayhotel.com/hostel; from \$75) shares a 1920s building with a hotel by the same name on picturesque Espanola Way. The struggling-artist spirit of the place is proof that big spenders haven't totally taken over the playground.

A Breath of Fresh Air

Windmills turn into places to sleep throughout Portugal.

Authentic travel is a breeze these days in Portugal, with a number of *moinhos de vento*, or windmills, being converted into affordable rural havens for visitors. Forty miles north of Lisbon, traditional ceramics decorate **Moinho da Santa** (from \$96; www.casadoforal.com), a 17th-century windmill inside a national park with two dozen well-preserved dinosaur footprints. Historic mills dot the landscape all the way to **Casa do Moinho** (from \$95; www.casadomoinho.com) on the country's beach-studded southern tip. Take in paintings by local artists and enjoy the ocean views. Or, wake with the birds on the Azorean isle of São Miguel at **Moinho da Bóvil** (from \$110; www.moinhosdabovil.com), just a five-hour flight from Boston. Swim in nearby thermal waters, take a wooden ladder to the circular guest room with a stunning full-moon view, and have your gracious hosts prepare traditional roast chicken with pumpkin seeds using antique kitchenware on an outdoor woodstove.—EMILY HAILE



STAYS UNDER \$150

Santa Barbara, Milwaukee, and Sonora, Mex.

Inn at East Beach, Santa Barbara, Calif. Frequented by President Ronald Reagan's staff while he was in office, the Inn at East Beach has continued to maintain its comfortable atmosphere and modest price since its opening in 1951. The 33-room hotel in one of California's favorite beach neighborhoods is just a block from East Beach. Many of the oversize guest rooms surround a heated pool, and

some offer views of the ocean. From \$89; 805-965-0546; www.innateastbeach.com.

Ambassador Hotel, Milwaukee, Wis. Designed by architects Urban Peacock and Armin Frank—renowned for their Milwaukee-based art deco theater projects such as the Venetian Theater—the Ambassador Hotel is a city landmark. With marble floors, frosted glass sconces, and

bronze elevator doors, the 133-room hotel showcases its art deco roots while offering guests modern luxuries such as flat-screen TVs and high-speed Internet access. The hotel is just a short walk from the new Discovery World Museum located on Lake Michigan. From \$119; www.ambassadorinmilwaukee.com.

Hotel Colonial, Álamos, Sonora, Mex. Located in the heart of the colonial pueblo of Álamos, Hotel Colonial is a restored Spanish colonial mansion and one of Mexico's National Historical Monuments. In the center of the property framed by arched portals, stands an open-air courtyard that is surrounded by ten guest rooms filled with hand-carved furnishings and antiques. The hotel is steps away from Plaza de Armas the lively plaza where the town gathers every Sunday. From \$135 with breakfast; www.alamoshotelcolonial.com. —Reported by Mary Beth LaRue and Beth Lizardo



Light fare awaits at the Café Deco in the Ambassador Hotel.