

VENUS WILLIAMS
MAYOR DANIEL STERMER
CLEVELAND CLINIC FLORIDA
RONEY MATEU
CHAD OPPENHEIM
JEFFRE MANUEL
WESTON FC
GOLF FASHION
TOP RESTAURANTS
ACROYOGA
PRIVATE SCHOOLS
ED AND TRACEY DIKES

BOTANIKO
WESTON







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City Talks

WORDS

BOB WEINBERG

PHOTO

EDWARD LINSMIER

“It was just time for a change,” Weston Mayor Daniel J. Stermer says, explaining why, in 1996, he and his young family relocated to Weston from New York, where he had been working as an assistant district attorney in the Bronx.

Aside from being drawn to the subtropical climate, the Stermers, like so many other northern transplants, had family in South Florida. “The reason we actually ended up in Weston,” the mayor relates, “was that my brother was living here already. So, we fell in love with the community, and that’s where we decided to plant our roots.”

Through the city’s commissioner-manager system, Stermer became mayor of Weston in November 2012. Before that, he served as a Weston city commissioner from 2002-2010, and before that he was the Florida assistant attorney general. By day, he works as a consultant with Development Specialists Inc. in Miami, helping advise and manage faltering businesses, as well as investigating assets and liquidating them.

Stermer and his wife, Debbie, raised three children in Weston: One now attends the University of Miami; another attends Florida State University; and the youngest is a student at Cypress Bay High School. Certainly, it’s no secret that there are benefits to raising kids in this community. In 2012, *Money* magazine touted Weston among its Best Places to Live. More recently, the city was recognized by *Family Circle* as one of its 10 Best Towns for Families. And this summer, the consumer blog Nerdwallet.com ranked Weston fifth in its 10 Best Towns for Young Families in Florida, citing the city’s 46 miles of bike trails—some with views of the Everglades—and superb schools.

“We have great relationships with every principal and administration at each school,” Stermer says. “At the beginning of the school year, we have a get-together with the principals, assistant principals, and their teams and our teams. And later in the year, when the schools all get recognized—I think for the 10th or 11th year in a row—as all being ‘A’ schools, we invite the principals and assistant principals to a commission meeting and recognize them publicly, and give them awards.”

Over the years, Stermer has witnessed Weston’s transformation from rural landscape to thriving suburb. Cows gave way to condos.

Fields sprouted man-made lakes around which developments popped up. With Cleveland Clinic Florida as its anchor, Weston also became a medical hub, attracting patients and practitioners from around the world. This had a surprising ripple effect. “We found out, over the past year or two, that Weston is, I think, the sixth-largest generator of bed tax in Broward County,” Stermer says. “We sort of scratched our heads, and then we realized how many folks come in for medical care.”

Stermer’s chances of scoring a good arepa or cafécito have also increased in recent years. Nicknamed “Westonzuela,” the area has attracted many residents of Venezuelan descent, though they’re outnumbered by Colombians.

Managing growth is among the mayor’s primary concerns. While he wants to continue adding revenue, he won’t sacrifice quality of life. “The most important thing is keeping the residents happy and keeping the business owners happy,” Stermer says. “And as long as we continue to keep Weston the way it is and increase property values, that’s the most important part.”

As for his daily commute to Miami, Stermer all but guarantees that express lanes being added along I-95 in Broward will make traffic much less excruciating. “I spent four years chairing the Metropolitan Planning Organization, so I can tell you it will,” he reassures with a laugh. “It will.”

“As long as we continue to keep Weston the way it is and increase property values, that’s the most important part.”

Mayor Daniel Stermer has lived in Weston since 1996, witnessing the transformation of the city from rural landscape to a large suburb.



A JUMP START

WESTON: A HUB FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS

WORDS

NILA DO SIMON

PHOTOS

EDUARDO SCHNEIDER

Harrison and Harlee Ross

12 and 8, American Heritage School

American Heritage School in Plantation was founded on the premise of providing high-quality education to families and communities in western Broward County. With an advanced college preparatory curriculum, the school teaches pre-K through 12th grade and is accredited by several associations, including the National Council for Private Schools. The 40-acre campus features a 1,000-seat theater, an Olympic-sized pool, two multimedia production studios and five athletic fields, which is perfect for athlete Harrison. There's also a renowned fine arts department with drama, vocals music and dance, which performer Harlee loves. Last year, American Heritage had 101 nationally recognized scholars, including 50 National Merit Scholars.





Mille Staff

13. The Sagemont School

Eighth-grader Mille Staff is entering her second year at The Sagemont School's upper campus, a private school known for having a college acceptance rate of 100 percent. Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the college preparatory school for grades pre-K through 12 also has an internship program that allows students to receive hands-on work experience at businesses such as Cleveland Clinic Florida, Nova Southeastern University and the *Sun Sentinel*. For the athletically-focused kids, the school is a member of Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) and boasts three past Broward County coaches of the year.



Samantha Dee

13, NSU University School

On a vibrant campus that houses nearly 2,000 students from junior kindergarten through 12th grade, NSU University School kids and teens are exposed to a challenging academic curriculum, strong fine and performing arts options, and a robust athletic program. Those are just some of the reasons that eighth-grader Samantha Dee and her younger brother, Alexander, are at University School. This past year, the school's robotics team was named No. 1 in Florida, the speech and debate team ranked in the top 1 percent in the nation (for the third year in a row), and students received more than 70 awards in the Scholastic Art Competition, the most prestigious awards program for teen artists. In addition, NSU University School's collaboration with NSU—the largest, not-for-profit, private university in the state—offers students unprecedented access to college-level resources, working alongside and sharing a campus with world-class NSU scientists, researchers and distinguished professors.





ACRO

ADDING A TWIST TO AN ANCIENT PRACTICE

YOGA

WORDS

NILA DO SIMON

PHOTO

EDWARD LINSMIER



It's all about a connection. Acroyoga is a form of partner yoga that incorporates traditional yoga movements with acrobatic twists and lifts—all with the underlying theme of connecting two or more bodies as one.

Since it was formalized in 1999, acroyoga has slowly gained popularity around the nation, with celebrity followers that include Gisele Bündchen, Adam Levine and Lena Dunham. And thanks to The Prana Lab in Weston, a growing community of Broward County acroyoga enthusiasts has been catching on to this powerful yet graceful exercise.

Unlike conventional yoga, where participants work as individuals, acroyoga is a partner-based activity that involves supporting each player both physically and mentally through arduous poses. The standard acroyoga roles are flyers, bases and spotters. Similar to cheerleading flyers, acroyoga flyers are the individuals who are lifted into the air. Bases provide the ground support for flyers, and spotters stand nearby to provide safety in case a pose goes awry.

Acroyoga positions can be held from a few seconds to several minutes, requiring not only core strength and balance, but also absolute trust in one's partner. For example, the folded leaf pose requires the base to lie down with his or her feet up in the air while balancing the flyer at the top of the flyer's hips. The flyer's legs then separate into a piked straddle, with the base completely holding the weight of the flyer.

"Acroyoga involves doing postures with more than one body and more than one mind," says Carlos Diaz, a Weston acroyoga

enthusiast and traditional yoga instructor. "That means there's more than just control involved; there's also trust, communication and complete presence. You're responsible for your own safety and the safety of the group that you're involved with."

Diaz says an easy introduction to acroyoga is at "jams." Borrowing the term from musicians who get together to jam, acroyoga jams welcome dozens of acroyoga enthusiasts of various levels to connect and perform poses at an informal location, always ensuring experienced practitioners are present for safety purposes. Local jams, which Diaz says bring together new, veteran, young and aging acroyogis, have taken place at Markham Park and Hollywood's Young Circle. For those looking to get a start into acroyoga, Diaz says jams are a relaxed yet informative starting point.

As Diaz says, "Acroyoga does so much, and it especially allows for that instant connection with people."

“Acroyoga involves doing postures with more than one body and more than one mind.”







NET ASSETS

WORDS

JAMESON OLIVE

PHOTO

EDUARDO SCHNEIDER

When Steve Ziegler founded Weston's first Amateur Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) in 1992, the former player and coach was admittedly unaware that he was planting the seeds of a program that would someday grow into one of the largest and most respected youth soccer clubs in the nation.

"It was more about just creating something where kids could have fun and learn," says Ziegler, who started Weston AYSO with 100 kids and built it into a 3,000-player program. "I never could have imagined it would ever be what it is today."

In 1998, following the success of the AYSO program, Ziegler launched Weston FC, a competitive soccer club that has since been recognized by the U.S. Soccer Federation as one of the top youth programs in the country. In 2007, Weston FC became one of only 77 clubs nationwide to be named an official U.S. Soccer Development Academy program for its commitment to excellence and its unique core curriculum crafted by Marcelo Neveleff, the technical director.

Neveleff, who has coached professionally in Bolivia, holds USSF National "A" and Youth licenses and was named the 2010-11 Development Academy Coach of the Year. His curriculum, which is the only youth soccer training regimen in the U.S. known to incorporate sports science, is built on a schedule of continuity and repetition in which kids practice the same playing style and training habits from the moment they enter the program until their eventual departure.

"In order to recruit the best of the best, you really need your technical director to be on that level. There are a lot of technical directors out there, but Marcelo is clearly one of the best in the country," says Ziegler, who was re-elected as president of Weston FC in 2011. "His team has taken the best of U.S. Soccer, the best of some of the European clubs, and has actually gone out and visited some of these clubs and training sessions to try and put together what we believe is the best possible curriculum."

With a network consisting of 60 coaches and 75 teams, Weston FC competes—and regularly comes out victorious—in local tournaments while also traveling throughout the country and the world to play against other top-tier programs. The host tournament, the Weston Cup and Showcase that is held each Presidents Day weekend, is one of the largest tournaments in the country, with more than 10,000 players and 620 teams participating both nationally and internationally.

As Ziegler watches his once-fledgling program evolve into what he describes as "more of a corporation," the man who could easily be credited as South Florida's soccer guru takes some of his greatest pleasures in seeing Weston FC's homegrown players, such as Alejandro Bedoya, succeed on soccer's biggest stage.

Bedoya, who played his entire youth career with Weston FC, is a regular fixture on the U.S. men's national team and played in four games for the U.S. in the 2014 World Cup. He currently plays for FC Nantes in France and, according to Ziegler, serves as a constant reminder of just how far the program has come.

"I used to always tell the parents, 'Look, you need to relax and enjoy the game because no one is going to come out of here and become a professional player,'" Ziegler says with a laugh. "Now that Alejandro is a starter on the national team, they tell me, 'Steve, you can't say that anymore!'"

"It was more about just creating something where kids could have fun and learn. I never could have imagined it would ever be what it is today."



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Steve Ziegler is the president of Weston FC, which has produced some of the finest soccer players in the nation, including U.S. men's national team member Alejandro Bedoya.

BORN

TO

DESIGN

AWARD-WINNING ARCHITECT RONEY MATEU DISCUSSES HIS DRIVE TO DESIGN.

WORDS

CONNOR HANSEN





Roney Mateu used his signature minimalistic approach for his property designs at Botaniko Weston.

As a boy in Cuba, Roney Mateu spent countless hours drawing the *bohios* (huts) that were nestled throughout the countryside. He had no family members who were architects—and he didn’t even know anyone who was an architect. He just knew he was obsessed with drawing buildings, designing spaces and creating structures.

“I have never wanted to be anything but an architect,” Mateu says. “As far back as I can remember, I was always drawing buildings. This is in my blood.”

His family came to Miami in 1960 when he was 8 years old, “with \$18 in coins and the clothes we wore.” In school, he took every drawing and drafting class allowed. In high school, he even

drafted a house for one of his teachers. But after graduating from the University of Miami, Mateu was at a crossroads.

“It was 1978, and there was no work, so I decided to borrow some money and build myself a house,” Mateu says.

The home was on Old Cutler Road (in what is now Palmetto Bay) and was very modern in design. He was forced to sell it because he couldn’t afford the \$420 in monthly mortgage, but the eye-catching house was on a very busy street and “soon became my business card,” Mateu says. He built three more homes on the same street and slowly developed a following and reputation for his signature style of modern architecture.

“Since we came from Cuba with nothing, I’ve always learned



to make do, and that translates into the way I design,” says Mateu, who now heads the Miami-based Mateu Architecture and is the recipient of 67 AIA awards. “I look at how to solve problems and meet my clients’ needs, no matter their budget. I have a very minimalist approach to design. How can we take what is given to us and make great things as simply and frugally as we can?”

This nod toward minimalism is what makes Mateu a perfect fit for his latest project, Botaniko Weston. “These houses are almost ‘breathing,’ with air flowing in and out; sometimes, the only separation between the outside and inside is a glass wall,” he says. “That is what will set this project apart.”

Mateu currently lives in Miami in half of the two-family compound he designed in 1987 for his parents, who have both since passed away; his son’s family occupies the other half. A pool in the middle represents the water his family crossed when they came from Cuba. A wall that starts in his fireplace snakes the distance to end in his son’s fireplace, serving as the “umbilical cord connecting us. They look across at us as the future; we look at them as the multigenerational tradition that continues.”

When asked what his hobbies are, it’s no surprise that Mateu says, “Architecture is my hobby. I can’t believe people actually pay me for what I love to do. It’s a way of life for me, and such an integral part of who I am.”



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TEE

PHOTOS
GARY JAMES

STYLING
CRISTINA CELLINI

OFF





Fernando Garcia dress, available at Oxygene at Bal Harbour Shops, fernandogarciadesigns.com; **Footjoy** golf shoes, available at Weston Hills Country Club's pro shop, footjoy.com; **Judith Ripka** bracelet, available at King Jewelers in Aventura; **King Jewelers Privé Collection** yellow diamond earrings, available at King Jewelers in Aventura.

The Kooples white blouse and scarf, available at Bloomingdale's at Aventura Mall, thekooples.com; Footjoy golf glove, available at Weston Hills Country Club's pro shop, footjoy.com.





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Spring
HMT STAINLESS MID SIZE

HMT ST





Moschino striped blouse, available at Saks Fifth Avenue at Bal Harbour Shops, moschino.com; Chloé shorts, available at Saks Fifth Avenue at Bal Harbour Shops, chloe.com; King Jewelers Privé Collection pearl jewelry, available at King Jewelers in Aventura; Fernando Garcia hat, available at C. Madeleine's in Miami, fernandogarciadesigns.com.





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Chloé blouse, available at Saks Fifth Avenue at Bal Harbour Shops, chloe.com; Alexis lace skirt, available at Bloomingdale's at Aventura Mall, alexis.com; Fendi high loafers, available at Saks Fifth Avenue at Bal Harbour Shops; King Jewelers Privé Collection ruby and diamond earrings and bracelet, available at King Jewelers in Aventura; Footjoy golf gloves, available at Weston Hills Country Club's pro shop, footjoy.com.



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Maje eyelet dress, available at Bloomingdale's at Aventura Mall; Gucci shoes, available at Saks Fifth Avenue at Bal Harbour Shops; King Jewelers Privé Collection jewelry, available at King Jewelers in Aventura; Eric Javits hat, available at Neiman Marcus at Bal Harbour Shops, ericjavits.com.

BOTANIKO

ART DIRECTION
KIM GRIJALVA

HAIR & MAKEUP
TIFFANY OLIVER

MODEL
EMILY DOYLE
Ford Models

LOCATION
WESTON HILLS COUNTRY CLUB



IF THERE WAS ONE PLACE
YOU COULD LIVE FOR
THE REST OF YOUR LIFE,
WHAT WOULD IT FEEL LIKE?
WHERE WOULD IT BE?

BOTANIKO

WESTON

Botaniko Weston is a private enclave of 125 modern luxury homes
situated on 121 graciously landscaped acres in Weston
- one of Money Magazine's best places to live.



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DESIGNING

ARCHITECT CHAD OPPENHEIM DOES GLOBAL—AND LOCAL.

MAN





Chad Oppenheim was initially interested in working on Botaniko Weston because of the possibility of adding more depth and intrigue to a planned community.

When architect Chad Oppenheim was a 7-year-old growing up in suburban New Jersey, his parents decided to build a new home. It was then that he was bitten by the architecture bug. “I would sit with them and sketch, draw and talk about how we would live and the dreams we had,” he says. “The experience was very instrumental in my becoming an architect.”

Oppenheim loved the whole process of drawing up plans, looking at elevations and considering light. “I saw that architecture was about inspiring and building dreams,” he says, and recalls that the house ended up with a lot of skylights. The use of natural light still informs his work today.

In fact, light—literally and figuratively—is a major feature of Oppenheim’s work for Botaniko Weston, the groundbreaking

development comprised of 125 multi-bedroom homes. “The project will give people a more enlightened and pleasurable lifestyle,” he says. “It’s about indoor-outdoor living and optimizing the living experience in the South Florida climate.”

Founded in 1999, the Miami-based Oppenheim Architecture + Design (with offices in New York and Basel, Switzerland) has hospitality and residential projects that dot the globe—from Greece to Costa Rica to Qatar and Saudi Arabia. A truly global artist, Oppenheim was recently transfixed by the cenotes (underground rivers) of Mexico. “I’ve been dreaming of these things,” he says. “I’ve even designed things that look like them, carved out of rock.”

Because Oppenheim calls South Florida home, it’s no surprise that much of his firm’s vast portfolio is local. Several designs are



located in Sunrise, Golden Beach and Key Biscayne, along with condo projects in Miami, including the innovative Ilona Lofts, Lynx and Cube. Oppenheim says the Ilona, which was completed in the early 2000s, was a departure from existing beach constructions in its use of double-height floors, outdoor space, glass and light. “It had a rooftop swimming pool,” he says. “It really revolutionized condo living.”

Weston may be a new frontier, but Oppenheim calls it a “paradise.” “It’s incredibly lush, very green, and it’s close to the Everglades, which I think are overlooked in terms of beauty,” he says. “It’s a whole river of grass. It’s really an idyllic community.” Oppenheim has no desire to compete with nature in such an environment. “We don’t like to use color, per se,” he says. “We like to use material that

has color—stone, wood and stucco—which we typically associate with lighter shades.” Oppenheim says he’s learned that people enjoy the comforts of traditional living spaces, but want a contemporary vernacular, so the challenge is to avoid the soullessness that’s often associated with much of modern architecture.

The architect took on the Botaniko project partly because he grew up in a planned community. “I was always fascinated by how you could bring more intriguing, more innovative architecture to that model,” he says. And then there’s the appeal of working with V Starr, the full-service interior design firm founded by tennis star Venus Williams. “Her team is very creative, and it’s been an interesting process,” Oppenheim says. “We’ve been playing on my court (architecture and design), and it would be fun to play on hers.”



BOTANIKO

“It’s about indoor-outdoor living and optimizing the living experience in the South Florida climate.”



JEWEL TONES

WORDS

CHRISTIANA LILLY

PHOTO

EDWARD LINSMIER

For 15 years, Weston Jewelers has been a cornerstone of the South Florida business community. Owned by Ed Dikes and his wife, Tracey, the jewelry store provides high-end luxury brands and custom designs for a diverse clientele, from overseas travelers to local families and big-name athletes.

Tracey, born in Montreal, had a previous stint as a prosecutor in the Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office under Janet Reno and Katherine Rundle. Ed was born in Buenos Aires, moved to New York as a child and then to Florida. The two were introduced on a blind date in 1991 and married the following year. They now have two college-aged children.

Ed, who has been working behind a jewelry counter since he was 8 years old, wanted to start his own business with Tracey by his side that was focused on high-end brands. She left law, earned her certification from the Gemological Institute of America, and in 2001, the Dikes opened Weston Jewelers. Their logo, two lions holding up a diamond, is representative of both owners' zodiac sign: Leo. The first big brand to join the company was Cartier; since then, the store has been home to Bulgari, Ivanka Trump Jewelry, Chopard, Hublot and Montblanc, among other major brands.

Over the years, the Dikes have garnered a loyal customer base thanks to their attention to detail, impeccable service and expertise within the setting of a small-town, family-run business. Plus, they encourage customers to make the experience their own. With a custom jeweler on staff and a CAD specialist working on a 3-D printer, clients are able to create personalized works of art. A customer whose fiancée loved dragons was able to make a band filled with semiprecious stones, each with a special spiritual meaning for the couple. Another gentleman purchased a ring for his wife and had her pick it up at the store, where she was welcomed with a bottle of Champagne and roses.

"We've done a really good job of making every customer who walks in feel important and special, whether they're coming in for a battery change or coming in to buy something very expensive," Tracey says. "They're treated the exact same way, and people feel that and appreciate it."

The Dikes have established a sense of community by both living and working in Weston, which they've called home for 20 years. They work with a number of local nonprofits, such as 2-1-1 Broward, the Jewish Federation, St. Jude, Make-A-Wish Southern Florida and the Conine Clubhouse. They have also worked with generations of families—parents who bought their wedding rings from the couple years ago are now recommending them to their children.

Since the Dikes first arrived in Weston, the city's population has tripled, but it still maintains the safety, good schools and clean living that they love about it. "It's the perfect utopia," Ed says. "Where is there a community like this in South Florida? Nowhere. Where you feel safe, where you can work, play and live all in the same place? Very few communities are like that."

Weston has drawn in an increasingly diverse population, so staff members at Weston Jewelers speak English, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Chinese, Italian and French to accommodate.

Just in time for its 15th anniversary, Weston Jewelers is undergoing an expansion from 2,250 square feet to 4,900 square feet. This will include a larger sales area in the middle of the store, which will feature a bar and serving station for small bites for customers to enjoy. A bridal diamond boutique will be opened, and the jewelers will move downstairs where everyone can watch them work. Plus, new brands will move in, but the couple is tight-lipped on names.

"We actually want customers to sit down, relax, feel comfortable and have an experience," Ed says. "It's all about the experience."

“Where is there a community like this in South Florida? Nowhere. Where you feel safe, where you can work, play and live all in the same place? Very few communities are like that.”



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Ed and Tracey Dikes founded Weston Jewelers with the premise of giving unique and personalized service.

— BOTANIKO



Linguini with claims from Tarantella Ristorante



CHEFS

THE RISE OF FIVE WESTON RESTAURANTS

TABLE

WORDS
JENNIFER AGRESS

PORTRAITS
FELIPE CUEVAS

FOOD PHOTOGRAPHY
KELLY STERLING



"At Acquolina, we give you the same quality and atmosphere as a night out on Brickell or Las Olas, and we do it five minutes from home. We serve the best fare and create the best ambience so that you don't have to. When you're at our restaurant, your only worry should be spending time with your family and friends."

-Danny Szymanski,
general manager

Acquolina Weston

Perched on the edge of one of the city's many lakes, Acquolina Weston serves traditional Southern Italian cuisine made with fresh ingredients. Named for the Italian word for "mouthwatering," Acquolina invites guests to dine inside or outside by the water on its deck and indulge in family-style signatures, such as Pollo Scarpariello "Acquolina," Parmigiana di Melanzane and Black Angus Skirt Steak.



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"I've been in the restaurant business for 20 years, and the city of Weston has some of the most loyal diners I have ever seen. We have the same guests here two, usually three, times a week."

-Danny Szymanski, general manager

Executive Chef Coco Lauz



Burrata salad with prosciutto and tomatoes



Calamari fritti

“Our guests always rave about our food, our service and our consistency. We have nine restaurants—so whether you’re in Miami, here or on Brickell, you always get the same, great quality experience.”

-Robert Graziano, general manager

Graziano’s Market

Walk through the whimsical facade of the family-owned Graziano’s Market Weston—the brainchild of Mario Graziano, an immigrant from Argentina—and you’ll find yourself in the heart of an authentic Argentinian cafe and marketplace. Inspired by the culinary traditions and laid-back vibes passed on by Argentine grandmothers for generations, Graziano’s Market Weston uses locally sourced ingredients to make Argentinian fare, such as the Ciruela y Pancetta Empanadas, Ojo De Bife, Tiras De Asado, Puntas De Lomo a la Parrilla and more.



BOTANIKO

"We chose to expand to Weston because of its strong Latin community. We've become a real locals' place here. We get people who will come in for a coffee before work, come back during their lunch hour, and then bring their families for dinner."

-Robert Graziano,
general manager





“What makes us so special? It’s a combination of a few things: We have good food, good ambience and good prices. We call it our ‘triple-WOW’ factor.”

-Diego Ucciferri, co-owner

Primetime Restaurant & Bar

Serving modern American fare in a contemporary setting, Primetime Restaurant & Bar puts a vogue twist on breakfast, lunch and dinner. Draped in a white-brick interior with sleek leather chairs, avant-garde lighting, crisp white linens and a glass-and-steel wine cellar, this haute haunt is known for dishes such as Filet Mignon Flatbread with caramelized onion puree, Sea Scallop and Apple-Smoked Bacon Linguine and the Holy Smoke Cheeseburger, not to mention the Zing Zang Bloody Marys.



"Weston is a great place for a restaurant like Primetime because everyone here really values that local, neighborhood feel."
-Myles Munoz,
operating partner

BOTANI 013



Shrimp and arugula flatbread



Carrot cake

“You can get good food at a lot of places, but here, you’re family. Our staff has been working with us forever, and when you walk in, everyone knows you by name.”

-Karen Cangelosi, co-owner

Tarantella Ristorante

Just like the vibrant Sicilian dance from which it gets its name, Tarantella Ristorante is a fun, colorful and welcoming picture of Italian tradition. Its bright yellow walls and intimate tables, both covered in hand-painted tiles, create the backdrop for endless platters of Fiocchi alla Pera, Ravioli ai Quattro Formaggi and Petto di Pollo Farcito.



"We don't serve New York Italian food; we serve real Italian food. Our recipes have been with us forever, and so has our staff."
-Karen Cangelosi,
co-owner

Executive Chef Cristian Ramos



Veal chop with tomato and mozzarella risotto



Artichokes with shrimp

"We cook with love, and you
see it in everything we do."

-Hector Alonso, owner

Mochika Peru Bistro

Equal parts hip, elegant and fun, Mochika Peru Bistro offers an eclectic blend of authentic Peruvian flavors, live music and a trendy South Beach vibe. When Hector Alonso first opened Mochika Peru Bistro in Colombia in 2010, it quickly earned a reputation as one of the top Peruvian restaurants in the country. In 2014, the Weston location opened with Peruvian native Executive Chef Ortiz Garcia at the helm. Mochika has since become a neighborhood hot spot, boasting menu items such as Ceviche De Corvina, Risotto Con Langosta, Lomo Saltado and Chaufa De Mixto.



BOTANIKO

"Weston reminds me of where we got started in Cali, Colombia. It's a high-end, but close-knit neighborhood, and because of that, it really allows us to take chances with our cuisine."

-Hector Alonso, owner

Chef Virma Rivera



Lobster bisque with quail egg



A Tale of Two Talents

World champion tennis player Venus Williams keeps her eye on the ball as interior designer for Botaniko Weston.

WORDS
CONNOR HANSEN



OLET BLONDE

There's no place like home

bright idea

2ml TUBES

BASICS

The old adage is true: If you need something done, ask a busy person. Just look at the whirlwind life of tennis great Venus Ebony Starr Williams, the former No. 1 player who is credited with changing the women's game by ushering in a new era of athleticism and power to the professional tennis circuit. But don't paint her into a box of being "just" a tennis superstar.

Williams' parents helped her realize her passion for tennis at an early age, and she credits the sport for opening many doors to her off-court successes.

When she was 18, Williams enrolled in fashion school, finding her second passion in interior design. "I have a love for design that's in my blood," Williams says. "Interior design mirrors in spirit the process that one would take to be successful in tennis. Like design, tennis is always moving and changing. You have to continue evolving and adapting."

Despite her demanding schedule, in 2002, Williams became a certified interior designer and launched her award-winning company, V Starr Interiors, in Palm Beach County. Although this was one of the busiest times in her professional tennis career, she felt she could no longer put her design dream on hold.

Williams refers to V Starr as the physical manifestation of the creative energy that surges through her veins. "I guess I have my own signature style," she says. "But you never want to stop creating and imagining and adapting for each project."

Formerly a residential-focused firm, V Starr began designing for commercial clients in 2011 and has since created spaces for Howard University in Washington, D.C., Buffalo State College in New York and InterContinental Hotels & Resorts.

And now, V Starr has an integral role in the development of Botaniko Weston, as the firm was commissioned to design the luxury clubhouse, sales center and a few of the model homes.

Williams says working on this project with Terra Group, architects Roney Mateu and Chad Oppenheim and landscape architecture firm Studio JEFRE has been a highlight for her. In addition to the world-renowned talent involved, she says she was drawn to Botaniko Weston by the stunning design elements that are carried continuously throughout the project. She dubs the style a mix of contemporary and midcentury modern, which she admits is one of her favorites.

"The collaboration has been great with this wonderful group of people, and we are all very aligned in the vision of Botaniko," Williams says. "This project has lots of design styles merging, with natural materials and minimalistic influences that create a seamless experience, from when you walk in the door to the last

square foot of landscaping."

Named after their respective architects, the Mateu residences feature highly sophisticated interiors using clean lines, minimal transitions and crisp lighting to highlight linear sculptural elements, while the Oppenheim residences take on a more organic stance, using raw materials, curvilinear elements and inspiration from nature to create a serene environment.

Williams' team joined forces with the rendering companies, architects and branding agencies so that the elements involved would echo the design of the interiors. They also worked with Botaniko's team in doing market research to ensure they were targeting the correct audience.

"The overall inspiration for the design is in the lifestyle, the families who will use these homes, the entertaining they will do, the quality of life they want to lead here," Williams says. "The environment of this project is energetic, but relaxing. It's inspirational and many things all at once."

Much like the designer herself.

“Interior design mirrors in spirit the process that one would take to be successful in tennis. Like design, tennis is always moving and changing. You have to continue evolving and adapting.”

Venus Williams' V Starr Interiors incorporated natural materials and minimalistic features to design Botaniko Weston.



Fit Factor

WORDS
ELYSSA GOODMAN

PHOTO
EDWARD LINSMIER

Driving up to Midtown Athletic Club in Weston, you'd think you were arriving at a resort. The crisp white exterior, palm trees and covered walkway lend themselves more to a day at a spa than a calorie burn. Inside, floor-to-ceiling glass windows, fluffy white couches and a terrace overlooking a lake don't necessarily evoke the word, "gym." But that's the point.

"This is not a place where you come to work out," says Mariann Marinberg, the club's manager. "It's a place where you come to live."

The club and its general manager, Massimo Policastro, encourage their members to interact with one another across its 25-acre facility. "Because of the social element that we like to infuse and encourage, we have members that do business with each other, become friends with each other and, support each other's charities," Marinberg says.

In addition to the 25 championship-quality Har-Tru tennis courts, the club offers three pools (including an Olympic-sized version), a restaurant, a spa and two floors dedicated to fitness, specially laid out so members can engage with one another. There is also a group fitness studio, a dedicated Pilates studio, a dedicated yoga studio, a beach volleyball court, a basketball court, a pro shop and a children's center that accommodates babies as young as 2 months old. In other words, it's not a gym; it's a lifestyle. "Our goal and our promise is to inspire our members and their guests through movement, community and personal attention," Marinberg says.

Midtown Athletic Club has been in its Weston location since 2001. In the past six years, it has invested more than \$15 million to produce one of the finest athletic venues in South Florida. "This company is very much about reinvestment in its facilities to make sure that they are cutting-edge, top-notch and world class," Marinberg says.

This year alone, Midtown will invest more than \$1.5 million to improve its tennis courts. The club is known for its dedication to the sport and offers high-level, competitive tennis instruction. In

fact, this particular club is continually asked by the United States Tennis Association to hold national and international tournaments.

The Midtown brand has existed for almost 45 years. Founded in downtown Chicago by avid tennis player Alan Schwartz and his father, Kevie, it has since expanded to a total of eight high-end clubs throughout the country (and one in Canada). Midtown also manages 22 additional clubs on the corporate level for companies such as Kraft Foods and McDonald's, not to mention that it also donates more than 10 percent of its gross profits to a variety of charities, including Autism Speaks, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, JAFCO and the Jason Taylor Reading Room.

"We make sure that every decision that we make as a business reflects back to that promise that we've made to our members," Marinberg says. "We believe that active, social people lead happier, healthier lives."

"This is not a place where you come to work out. It's a place where you come to live."



Massimo PolICASTRO, Midtown Athletic Club's general manager, says the company is dedicated to creating a healthy lifestyle in a social environment.

The Great Outdoors

AWARD-WINNING ARTIST JEFRE OF STUDIO JEFRE WEAVES MAGIC INTO HIS LANDSCAPE DESIGN.

WORDS

CONNOR HANSEN

PORTRAIT

DOUGLAS J. NESBITT

He talks in the tongues of poetry, painting with his words a world of art and enchantment—not an easy feat when discussing the landscaping of a housing development. But Botaniko Weston is not just any housing development, and JEFRE is definitely not a run-of-the-mill landscape designer.

“I only want to work on something that is going to create meaning and purpose...and memories,” JEFRE says. “Weston is known for its affluent, gated communities, and I couldn’t see myself working on just another gated community. But the all-star group of people that was compiled for this project is a team of modernists, and I thought, ‘Maybe together we can all sway opinion of what a community can be.’”

Born Jefre Manuel, JEFRE’s dad was a landscape contractor in Chicago and his mom was a nurse who also owned a flower shop. He was surrounded by plants and foliage growing up and remembers spending his weekends watering plants and arranging centerpieces. He always had an interest in art and yearned for a career in creation.

The common sense he learned from his parents led him to pursue both avenues: He studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and also received a bachelor’s degree in landscape architecture from Ohio State University. “But coming from an Asian family, my parents were like, ‘How are you going to make any money in art?’” says JEFRE, a Filipino-American. Instead of taking the artistic route, he joined a landscape architecture firm. Later, he attended the prestigious Architectural Association School of Architecture in London, where he studied morpho-ecology, before starting Studio JEFRE in 2008 with a focus on environmental art and unexpected, couture designs.

In his first year, JEFRE was the finalist on 12 bid competitions, eight of which he won. He also won a \$1 million design competition for a public art display in San Antonio and has had installations in cities that included Philadelphia, New Orleans, Washington, D.C., Orlando, West Palm Beach, Miami and Manila. JEFRE has since taken on a wide range of projects that include community design, public art, parks and plazas, sculpture, temporary installations,

interior design, avant-garde landscapes, corporate celebrity events, eco-installations and campus planning.

His latest venture is teaming up with renowned architects Roney J. Mateu and Chad Oppenheim, tennis great and interior design guru Venus Williams, and Terra Group to create Botaniko Weston, which will offer a tranquil sanctuary of winding residential streets, jogging and biking paths, and refreshing lakes.

JEFRE’s inspiration for designing Botaniko’s landscaping was “eco-based and site-specific,” he says. Wanting to stray from the commonly used palm trees and bougainvillea of South Florida, he drew insight from the natural and wild beauty of the Everglades.

Botaniko is a new model of community, JEFRE says, having a metropolitan flair while incorporating culture and nature. He wants to showcase what existed in the space before it was Weston, to create “the Everglades story.”

In addition to the landscaping, JEFRE has incorporated his own artistic style with functional “Pop art that pops out.” There is a bridge sculpted into the wingspan of a butterfly. There is a swingset that at first glance looks like a beautiful tangle of vines. It’s as if a visitor here just stepped through the looking glass into a world dusted with wonder. “As children, we used our imagination for play. It was all we had,” he says. “Everything we are trying to do here is creative, with nature serving as the canvas for these structures. We want it to look like Botaniko is carved out of the Everglades.”

“I only want to work on something that is going to create meaning and purpose...and memories.”







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King of Hearts

WORDS

NAN KAVANAUGH

PHOTO

EDWARD LINSMIER

Growing up in Florida during the space race, cardiac transplant surgeon Dr. Cedric Sheffield knew early in life that he wanted to pursue a career in science. He realized by the age of 13 that medicine was the perfect combination of innovative exploration and human interaction.

"In medical school, I found my interest piqued in cardiac disease during my rotations," says Sheffield, a graduate of Duke University School of Medicine. "It was during a time of discovery, when we not only recognized the different pathologies of heart disease, but also effective treatments for the first time."

Today, as surgical director of the heart transplant program at Cleveland Clinic Florida's Heart and Vascular Center, Sheffield is a leader within an institution that prides itself on the same values that drew him to medicine as a youth. "There is a Cleveland Clinic way of thinking that revolves around the philosophy of 'patient first,'" he says. "Quality, professionalism and empathy are the concepts that led to the practices that the Cleveland Clinic has developed over the past 90 years."

It was that credo of "patient first" that drove Cleveland Clinic Florida to launch its heart transplant program under Sheffield's leadership in 2014. Many patients from the Sunshine State were traveling to Cleveland Clinic Ohio to receive care, and the organization recognized a real need to provide transplant services in the region.

"Local availability of transplantation is very important to improve the outcome for patients and can also determine whether a patient will even consider a transplant to begin with," Sheffield says. "The closer the transplant center is to home, the more likely a patient will have the social support needed throughout the treatment process."

In less than six months of opening, the team at CCF's Heart and Vascular Center had already performed 10 heart transplants.

"It is very clear that the need for a heart transplant program in Florida is tremendous," Sheffield says. "Different patient populations have different needs. My goal is to expand Cleveland Clinic-quality care in Southeast Florida and throughout the state by focusing on tailoring our resources and expertise to meet the needs of the community today and into the future."

Direct outreach programs to both physicians in the community as well as the community at large help the clinic better understand from a patient perspective what the barriers are to transplantation and what services are needed to provide optimal cardiovascular care. Lecture series, direct physician education, community education events and webinars where patients can ask doctors questions directly are just some of the avenues CCF uses to gather information on how to better provide cardiovascular services and to increase education on the importance of preventative care.

As Sheffield says, "Cleveland Clinic has established a commitment to developing world-class heart and vascular therapy in South Florida, including heart transplantation, and I am proud to have the opportunity to be a part of that effort."

“My goal is to expand Cleveland Clinic-quality care in Southeast Florida and throughout the state by focusing on tailoring our resources and expertise to meet the needs of the community today and into the future.”



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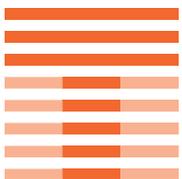
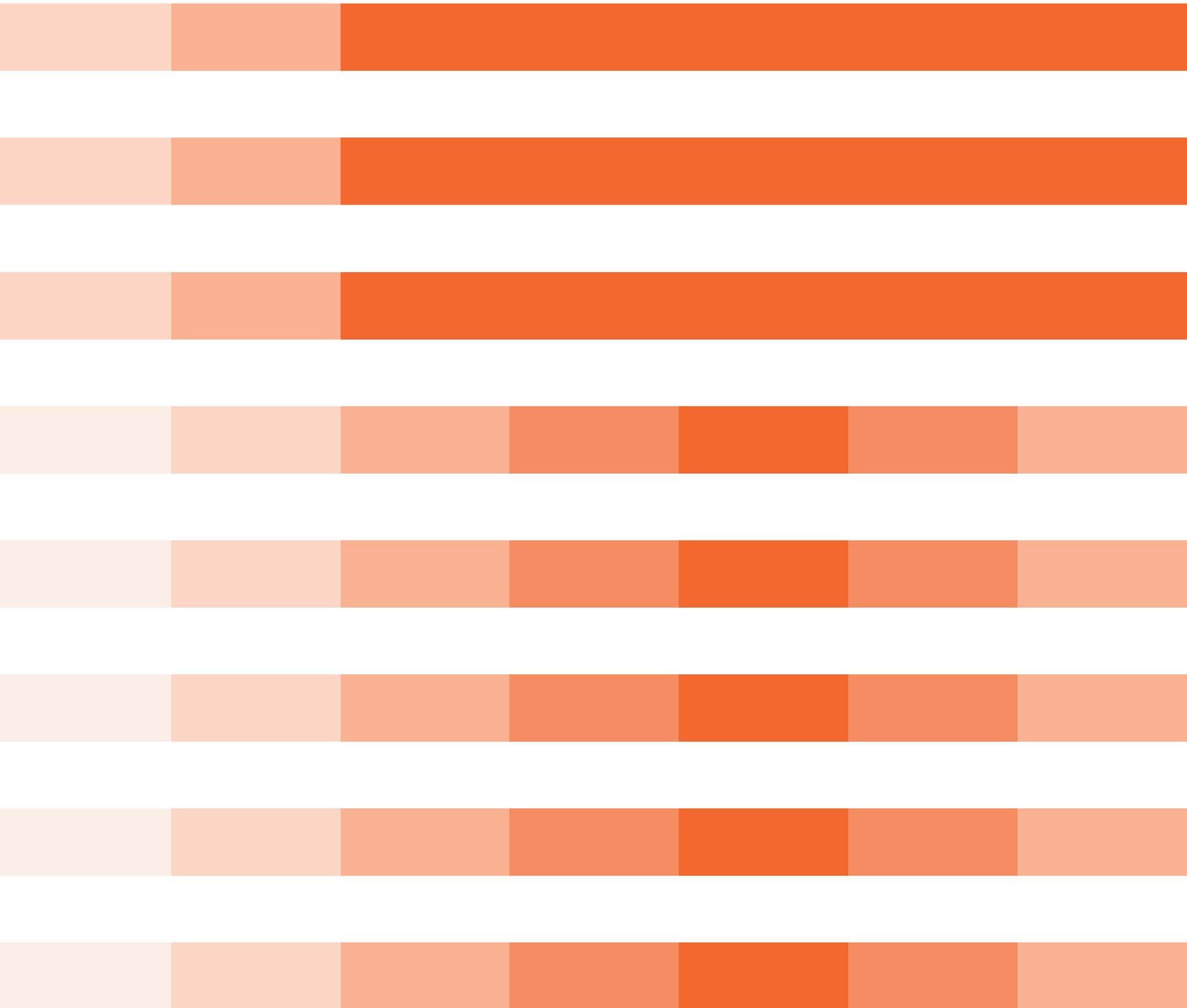
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Terra

Our mission is to create better. To continue pushing beyond what has gone before. To build a company whose purpose is to help transform Miami's neighborhoods and the way we live through considered, intelligent and unexpected design.

David Martin, President & Pedro Martin, CEO
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