

ROYAL HOTSPOTS

NEW NIGHTLIFE FIT FOR A KING

by HADLEY HENRIETTE

LOUIS

The Opium Group's latest contribution to the SoBe nightlife scene, Louis, is a luxe little boîte that feels as much like New York or Tokyo as Miami. Although it's above sea level, the club has an underground look, tucked deep into the Gansevoort Hotel, and under the David Barton Gym, a veritable disco in its own right. Louis is still a club in the models and bottles vein, but with a twist — bottles are served with much fanfare by three-foot-tall servers dressed in Napoleon costumes. It's a joke the hip clientele definitely gets. "We didn't take ourselves too seriously with this one," explains Opium Group partner Roman Jones. "It's cheeky and irreverent." As for the name? "Louis was inspired by Brad Pitt's character in *Interview With the Vampire* and also as an ode to the French kings." Portraits of the kings festoon the club's walls, hung over "rococo glam" wallpaper. "It's warm and decadent, we wanted it to be less cold and sleek than some of the other clubs out there," Jones says. They didn't merely mix it up with the décor either, there is a new sound emanating from the speaker system. Two French mixers have been brought on board to spin electro house on Thursdays and an electro-tinged mix during the rest of the week, which is currently Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. And the models? Well they and all the fashion industry folks come on their own accord, but the proximity to Wilhelmina's new digs — also in the Gansevoort — certainly doesn't hurt.

2325 Collins Avenue, Miami Beach | 305.531.4600

www.louismiami.com

THE KING IS DEAD

Despite a name that seems to point toward a post-monarchy situation, owner Anthony Capano named The King is Dead for the chant shouted through the streets of Paris upon the coronation of Charles VII. It's not just a name, either. The cushy club is outfitted with oversized antiques, and a red velvet and stained glass Rosetta window, a treat for anyone wily (or popular) enough to get through not one but two velvet ropes — the first being outside Grass Restaurant & Lounge. Then one must get through yet another in front of an old-looking door tucked away off to the side of the garden. Once inside, guests can immediately enjoy the spacious bar area with its cushy banquettes — that is, if one is available. That's right, visitors can actually sit down without buying a bottle. In an absolute stroke of genius, they have kept the V.I.P./table area smaller and more private in case they should get an actual V.I.P. that really does want their own area. In opening The King is Dead, Capano wanted to create something truly hip on "the other side of the bridge." Despite the two roped hurdles and hidden entrance, the place isn't snobby and has a great feeling of equality, and the luxurious use of wood and chandeliers give rise to the feeling that indeed, The King is Dead and the plebs are partying in his castle.

10 NE 40th Street, Miami | 305.573.3355

www.kingisdead.com



Louis
Photographed by Simon Hare



The King Is Dead
Photographed by Seth Browarnick/Red Eye Productions