

TAMPA BAY **METRO**



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(continued)



The Quieter Side of Key West

The Gates Hotel Key West



The Gates Hotel: King Suite



The Gates Hotel: Lobby



Key West Legal Rum Distillery Tour



The Blind Pig

The lure of Key West attracts visitors from all over the world and within a day's drive or a quick flight from the Tampa Bay area, Key West is a great vacation escape. The friendly locals and the laid-back vibe make Key West an easy place to relax and re-charge. While staying in Old Town makes for easy access to all the shops, bars, restaurants and activity on Duval Street, there is a quieter side to Key West, New Town. Away from the hustle and bustle, The Gates Hotel offers chic, boutique style accommodations. Incorporating design, art, history, music, food and drink with sophisticated local touches, the hotel was designed to allow guests to discover the history and soul of Key West. The guest rooms are nicely decorated with neutral whites and earthy tones with local photography, whitewashed beams, platform beds and petrified wood tables

imported from Bali. A nice touch is the Key Lime Bath Essentials and Key West Aloe that are provided for guests.

The hotel does offer a complimentary trolley service into Old Town on a regular schedule and currently, the last shuttle leaves Old Town at 10:30 p.m. If you stay out later, a taxi ride back to the hotel is around \$20. Biking is a great way to discover Key West and the hotel does offer daily bike rentals. The hotel is pet friendly and has partnered with BarkBox to provide gourmet treats and toys.

Poolside at The Gates offers a perfect spot to relax with a handcrafted cocktail from Rum Row, while listening to live music or the DJ spinning tunes. The Blind Pig food truck provides a rotating menu of tapas-style entrees, known as Conch Fusion with its Cuban, Bahamian and Caribbean flavors.

The Gates has partnered with many

local brands and artists to provide unique experiences for its guests. Try a cigar from Rodriguez Cigar Factory or a drink made with white rum from Key West First Legal Rum Distillery, for a taste of the rich history of the island. A chef first, then distiller, Paul Menta, owner and operator of the Key West First Legal Rum Distillery, uses his knowledge of cooking to incorporate new techniques for distilling rums. Menta provides daily tours of his operations and shows his passion for creating tasty and unique rums. Enjoy the tasting room and be sure to take home a bottle or two, to remember and celebrate the memories made in Key West. **M**

For hotel reservations, call 305.320.0930
or visit www.gateshotelkeywest.com.

For First Legal Rum Distillery information,
visit www.keywestlegalrum.com.