

Lagniappe

MIAMI'S ADDED
BONUS

Tucked in Midtown Miami, **Lagniappe House** – a New Orleans-style bar, proves its namesake: **a bonus**. In an eclectic hideway, glass of **wine** in hand, this spot offers a **unique environment** to the bustling club scene of Miami.

words_marissa vonesh. photo_sidney sherman. design_lindsey bornstein.



BOURBON STREET VIBES AND MIAMI'S MIDTOWN FLAIR

Steak on a paper plate, wine in a mismatched garden. No waiters, no defined menu, no silverware, no reservations, no cloth napkins and yet, an ambiance, a refuge away from the DJ club scene of Miami. This is Lagniappe House, a New Orleans-inspired wine and beer bar delicately placed in the center of Midtown in a dainty house among towering skyscrapers and busy city streets. Lagniappe is a place unlike anything else in Miami; walk in and snake your way through thrifted vintage chairs and rugs. Pass by a refrigerator stocked with craft beer and racks of over 150 types of vintage wine. Glance at the menu, scribbled in chalk, and end up on a patio, laced with tea lights and an assortment of lawn chairs. Before you know it, you'll be eating a charcuterie board of your chosen meats and cheeses garnished by marinated olives and fig jam. Lay back and

let the atmosphere and Miami's humid air consume you.

Owner David Tunnell spent some time in New Orleans after working in Miami as a restaurant chair. While there, he realized that NOLA had an elegant way of adapting European culture to America. Tunnell wanted to bring the same sort of ambiance back to Miami. By November of 2012, Tunnell had opened Lagniappe House with the simple vision of bringing people together for good wine, good music and good company.

"He wanted it to feel as though you were in a place that feels like home, a place where you

can enjoy fine things without the image," said co-manager Jon Orsi. "Miami can be isolating even when you are with your people, and this place dissolves that."

The glitz, glam and transient culture of Miami can be overwhelming and inauthentic. Lagniappe provides an environment for people of all types to escape this culture and create quality memories.


"I've seen all types of people here," Orsi said, glancing around the garden to observe the diversity. College kids clad in ripped jeans and t-shirts sit next to abuelos smoking cigars and businessmen in suits. It's a home for hipsters, misfits, music lovers, wine connoisseurs, foodies, adventurers – for anyone. "When you get here it's just about 'let's enjoy wine, let's enjoy live music,'" Orsi said.

Music, aside from the vast wine menu, is the defining factor of Lagniappe. Currently, it is the only place in Miami that features live music every night. Whether it is jazz, folk, soul, blues or bluegrass, the most talented musicians in Miami gather at this watering hole.

"When you play at Lagniappe you really need to know what you are doing," said Vincent Raffard, trumpeter, vocalist, guitarist and creator of The French Horn Collective, a local band. "The standing of the place is really high."

Opening night of Lagniappe, Raffard and the newly created French Horn Collective performed. After this, The French Horn Collective was treated as the house band, playing four or more times a week. Now, the band has scaled down and claims Wednesday as its main night at Lagniappe.

"I have seen everything in this place," Raffard said. "People are happy, they connect. They get to drink good wine and good culture."

A venue that welcomes diversity of thought, music, tastes and individuals is one that has secured its place in Miami's competitive culinary and entertainment scene. Such is Lagniappe: a gift from New Orleans to Miami. 

IF YOU GO

HOURS

6 p.m. - 2 a.m.

LIVE MUSIC

9 p.m. - 12 a.m.

LOCATION

3425 NE Ave.