

LUXURY

TRAVEL ADVISOR

Luxury Travel Advisor (online)

Hawks Cay Resort

In a \$50 million renovation, the owners of this traditional Florida family favorite (whose guests include a U.S. president who shall remain nameless) shifted their attention a bit from the family to the adult market.

The new director of resort experiences is charged with entertaining guests of all ages. There are mermaids and pirates for the kids; a cigar menu and fine dining menu at Sixty-One Prime; a watersports program with charter boats and pontoon-like paddleboards you can take out for fishing; a pod of onsite dolphins with which you can interact; and the largest meeting space in the Keys.

The best rooms are the penthouses, with 3,200-square-foot decks overlooking the Atlantic or Hawks Cay Harbor. The best sunset view is from the Presidential Waterview Room, overlooking the Saltwater Lagoon, the Atlantic Ocean and Florida Bay.

For dinner, executive chef William Ryan, named Chef of the Year by the Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association in 2019, suggests the Smoked Wagyu Beef Carpaccio, the Chili Encrusted Yellowfin Tuna and the warm white chocolate macadamia nut bread pudding with caramel sauce and toffee ice cream.

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