



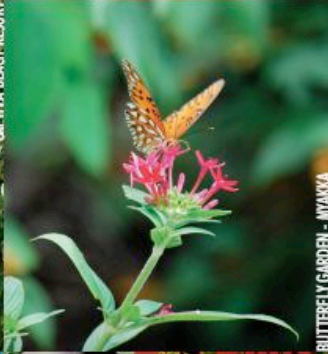
SIESTA KEY



SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS



CAPTIVA BEACH RESORT



BUTTERFLY GARDEN - MYAKKA



CORAL - MOTE MARINE LABORATORY & AQUARIUM



INSIDE CA'D ZAN - THE REAL RINGLING BROTHERS



JUMBLE OF JELLYFISH - MOTE



SHOPPING AT ST. ARMANDS



A Sweet Sp Saru

Sarasota is unique among our Florida destinations for countless reasons. Among them, 7 magnificent islands and beach destinations, an eclectic downtown area, elegant dining and shopping at St. Armand's Circle (first developed by the Ringlings and later recreated in the 1960's), a multitude of museums, and paradise found at Myakka State Park.

Sarasota - and her islands - Longboat Key, Lido Key (right off of St. Armand's Circle), Siesta Key, Casey Key, Venice, Manasota Key, Englewood, and North Port all promise soft, white sands to slip into, and calm Gulf seas to relax and spend family time near. You'll find every activity that you could want.

Siesta Key is an 8-mile long crescent-shaped barrier island, which boasts weekly turtle walks, and a multitude of waterside accommodations and activities. Consider a stay at the budget-friendly Captiva Beach Resort, boasting cabana-style quarters with full kitchens, barbecues, outdoor seating and a quaint pool. Around the corner, Crescent Grocery has everything you need, including subs for about \$5, and chicken breast for \$3.99 lb!

From Opera to the Ocean, Sarasota is a mecca of arts and activities. Museum's like the MOTE Marine Laboratory and Aquarium with stingray, large turtle, and dolphin pools, to the G-Wiz Science Museum, Crowley Museum & Nature Walk, and the Selby Botanical Gardens, to the crown jewel - The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, there's not one place that will disappoint.

Unrivaled and much more than a museum, John and Mable Ringling's estate, or Ca'd'Zan (House of John), includes what was once their personal museum of art and a Museum of the American Circus.

Starting with the Circus Museum, you'll find original and replicated pieces from Ringling circus acts and colorful promotional banners and costumes from their circus heyday. You'll also be surprised to find an interesting historical timeline of the circus which it traces back to ancient Rome and before.

The Circus Museum's piece de resistance (or most impressive thing), is the 3,800 sq. ft. miniature replication of The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, as it was from 1919 to 1938. The detail as you wind your way around model builder Howard Tibbals' 50 years of carvings, unfolds delightfully before your eyes.

John and Mable's estate, which takes a tram to explore, took 3 years to build and was finished in meticulous detail in 1926. Guided in gold, with eccentric baroque beauty, this Venetian-inspired plaza is a