

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**29 January 2018**

**ST. PETE/CLEARWATER CULTURE BOOM CONTINUES**

**The destination is thriving with new art, hotel and food offerings**

[St. Pete/Clearwater's](#) art scene is expanding in 2018, adding to an already impressive array of cultural centre points, with the recent opening of the [Imagine Museum](#) and the upcoming, first-of-its-kind [Dali-Duchamp](#) exhibition at St. Pete's [Dali Museum](#).

The Imagine Museum opened its doors last week, bringing 580 studio glass art works to St. Pete. Ideally located in the Central Avenue Arts District, the collection depicts the explosive growth of the Studio Glass Movement in America since the 1960s.

From 10 February – 27 May 2018, the Dali-Duchamp exhibition - the first exhibition dedicated to the two pioneering artists – will be on display at the Dali Museum. The exhibition is comprised of sixty works, including some of Dali's most inspired and technically accomplished paintings and sculptures, alongside less familiar works across different mediums through conceptual and surrealist art.

Spring will see the opening of the [James Museum of Western & Wildlife Art](#), opening its doors in April. Founded by art philanthropists Tom and Mary James, who have invested nearly \$50 million into the project, the new museum will feature a two-storey indoor sculpture court with a cascading waterfall and a 120 seat theatre. The 80,000-square foot museum will hold a collection of more than 400 works from the couple's personal collection.

Art isn't the only cultural element rapidly expanding in 2018 in St. Pete/Clearwater with American magazine *Garden & Gun* naming St. Pete as one of the [South's Best Food Towns](#) for good reason. [Ichicoro Ane](#) is the latest of several restaurant to join the scene, establishing a name for itself with Japanese-inspired ramen and small plates from crab to octopus.

The [Reading Room](#) offers another unique dining spot. Drawing inspiration from their own 3,500 foot garden, the Room has created a seasonally produced dining experience, with an especially delicious crab, smoked cream cheese and chili puff pastry.



For those looking for something cold, the new 'Beerlato' concept can now be savoured at the [Coolside Gelato Bar](#). Seasonal beer is combined with the daily gelato flavours, such as chocolate milk stout together with hazelnut ice cream. This joins the growing [Craft Beer Trail](#) that now features 33 breweries throughout the destination – perfect for beer enthusiasts and newbies alike on their quest for local brews.

For those looking to stay in the latest hotels, [The Fenway Hotel](#) is due to open in July in a stunning waterfront spot in the Dunedin area. The Mediterranean-inspired hotel, an icon of the 1920s jazz age when it opened, is to open its doors once again following an \$11 million restoration. It will operate as part of the Marriott International Autograph Collection and will include 83 rooms, a rooftop bar, pool and restaurant.

For more information about St. Pete/Clearwater, visit: [visitstpeteclearwater.com](http://visitstpeteclearwater.com)

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**Visit St. Pete/Clearwater**

Visit St. Pete/Clearwater (VSPC) is the official destination marketing organisation of Pinellas County in Florida and covers 26 municipalities in the area. The region is located on the peninsula on Florida's west coast, bordered by the Gulf of Mexico to the west and Tampa Bay to the east.

The area offers 35 miles of award-winning white-sandy beaches, exotic nature trails, culture and arts. It is home to independent restaurants, boutique shops and a unique craft beer trail running from Tarpon Springs to Treasure Island showcasing 20 local breweries' fresh artisanal beer.

Boasting the largest collection of Dali artwork outside of Spain in the Dali Museum, the county has a significant art scene, with walking mural tours, regular exhibitions and the impressive Chihuly Collection of hand-blown glass sculptures.

The destination is renowned for sunshine and currently holds the Guinness World Record for the longest run of sunshine days, a massive 768.

For more information: [www.visitstpeteclearwater.com](http://www.visitstpeteclearwater.com),  
[www.facebook.com/VisitStPeteClearwaterUK](https://www.facebook.com/VisitStPeteClearwaterUK), [www.twitter.com/vspc](https://www.twitter.com/vspc)