

TOWARDS the end of September, around 25 fund-raising events are held in Miami's South Beach area, eventually building up to the glamorous, much talked about, White Party; one of the worlds most famous events on the gay calendar. It's location, the exquisite Vizcaya Museum and Gardens. The spectacular surroundings of the Italian Renaissance Villa Vizcaya Mansion create a party that is totally unique. Almost two thousand beautiful people, all clad in white, stroll the manicured gardens, enjoy delicacies from 30 of South Beach and Miami's hottest restaurants, and dance under the stars on two different dance floors. The tickets are priced at \$150 (£75) or \$225 for a VIP ticket. I suppose it is this that also ad's to the uniqueness, glamour and hype to the party.

After the very first White Party back in 1985 there was talk about changing the second year to a theme of red or black, but everyone loved the effect of white so the original theme remained. The beneficiary for the White Party, known as Care Resource ( www.careresource.org ), is one the largest HIV/AIDS service organisations in America. This year's 20th Annual White Party, the "Crown Jewel" of HIV/AIDS fundraising events worldwide, not only grossed over \$1million in revenue but was also one of the most memorable and all-inclusive events of its kind ever.

When I met Executive Director, Rick Siclari he had this to say about the event: "People need to be reminded of the true purpose of White Party and that's to raise funds for HIV/AIDS during a very crucial stage of the disease's development. The fight needs more research, more funding, and a more serious attitude from the gay community since things are slipping. The rate of infection actually increased last year after dramatic drops in preceding years."

I then questioned why the White Party was still going strong after 20 years and what is it that makes it so popular.



# MIAMI WHITE

## 20 years of White Party

by ChrisGeary.com

"We've been doing a pretty good job of making White Party bigger and better every year." He goes on to say; "We continue to recreate it with new things to look forwards to, the pressure is on us to keep the event fabulous. And people also believe in the cause. Journalists like you have done a great job of keeping fund-raisers like this in the forefront of people's minds".

And what memories did he want people to have and take home with them from the White Party. "I think the first thing they should recognise is that we still have a very desperate need for HIV/AIDS fund-raisers. They can come and have fun at an event while they are contributing very important dollars to the cause. We want them to take a very positive memory of all that Miami and South Beach is. That we can come together, have fun, and give everyone such fond memories they will want to come back."

Miami's peak season is in winter from December thru April. White Party marks the start of the season, with the Winter

Party in March celebrating the end of Winter/start of Spring. It's also the same time as America's wild Spring Break, so lots of horny young students are about! If you can't visit Miami's South Beach during either of these amazing events you'll still be guaranteed at great time from the scene life that exists there throughout the year. One of the busiest and best bar/club throughout the week is **Score** on Lincon Road, attracting the younger sexy boys. Music varies between nights and there's always good entertainment - singers, strippers, Latino nights and stunning go-go boys! Five bars on two levels make up the venue that offers free entry 7 nights a week - till 5am. Weekends get very crowded, Sunday's kick off earlier than usual with an afternoon "T-dance" from 5 o'clock.

A seedier, cruisy club open 7 nights is **Twist** on Washington Avenue (10th Street). Downstairs are several horny video bars and a games room, while upstairs holds a small dance area and quieter lounge. It attracts an older crowd and kicks off later into the night being more of a pick-up joint if you didn't pull at Score earlier! Out the back is the bungalow bar famous for its hot gogo boys and private dancing. Sunday nights at the moment are actually more popular in Miami than Saturdays at **Anthem** (www.AnthemSundays.com ). A "Salvation London" style club night held in South Beach's plushest nightclub Mansion.



> Further good web links for info on Miami:

- www.WhiteParty.net
- www.WinterParty.com
- www.AnthemSundays.com
- www.ScoreBar.net
- www.TwistSobe.com
- www.SobeSocialClub.com
- www.GayMap.info/miami
- www.CupidsCabaret.com
- www.GoGayMiami.com
- www.LaundryBar.com
- www.JumpOnMarksList.com

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