



## Florida Keys: Retreat to the 'woods' of Cheeca Lodge & Spa



**Back story:** When a *New Year's Eve* fire closed this historic lodge in 2008, it torched more than a building. The lodge has a long history in the Florida Keys, rooted in the Olney Inn, which opened in 1946 and boasted Harry Truman as a guest.

Though it's a new, modern lodge, it kept some of its old flavor. Guests still enter the lodge through a sweeping, palm-studded por Pass through floor-to-ceiling glass doors and you're at the ocean-front tiki bar, where tiki torches illuminate the night. The luxury r over 27 acres and includes 212 guestrooms, bungalows and suites scattered about the property. The lodge, located on the Atlas suites, each with an open-air soaking tub.

The 525-foot wooden fishing pier is a signature attraction. The resort also includes two freshwater pools and a saltwater snorkel Jack Nicklaus designed the 9-hole golf course. For pampering, a full-service spa is available. For kids, there's Camp Cheeca, des 12-year-olds.

Rooms in the outlying buildings range in size. Example: a traditional double queen room: 361 square feet. A traditional one-bedroom square feet. The 2,000-square-foot penthouse suite includes two bedrooms, two baths and a 360 degree view that takes in the island.

Rates range from \$249 to \$699. Penthouse suite: \$5,500. Tax: 12.5 percent. Resort fee: \$39 daily per room.

**Cheeca Lodge & Spa, 81801 Overseas Highway, Mile Marker 82, [cheeca.com](http://cheeca.com); 305-664-4651; 800-327-2888**

-- *By Liz Doup, Sun Sentinel*