

## Village of Gulfstream Park has Arrived

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by Susan Friedman

I recall heading to the legendary Gulfstream Park Racetrack on more than one occasion in recent years—not so much to play the ponies—but to enjoy bands in the outdoor setting. With “Saturday in the Park” wafting through the air, the place always seemed sleepy and retro. That’s hardly



the case anymore. The new Village of Gulfstream Park is a lively destination worth a visit (or two, or three ...). There are restaurants to please just about everyone—from an Irish pub to a cantina and a sit-down artisan cheese shop and more. Chic boutiques too. The ever-present Gulfstream Park for horse racing has even added a casino into the mix.

I had a reservation at Ill Forks ([www.iiiforks.com](http://www.iiiforks.com)), a new prime steakhouse. Since this is its 4th Florida location, I thought it was about time to check it out. The setting is rich and warm with black leather, antique mirrors and lots of wood. I dined in the Legends Room with a sophisticated stone wall treatment, a knockout focal point chandelier, plus black and white photos of classic sports figures and other notables. I was delighted by what could very well be the best bone-in rib eye (ever). Aged 28 days, it was cooked to perfection. The rib eye is both enormous (18-oz.) and enormously flavorful. Easily shared by two, excellent sides included off-the-cob cream corn and sautéed mushrooms. If you’re able, leave room for a massive multi-layered chocolate ganache cake. And yes, you can share that too.