



## Dear Friends & Colleagues Around the World

### Wishing Everyone a Wonderful 2015

Enjoy these amazing fireworks over the **Burj Khalifa**, the tallest building in the world in the center of **Dubai** where I just returned from. Dubai ushered in 2015 with the world's most-watched New Year's Eve spectacle and a Guinness World Record title! They were so spectacular I had to share two versions.

[Burj Khalifa fireworks](#)    [Dubai citywide fireworks](#)

## REWIND 2014 & FAST FORWARD 2015

I made some big changes in 2014 and hope to continue to reap the rewards of my labors. I moved my real estate license to the top boutique international real estate firm in Miami, [Venegas International Group](#) headed by entrepreneurial powerhouse, **Monica Venegas** who has over \$2 billion in sales under her belt. I created a new "**Sports, Arts & Entertainment Division**" for Venegas to provide extra special service to VIP clients for real estate. Having managed world class athletes and entertainers in the past and art collectors worldwide, this comes naturally for me.

Check out the link below that is a profile article on me in the January issue of Brickell Magazine in Miami.

[Brickell Magazine Article](#)



Burj Khalifa

## Summer Sales

Last summer, I had a client who sold a major commercial property along the **Miami River**, an area going through gentrification and I helped him do a **1031 Exchange** buying new properties to avoid paying capital gains taxes. He purchased all investment properties that will earn him income from rental revenue such as at the [W South Beach](#) and [Mondrian South Beach](#) which are turnkey and have high occupancy rates as condo hotels, plus we selected other buildings that allow short term rentals.



W South Beach

# FALL HAPPENINGS

In the Fall, I took my first trip to the Middle East in November timed to the [Abu Dhabi Grand Prix](#). It was also during the opening for the first [Le Cirque](#) group restaurant, [Circo](#) in Abu Dhabi founded by the host with the most, [Sirio Maccione](#) who is expanding worldwide. Heads of states, royalty and A-Listers have all eaten at the famed NYC Le Cirque. This past October, I had the good fortune of attending Le Cirque's 40th Anniversary celebration in NYC.



CIRCO in Abu Dabhi

## Abu Dhabi Grand Prix

The [Abu Dhabi F1](#) track is super cool literally running right through the [Yas Viceroy Hotel](#) at [Yas Marina](#).



Yas Viceroy Hotel Terrace



Yas Viceroy Hotel

The race runs from daytime to dusk so the ever-changing lights twinkling on the hotel exterior become a brilliant backdrop. This race seemed to miss a bit of vroom as the F1 circuit required quieter engines, thus no ear shattering roars as the cars went by each time they made another lap past us. This meant that we were not alerted in advance to turn around from our champagne sipping and mingling to watch the cars zip by. Instead, I met more new and old friends on our amazing balcony in prime position directly overlooking the race track and could even hold an audible conversation. This led to me finding a 'Mr.Right Now' during the races.

Here is the [Yas Viceroy Abu Dhabi F1 Weekend video](#):

## Abu Dhabi Desert

After the Grand Prix, I went to recuperate in the desert for a "[Sex and the City](#)" style escape with a friend from Monaco. We stayed at one of the most amazing resorts I have ever been to in the world, [Qasr al Sarab Desert Resort](#). It sits synergistically amongst the sand dunes with a superb blend of top notch hospitality, unique activities, gourmet meals, spa services, architectural design and interior décor.



Qasr al Sarab Desert Resort



**Armani Hotel & Residences**



**The Address Dubai Marina**



**Grosvenor House**

## Destination Dubai

Dubai was next on my agenda and is quite an impressive city to experience for the first time. My first night I tried out [Anantara Dubai The Palm](#) that is a Thai style resort on the island that is shaped like a palm. Then I was off to the mainland to the marina area to check out [Grosvenor House](#) which is like a city unto itself with two towers and shops, restaurants and nightlife galore including [Buddha Bar](#) and [Toro Toro](#). Grosvenor House won "World's Leading Business Hotel & Apartments 2014" at the World Luxury Hotel Awards. Since I really liked the Marina area where I could run along the water and check out the boats and waterside cafes, I decided to try out another hotel there when I returned over the holidays, [The Address Dubai Marina](#) which has a great pool deck and a famous Friday brunch. All of these hotels have a residential component as well.

While in Dubai, I had the good fortune of meeting with a friend who is the Managing Director of [Goldman Sachs](#) for the Middle East. The UAE attracts a lot of flight money, but the current real estate market there is flat which I am hoping is their loss and my gain in booming Miami. I also met with a few of the biggest development companies in hopes of cross-marketing our clients. [Emaar Hospitality Group](#) invited me for lunch at [Zeta](#) restaurant overlooking the famous fountains in front of the iconic [Burj Khalifa](#), the world's tallest building which houses the impressive [Armani Hotel & Residences](#) as well as the [Dubai Mall](#), the world's most visited and largest retail and entertainment destination. I toured their hotel, [The Address Downtown Dubai](#), which is located in the heart of Emaar's mega-development, [Downtown Dubai](#), which is called ['The Centre of Now'](#). This hotel won "World's Leading Lifestyle Hotel 2014" at The World Luxury Hotel Awards and Armani Hotel Dubai won "World's Leading Landmark Hotel." For me walking around Dubai seeing a mix of locales in their native gear of black burqas for the ladies and white gowns and headgear for the men called thawbs and Keffiyehs alongside those in Western dress was a novelty. However, I still prefer taking a leisure afternoon stroll at the luxury shopping center and top grossing mall in America, [Bal Harbour](#) in Miami any day over these mega-malls filled to the gills with shoppers.

Check out the  
[Dubai Fountains Spectacular Show](#)  
at Burj Khalifa

And check out this brand new  
[Virtual View of Dubai](#)  
with a full tour of the city at your fingertips



**Anantara Dubai - The Palm**



Art Basel Painting

# Baselmania Miami

Winter season kicks off in Miami with [Art Basel](#) blasting in as always the first week of December. This year a slew of new South Beach hotels debuted during Basel. [The Miami Beach Edition](#) brought to us by 'Mr. Boutique Hotelier' himself, Ian Schrager showed up and even showed off with the first ever hotel ice skating rink and bowling alley on-premises. This boutique hotel also has condos so you can own a piece of the action and dine in a Jean Georges restaurant. Up the street, just before the Soho Beach House, [Thompson Hotel](#) from NYC opened an outpost on Miami Beach. Alan Faena who is bringing the famous [Faena Art District](#) to Miami Beach from Buenos Aires, hosted Argentinian asados for VIPS to get a taste of his lifestyle offering.

Edition Hotel Bowling Alley



[Venegas International](#) along with our developer client, [Chateau Group](#), also an Argentina transplant, launched our [Fendi Chateau Residences](#) hosted by the Chairman of Fendi Italy. This will be the first ever Fendi branded residential building in the world! Completion is set for Spring 2016. We ended the week with a charity luncheon I organized at our Fendi Chateau lounge for [Style Saves](#) hosted by basketball great, Scottie Pippen's wife, Larsa Pippen and her besties.

Check out the links here for the Fendi Chateau e-brochure and charity event coverage

[Fendi Chateau E-Brochure](#)

[Style Saves Charity Event](#)

## Fendi Chateau Residences





# MIAMI ON A GLOBAL SCALE

Miami today is a world-class global destination and is considered *"The New Global City"*. Knight Frank's 2014 Wealth Report ranked Miami seventh in the world on the list of most important global cities to the world's wealthy. Miami is positioned in a strategic location between Latin America and Europe with attractive year-round weather along with a global culture and an amazing quality of life and lifestyle. Also, Miami provides affordability compared to other world-class cities and strong rental return rates for investors.

*"Miami is still experiencing an unprecedented real estate boom fueled by a robust pool of wealthy out-of-town buyers and projects built by experienced well-financed developers,"* stated The Real Deal real estate news publication. New Yorkers have a love affair with Miami not only for the weather and income tax-free status, but also for the price/value considerations. *"In Miami, you can buy a unit for a third of the price and the cost of living is half of what it is in New York. Miami has also grown culturally and has infrastructure in place that didn't exist in the last cycle, making it a more attractive place to live,"* states one developer doing a project in the emerging Edgewater area of Miami. *"Miami is also benefiting in this cycle from a diverse mix of buyers from South America and Europe",* adds The Real Deal. Developers are requiring a deposit of 50 percent or more this cycle which is another stabilizing factor.

Developers in Miami have announced plans for **311 new condo towers** with more than **40,500 units** during this real estate cycle.

*"The evolution of Miami as a global market has the potential for more growth,"* one sales group principal told Real Deal.



Miami

Check out the [MSNBC](#) real estate segment I produced and appeared in that explains why foreign buyers see Miami real estate as their piggy bank to place their funds securely in:

[MSNBC Real Estate TV Segment](#)

And here is a link from [Haute Living](#) about the new *"Sports, Arts & Entertainment Division"* I am Managing Director of for Venegas International Group:

[Haute Living Magazine Article](#)

# HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY

## MIAMI BEACH



I look forward to welcoming you all to South Florida's sunny shores soon!

This year marks the [100th Anniversary of Miami Beach!](#)

And keep in mind, Miami is one of the safest havens in the world to invest in as well as to visit!

If you need an excuse to visit, here are a few of the upcoming season's special events:

**Miami International Boat Show, South Beach Wine & Food Festival, Winter Music Conference, UltraFest, Miami Beach Centennial Concert, Miami Tennis Open, Miami Beach Polo World Cup, World Golf Championships.**

\*Join my [Hope Real Estate Facebook Page](#)



**HAPPY 2015!**  
**HOPE GAINER**

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