

Gold Coast

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5 THINGS TO KNOW

1 The **Swatch Beach Volleyball Major Series**, which first hit the sands of Fort Lauderdale Beach in 2015, returns this month (Feb. 7-12) with some of the Rio Olympics' top athletes. The event will open up the 2017 FIVB World Tour, and all the action is free for general spectators.

2 The Manhattan-based halal food cart known for attracting lines around the block has opened its first South Florida restaurant. **The Halal Guys**, located in Davie's Tower Shops, serves pita sandwiches and platters with gyro or chicken. Remember: Ask for extra white sauce; that fiery red hot sauce will make you cry.

3 What's up, Doc? **Doc B's Fresh Kitchen**, a Chicago-based "fresh casual" eatery, is debuting in Fort Lauderdale, serving gourmet burgers, energizing salads and signature Wok Out Bowls.

4 The fast-casual, custom pizza trend isn't slowing down. Fort Lauderdale welcomes two new pizzerias: **Pieology** on Commercial Boulevard and **MidiCi** in Flagler Village.

5 Look out for more beachside boutique hotels. The Gzella Collection's **Mirra Hotel**, restored from a 1950s motel, will debut beside its sister properties near the W Fort Lauderdale in late 2017. **Plunge Beach Hotel**—with hip island, beach and bungalow accommodations—is set to open in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea this month.