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# NearFar

GOING SOMEWHERE? TAKE US WITH YOU!

## TOLLWAY TIP

### The Chisholm Trail Parkway

Perhaps the best of all the newly opened Chisholm Trail Parkway's perks is the ease with which it helps to deliver us from the nightmare that is driving I-35 southward to Austin. Jump on the new toll road just west of downtown Fort Worth and follow its 28-mile reach south to Cleburne. There, take Texas 174 west to Meridian and pick up Texas 6, both wide-open, scenic roads that parallel I-35 and lead to Waco. There, you can take I-35 on to Austin, but if the Waco-to-Temple beat-down is a worry, pick up Texas 317 in Valley Mills, just shy of Waco, for an easy, non-interstate route to Temple. You'll be on I-35 from Temple only a short time before you choose one of two smooth-sailing toll roads into Austin, with a total travel time just a smidge over three carefree hours. For toll road info, visit [txdot.gov](http://txdot.gov) and click on Driver, Travel and Toll Road Systems. For TxTag information, [txtag.org](http://txtag.org). — **June Naylor**



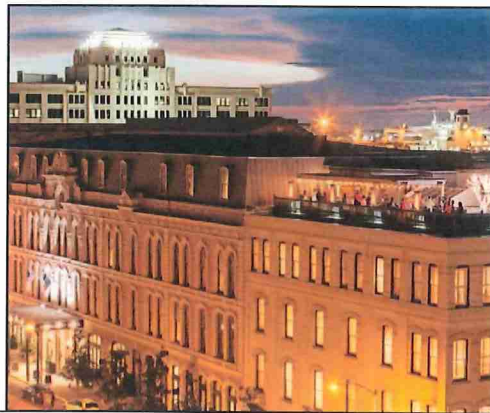
Paradise Beach's seven villas offer on-the-beach luxury in Nevis. Photos courtesy of Paradise Beach Nevis



## OPENINGS

**Paradise Beach Nevis** The tiny island of Nevis in the Caribbean gets a new boutique property this month with the opening of the made-over Villa Paradiso. Designer Adam Tihany's Balinese-fusion design blends into the Caribbean landscape, allowing guests to enjoy a private-home sort of intimacy but with a five-star staff at their beck and call. The seven villas feature three or four bedrooms complete with handwoven thatched roofs, 20-foot vaulted ceilings, sliding floor-to-ceiling Balinese glass walls, privacy walls enclosing lush gardens and outdoor dining pavilions with a waterfall pool overlooking the Caribbean or the gardens. For an exclusive winter escape this month, Paradise Beach offers a special starting rate of \$1,000 per night for a three-bedroom garden villa, with a minimum three-night stay. For more information, visit [paradisebeachnevis.com](http://paradisebeachnevis.com). — **Rita Cook**

Evening events at the Tremont's new rooftop bar are among special attractions scheduled in 2015 to celebrate the hotel's anniversary. Photo by Terry Vine



## GALVESTON

**The Tremont House** Galveston's beloved boutique hotel turns 30 next month, as does the Mardi Gras celebration that launched the island city's most elegant lodging. The Mardi Gras tradition disappeared for decades before the late George P. Mitchell revived the winter fest, including converting an 1870s commercial building into a small luxury hotel worthy of hosting his resurrected festivities. On Feb. 14 — thirty years later almost to the day — the recently renovated Tremont hosts the first A&M Mardi Gras Parade Viewing Party in its ballroom. Staged to benefit the George P. Mitchell Society at Texas A&M University at Galveston, the \$125 party includes a Cajun buffet dinner, open bar, live music and views of the Momus Grand Night Parade. Weekend packages are available at the Tremont and nearby sister hotels, the Galvez and Harbor House, and Mardi Gras happenings fill the island's streets and sidewalks Feb. 6-17. 2300 Ship's Mechanic Row, Galveston; 409-763-0300 or [thetremonthouse.com](http://thetremonthouse.com). For Mardi Gras details, [mardigrasgalveston.com](http://mardigrasgalveston.com). — **June Naylor**