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HEMISPHERES

Insight **Milwaukee**

where to stay

You can find many top names in Milwaukee, but it's the personal touches of boutique hotels that make a lasting impression.

Ambassador Hotel / The style of the Roaring '20s meets modern luxury at this art-deco boutique hotel. Restaurant and lounge Envoy features a nostalgic drink menu—the property's original 1920s drink selection—and live jazz on weekends. Retire to a guest room stocked with Aveda products, bathrobes and slippers, and comfortable linens. An added bonus is the new fitness center, equipped with machines with individual TV screens. 2308 West Wisconsin Avenue; Tel: 414-345-5000; ambassador.milwaukee.com

The Astor Hotel / Originally called Astor-on-the-Lake, The Astor Hotel was considered one of the finest in the Midwest when completed in 1920. Classical details and stained-glass skylights mark the lobby. Guests receive a compli-

mentary continental breakfast and shuttle transportation. This hotel and apartment building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, has long been considered an address of distinction; some of Milwaukee's biggest names called The Astor home. 924 East Juneau Avenue; Tel: 414-271-4220; theastorhotel.com

Hotel Metro / Relaxation is key at this eco-friendly luxury hotel. Its ultimate escape is the rooftop reflecting pool and Zen garden. Other highlights include a relaxation spa and guestrooms featuring fireplaces and separate sitting areas. Especially noteworthy in this *New York Times* "Where to Stay" selection is the Milwaukee Spa Suite, arranged around a whirlpool bath at the room's center. 411 East Mason Street; Tel: 414-272-1937; hotelmetro.com

The Iron Horse Hotel / Located along the South Menomonee Canal in the historical tannery district—and just across the water from the new Harley-Davidson Museum—the Iron Horse embraces industrial chic with a luxurious slant. Mixed-media murals cover an entire wall of each guestroom; guests can relax with pillow-top mattresses and oversize walk-in showers. Bikers and business travelers alike can be seen in the two-story atrium lobby and lounge. 500 West Florida Street; Tel: 888-543-4766; theironhorsehotel.com

The Pfister / Opened in 1893, this "Grand Hotel of the West" originally featured such groundbreaking amenities as electricity and a thermostat in every room. The elegant hotel now features an extensive Victorian art collection and Milwaukee's popular 23rd-floor martini bar, Blu. Beautiful city and lake views add to the charm of one of *Condé Nast Traveler's* "World's Best Places to Stay." 424 East Wisconsin Avenue; Tel: 414-273-8222; thepfisterhotel.com

—Brianna Pellicane

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