

JUNE 2015

ADDER'S

# EDGE

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## DENVER

### All Aboard!

The orange neon “Union Station Travel by Train” sign at Denver’s train station is glowing brighter than ever over its arched windows. This granite behemoth celebrated its 100th anniversary by unveiling the results of a \$54 million facelift last July. Fluorescent lights have been replaced with re-creations of the original chandeliers. Architectural details have been restored, including two large clocks, more than 2,000 plaster columbine flowers, and the ticket windows, where one can now order a craft beer from the Terminal Bar. Velvet couches and leather chairs arranged in sitting areas and communal tables with reading lights have added a “living room” modern vibe to the Grand Hall of the working terminal.



The Crawford Hotel, sporting a train-inspired décor, and the 13 uniquely Colorado restaurants, shops and bars, have made it a magnet for locals and travelers alike. There are outlets of Denver favorites: the independent Tattered Cover Book Store; the retro cool Snooze an A.M. Eatery, known for its pineapple upside

down pancakes; and the cute Milkbox Ice Creamery, which has original mirrors, subway tiles and terrazzo floors. There are new ventures by two of the city’s best chefs, Mercantile Dining & Provision by Alex Seidel and Stoic & Genuine by Jennifer Jasinski. And there are brand new eateries like the ACME Burger & Brat Corporation, which grills burgers made of freshly ground meat and local brats served on custom buns.

Take the time to seek out some of the 600 works of art in the terminal, many of which were unearthed in the fourth-floor attic. You can find framed transit scrolls from an old train marker hand-painted on cloth near the Amtrak ticket windows (service to the airport begins in January 2016!) and black-and-white photos of cowboy poets cut from a promotional poster lining the stairwell wall leading to The Cooper Lounge, one glamorous watering hole.

Top left: iStockphoto; top right: Chad Chisholm

Clockwise from top left: Robert Hilb & Getty Images; Chang Airport Group; Google; iStockphoto; Davis Tilly Photography

SEASONED TRAVELER ROBERT J. HILB

### My Richmond

Robert J. Hilb, Co-Founder and CEO, Hilb Group



Robert Hilb on where to stay in Richmond: The Jefferson Hotel

**The vibe** » Richmond has finally embraced its rich history with modern urban trends. Old tobacco warehouses along the James River have been converted to condos and apartments. New restaurants are opening every month, and there are global events like the **2015 UCI Road World Championships**. It’s a great place to live.

**What’s to love** » The location. We’re close to the mountains, the beach, the Chesapeake Bay, and even Washington, D.C.

**Where to go** » **The Fan District** just west of downtown. Built in the 1800s, this neighborhood has some of the most beautiful and historic row homes. It is also the heart of **Virginia Commonwealth University**, and many of Richmond’s new restaurants are located there.

**Culinary scene** » Richmond seems to be defining itself as a foodie city. We have a mix of local spots that have stood the test of time as well as celebrity chef restaurants. Outside of Charleston, S.C., it’s hard to find a city this size with so many incredible choices.

**Favorite eats** » Tough question. **Rappahannock Restaurant** is a new place that has southern seafood with a twist. I also love an old hole-in-the-wall spot called **Mamma Zu**. It’s probably the best Italian food in town.

**Where to stay** » **The Jefferson Hotel**. When I moved to Richmond, the first local tale I heard repeatedly was that the staircase there was the inspiration for the staircase scene in *Gone with the Wind*. Who knows if that’s true, but it is a historic landmark.

**Best bar** » The bar at **Heritage**. Their bartender has some of the most interesting takes on classic cocktails.

**Do** » Drive down **Monument Avenue**. It is one of the prettiest streets in the South.

**The wrap** » As a native Chicagoan, I would never have thought any place could beat my home city. But after moving here 28 years ago, I now proudly call Richmond home. I could not imagine a better place to have raised my family and focused my career.

## SLEEP/SIP/EAT DENVER

### SLEEP > ORIGINAL

#### THE CRAWFORD HOTEL

» Located on floors two through four in the two wings of Denver Union Station, the train-inspired décor in this boutique hotel features original architectural details.



Pullman Style Room, The Crawford Hotel

» A wall of silhouettes behind the check-in desk are of the people associated with the train station 100 years ago and were discovered during the restoration.

» Rooms vary in size and layout but have flat-screen TVs that swivel between the sleeping and sitting areas. Pullman rooms feature art deco accents and are cozy but light filled. Elaborate mirrored headboards in the larger Classic rooms lend a modern Victorian vibe.

» **NICE!** Loft rooms in the former attic have thick beams and exposed brick, separate living rooms, and expansive bathrooms featuring a striking painting of two stags over the soaking tub.

[www.thecrawfordhotel.com](http://www.thecrawfordhotel.com)



The Cooper Lounge

### SIP > SWANKY

#### THE COOPER LOUNGE

» On a balcony overlooking the Great Hall, watch the sunset through the oversized arched windows on the far side from a padded bar stool or velvet couch in this swanky watering hole.

» The iPad menu of spirits includes specialty cocktails like the Coloradier 13, a smooth

concoction of Breckenridge Bourbon, bitters and sweet vermouth served in a cut-crystal glass with an orange twist.

» Bartender Marcel Templet is a local favorite, so reservations are suggested.

[www.cooperlounge.com](http://www.cooperlounge.com)

### SIP > CRAFTY

#### TERMINAL BAR

» Craft beers from 30 Colorado microbreweries are on tap at this bar located in the historic ticketing office inside the Great Hall.

» Enjoy a brew while watching sports at the bar, tucked into a padded leather banquette or on the outside patio.

[www.terminalbardenver.com](http://www.terminalbardenver.com)

Bottom left and right: Ellen Jaskol

### EAT > HEALTHY PUB GRUB

#### THE KITCHEN NEXT DOOR UNION STATION

» Between the produce sourced from Denver’s community gardens to the communal tables, the emphasis is on community at this pub.

» A neon sign from the Continental Room, which inhabited the space for more than 40 years, hangs above the bar, lending a vintage feel. Tables outside are the summertime spot for watching the jumping fountain on the plaza.

» The food is healthy and delicious. Signature dishes include a beet burger made

with chickpeas, tomato soup bursting with the flavor, and a roasted vegetable salad.

[www.thekitchen.com/next-door-union-station/](http://www.thekitchen.com/next-door-union-station/)

### EAT > FARM-TO-TABLE

#### MERCANTILE DINING & PROVISION

» This Colorado farm-to-table fine-dining restaurant and artisanal market attracts locals who consider it one of the best in the city.

» Chef Alex Seidel sources ingredients from his farm in nearby Larkspur. For a sampling, order the Market Provisions board, which includes his hard and soft cheeses, cured meats, pickled vegetables and jam.



Beet Burger at The Kitchen

» The seasonal menu features original dishes like a sweet rather than savory bone marrow brûlée with carrot pancakes and butter-poached radishes. Of the homemade pastas, a recent mushroom risotto served with a Parmesan cream, brined egg and truffle oil was exquisite.

» The service is effortless and the wines carefully selected to pair with the food.

[www.mercantiledenver.com](http://www.mercantiledenver.com)

### EAT > MODERN SEAFOOD

#### STOIC & GENUINE

» A mural of an octopus in this modern and lively seafood restaurant epitomizes the flair James Beard award-winning chef

Jennifer Jasinski brings to her latest restaurant.

» Dine at the raw bar for views of the oversized shrimp, oysters in shell, and king crab claws that you’ll find in the seafood tower of power.

» Dishes like a clam roll served on a bricche with aioli are innovative interpretations of favorites. Experience new and delicious flavor combinations in hot starters and crudo like the hamachi sashimi, which comes on a bed of fiddlehead fern, pea tendrils and peanuts drizzled with Szechuan pepper & garlic oil.

» Top off a craft cocktail with a house-made granita, like grapefruit Campari, for an added taste sensation. [www.stoicandgenuine.com](http://www.stoicandgenuine.com)

## BRIEFCASE

**APP** With its purchase of Quest Visual, the company that created the Word Lens app that translates printed words from one language to another using a smartphone video camera, Google’s **Translate** app has become more robust. Just record a sign or text in English, German, Spanish, French, Russian, Italian or Portuguese, and it will translate the words on the screen (no network connection needed!). Purchase at iTunes for iPhones and Google Play for Androids.



The Jewel Changi Airport

» **FLY** Skytrax, the airline and airport review website, recently announced its annual World Airport Awards. Number one (for the third year running) was **Changi Airport Singapore**, which received accolades for its architecture, movie theaters, spas and array of upscale boutiques and restaurants. With development underway of the **Jewel Changi Airport**, a new complex of shops and attractions in front of Terminal 1, it may be a long time before another airport dethrones it. [www.airlinequality.com](http://www.airlinequality.com)

**PACK** WaterField Designs’ new **Bolt Briefcase** is creating waves with business travelers. Inspired by the San Francisco tech scene, it is constructed of either black ballistic nylon or waxed canvas with tanned leather accents, making it light (1.95 pounds for the small; 2.95 pounds for the large) and good looking. The thoughtful design, including a gold lining, waterproof zippers and a slot that fits over most rolling suitcase handles, not only accommodates one’s gadgets and cords, but also makes them easy to access. Inside are two small pockets as well as a large padded pocket that allows you to quickly slip your laptop in and out. Outside, there’s a zippered pocket for securing important documents and two smaller ones with magnetic closures for getting to chargers in a hurry. [www.sfbags.com](http://www.sfbags.com)

