

Halcyon Hotel

WHAT: RMGA MEMBERSHIP MEETING – HALCYON Hotel

WHEN: January 9, 2017, 6:30 pm – Networking, 7:00pm – Short Meeting, 7:15pm – History and Tour of the Halcyon Hotel.

WHERE: 245 N Columbine Street, Denver, CO 80206

PROGRAM: Anne Frye and Rebecca Schiltz will provide the Halcyon history and tour of the hotel.

Guide Line Review

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The hospitality industry is changing and we got a glimpse of how hotels are reinventing their standards. The Halcyon Hotel is the first hotel to open in Cherry Creek North in a decade welcomed us to see just how hotels are more than just sleeping rooms.

The Halcyon offers an independent option to corporate and leisure travelers looking to stay in the tony Denver neighborhood of Cherry Creek.

The boutique hotel, located at 245 Columbine St., was built on the site of a former post office. The 154-room [Halcyon](#) celebrated its opening in August. Developed by Denver-based Sage Hospitality and BMC Investments, The Halcyon is just another addition to their new hotels in the Denver area like The Crawford and The Curtis plus a new hotel to open at the Dairy Block development.

Our hosts this evening were Jason Landers, sales manager, and Brad Porter, conference service manager. They said that the name was chosen because around 1900 "halcyon" was term used to imply prosperous, good feelings. (Dictionary definition has it as an adjective denoting a period of time in the past that was idyllically happy and peaceful.)

This is planned to be a flagship hotel with the expectations of doing similar properties in other major cities. They are looking for a new concept in modern luxury in a travel experience. They want guests to check into a comfortable residential experience — a place where people are more like locals and do things like a local.



Upon entering the hotel, the first thing greeting guests isn't a front desk but a "kitchen counter" where complimentary beverages, Intelligentsia coffee and snacks are served all day long and alcohol served after 3pm. Most people like to congregate with their friends at home around the kitchen — thus the kitchen counter concept. Hotel hosts (none of whom wear name tags

because you wouldn't see name tags at home), are equipped with satchels and iPads, are available to check guests in on the fly. Halcyon hopes will set it apart from other independent hotels in Denver by a focus on creating a homey feel, like you are staying with a friend — a very well-off friend. From there, it's a few steps into the "living room" and the large sectional couches that invite guests to relax and mingle.

They have spent a great deal of effort in numerous little details like having the top 100 coffee-table books sitting out to enjoy. They wanted little touches of home throughout.



The Gear Garage features an assortment that guests can borrow while they explore Cherry Creek and Denver: long boards, e-bikes (electric bikes), Vespa scooters, safety helmets, fly-fishing gear, GoPros, day packs, binoculars, and even a vintage Leica M3 camera (with a roll of film that the hotel will get processed and sent to their home) are all available for guest use (part of the cost of a stay).

Still and sparkling water is available from high-end Vivreau dispensers on every guest floor. The dispensers can give you hot or cold water. And they put out snacks.

Each guest room comes equipped with a turntable and vinyl records — think



classics like Fleetwood Mac’s “Rumours” and Johnny Cash’s “At Folsom Prison” — as well as a Nespresso coffee machine and basic bar set-up, including the hotel’s private-label rum, made by Laws Whiskey House. They purchased the entire, limited production from Laws and have made it available to guests for \$50. In front of each room is a fun door mat (different for each room), coat hooks right inside the room doors, a small shelf to put your keys, and full-size bottles of shampoo and conditioner in the bathrooms are meant to evoke a more homey feel. Some of the suites have balconies with open views.

Room rates start at \$299 per night, but offer better rates in off-season.

Because shopping the community is part of the experience, they partner with local businesses and venues and offer things like passes to the Botanic Gardens.

Artwork celebrates Colorado artists with their works throughout the hotel. All together they have about 700 works. They also plan on special gatherings where the artists can speak to their work.

Other hotel amenities include a rooftop pool with cabanas, fitness center and a 3,500-square-foot ballroom available for special events.

Asian-themed Departure Restaurant + Lounge, out of Portland, Ore., is the first restaurant to open in conjunction with the hotel. Culinary director Gregory Gourdet, the runner-up in season twelve of Bravo's Top Chef, Departure offers a Pan-Asian menu in a sleek, ultra-futuristic setting. Gourdet has spent time in Japan, China, Vietnam and Korea and has a genuine take on the culture. The bar design is intended to capture an aviation theme, where the staff wear outfits of flight-attendant-style. Awar from the street is also a rooftop bar.

Coming soon will be Quality Italian. The eatery, which will open this summer, features steak. Guests should expect a menu of modern day adaptations of traditional Italian-American steakhouse fare.

Sage Hospitality will have a separate division from their hospitality group just for their restaurants, Quality Branded, which includes Quality Meats NYC.

They welcome groups of 10 rooms or more and will work with them on rates and packages. There is plenty of room in front of the hotel for coaches and they have partnered with Cherry Creek Shopping Center to park coaches for overnight. While there is no bell-staff, the hotel's hosts will handle portage. Jason had been a bellman at the Adam's Mark and knows the needs of groups. For individuals, valet parking is in the basement of the hotel for \$45/night.

For conference groups there are meeting rooms with about 6500 square feet and a ballroom with state-of-art AV and partner with an experienced local AV company. The main ballroom has floor to ceiling windows looking out to Cherry Creek and bringing light to attendees. The "board room" has an adjoining guest room for the convenience of the group leader.

We also met a dog who told us that the hotel is pet friendly.

-- Sherry Moon

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