

ED MCCAFFREY'S MISSION TO
REMAKE VALOR FOOTBALL'S IMAGE
BY SPENCER CAMPBELL

SPECIAL SECTION

THE 5280 KID!

HOW TRAGEDY INSPIRED
A RUN FOR POLITICAL OFFICE
BY ROBERT LARCHEZ

1993-2018
25
YEARS

5280

THE
DENVER
MAGAZINE

Staycations!

44 Reasons To Book
A Few Nights At
One Of Denver's Chic
Boutique Hotels

The Rumble
Hotel in 3030s



PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS

Death & Co.'s bar inside the Kimbark Hotel

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Denver's boutique hotel scene is booming, which means you certainly should get ready for a night or two without overleaving the Mile High City.

EDITED BY STELLA LEE

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THE 5280 KID

Grown-ups: We produced this feature especially for your children. What's inside? We talked with a video game inventor, researched exploding whipped cream, and interviewed local fifth graders about their dreams and concerns.

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I WOULDN'T BE IN THIS POSITION IF ALEX HADN'T BEEN MY SON

What do you do six years after your eldest child is murdered in one of the worst mass shootings in American history? If you're Tom Sullivan, you channel your anger and sorrow into an unlikely campaign for political office.

BY ROBERT LUTCHER



STAYCATIONS 2018

Checking In

EDITED BY
JESSICA LARUSSO



Denver's boutique hotel scene is booming, which means you can—and should!—get away for a night or two without ever leaving the Mile High City.



The Rumble Hotel's 50
impossibly designed rooms
are the perfect home base for
exploring real hot & now.

Blame it on Airbnb, the local-first movement, or Instagram,

but travelers today are increasingly unimpressed in generic, cookie-cutter hotels. They crave lodging options with unique characteristics that communicate something about the locales they're visiting, that go beyond offering just a place to sleep, and they're willing to forgo brand loyalty and rewards to get that authentic vibe. "The experience economy has really taken full hold of the industry, and millennials are driving that," says David Corwin, director of the University of Denver's Fritz Kasebel School of Hospitality Management. Nationally and here in Colorado, the shift has forced big-box chains to develop hip brands that will appeal to a younger, lifestyle-oriented demographic as well as opened up the market to smaller, upscale boutique properties—sometimes in neighborhoods far from convention centers and traditional tourist destinations.

"Denver is a hotbed of activity for millennials, which has made it ripe for this kind of hotel development," Corwin says. "And given the growing population and the booming economy, it's not a terrific surprise." The 2014 openings of Renaissance Denver Downtown City Center Hotel inside the former Colorado National Bank building and Union Station's luxurious Crawford Hotel kicked off a spate of high-profile debates; another 1,217 rooms came online in Denver in 2017 alone.

The proliferation is forcing new concepts to differentiate themselves through creative themes—see the Golden Triangle's widely lauded the Art hotel, which opened in 2015 and boasts a museum-quality collection of nearly 40 original works—and lavish amenities (hello, rooftop pools). It's also encouraging the city's classic hotels to undergo design refreshes and reconceptualize their public spaces. What does it mean for you, dear Denverite? There are all sorts of great new spots to recommend to your out-of-town friends—and there's never been a better time for a Mile High City staycation.





Photographs: Top: Courtesy of Death & Co.; Middle: Photography courtesy of Death & Co.; Bottom: Photography of the Hotel

The Rambler Hotel

EST. MAY 2018



The most truly boutique of Denver's new hotel crop, the 50-room Rambler is hipper than hip HN0—relatively far from the convention center and tourist hubs like the 16th Street Mall—is more like an exclusive club you can't believe you got into. The impeccable design details go beyond pleasing the eye; rather, you feel the luxury in the brass keys and their embossed leather cases, in the rubber headboard, in the antique rug beneath your bare feet. At the same time, you hear car circling for parking spots and the cluster of people waiting for tables at surrounding eateries drifting in through your cracked-open window. It seems like the gritty hustle of Larimer Street would cause a disconnect, but it only adds to the feeling that you're in the buzzy center of Denver's hottest scene.

GET A ROOM: They're all equally Instagrammable, so it really comes down to if you prefer brightly sun-drenched windows facing out to the street or a Juliet balcony that overlooks the hotel's courtyard bar, the Garden. Both start at \$249.

ON THE MENU: In a massive coop for Denver, the independently owned and operated Rambler convinced New York City's renowned Death & Co. to open its second location in the hotel's opulent lobby. The menu's textures are making wonderfully balanced, beautiful cocktails, of course, but the offerings from Death & Co.'s new breakfast and lunch concepts, DC/AM, are elevated delights as well (try the Colorado granda bowl).

COMMUNITY TIP: Greater Development Group is one to the hotel game but not the neighborhood. It was behind the innovative shipping-container development (Think & Class, Topo Design, Curb-Orbit) across the street. In addition to weddings, the Rambler hosts a variety of affairs, often for area makers and nonprofits—Free Friday art shows, Topo's spring gear launch party—in its 2,300-square-foot event space, Vivaldi.

CONSIDER THIS: When you encounter a wait for a table at adjacent, no-reservations Super Mega Ben-Hur's when, not if—don't worry about trying to allow your way in the bar at Death & Co. for an aperitif. Instead, head back to your room, sync your phone with the retro-chic Victoria Bluetooth gaming/home speaker, put on some Five Points-inspired jazz, and help yourself to a cold can of Infinite Monkey Heaven's rose or Great Divide Brewing Company's Seminal Blue Ale (37 each) from the minibar.

1780 25th St., 303-996-6300
theramblerhotel.com; current room rates start at \$249