

DENVER

It's easy to see why Denver is one of the fastest growing big cities in the country. The laid-back vibe and proximity to nature attract friendly people with a zest for life. Sunny weather, great craft beer, easy mountain access for hiking and skiing — what's not to love? Visitors can feel the pulse of Colorado's capital city in the booming River North Art District. Nicknamed RiNo, this is Denver's hottest neighborhood for art, music, dining and shopping. —*AMBER GIBSON*



Stay
THE SOURCE HOTEL

When the Source artisan food hall opened in the old Colorado Iron Works plant back in 2013, it was a pioneer both in the national food hall trend and in the resurgence of Denver's then largely vacant manufacturing district. Fast-forward six years, and the new 100-room hotel next door is the prime place to stay for exploring the hippest neighborhood in the city.

Upon checking in, guests are welcomed with a sample of beer on tap from New Belgium Brewing's experimental ground-floor brewery. Rooms are sparsely decorated, with ample natural light, Malin + Goetz toiletries, and industrial touches like operable garage door windows that let in bountiful fresh air. The year-round heated rooftop plunge pool boasts Rocky Mountain views and sits adjacent to the Woods restaurant. And the second floor hosts a florist, an art gallery, and a curated retail mix from apparel and accessories to home goods and vinyl records. thesourcehotel.com



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JC BUCK, MAKE THOUS AND KELLY EILEEN

Dine
SAFTA

James Beard Award-winning chef Alon Shaya pays homage to his grandmother at his newest restaurant, Safta (Hebrew for "grandmother"). The spirit of Shaya's safta lives on in dishes like charred cabbage with muhammara, crisp yet fluffy falafel, and lutenitsa: a bright spread of roasted eggplant, red pepper, tomato and garlic. Her smiling watercolor portrait hangs above the bar, and the roses on the glassware and coasters were inspired by one of her paintings.

"I want Safta to feel like you're breaking bread in your hip grandmother's kitchen," Shaya explains. As such, the fare is meant to be shared, like at his New Orleans restaurant, Saba (Hebrew for "grandfather"). Hummus, salatim (Israeli salads and spreads), and freshly baked pita from a wood-burning oven play starring roles. The menu boasts a multitude of vegetarian choices, and seating spills out onto the patio. Dessert fiends should save room for the signature chocolate hazelnut bakka. eatwithsafta.com



Shop
MODERN NOMAD

Design collective Modern Nomad has become the premier place to shop for home goods in Denver, bringing together 10 area artisans and vendors in a 5,500-square-foot warehouse. Founder Becky Miller, who has a passion for interior design, worked in real estate for 20+ years before opening the shopping emporium in 2017. "I'm so proud of the fact that eight out of 10 of us are woman-owned, startup, self-funded businesses," she says.

La Lovely Vintage offers a selection of fashion and home decor, while the back corner overflows with plants from ReRoot. Homefill features bulk eco-friendly household cleaners and personal-care products to help conscious consumers eliminate waste from plastic packaging. Atla designs and creates custom furniture in nearby Boulder, and for smaller gifts, Young in the Mountains makes one-of-a-kind jewelry from recycled gold, conflict-free diamonds and American-mined inlay stones. modernnomaddenver.com

