



HOTEL

The Four Seasons Denver fits its setting. Slate walls inside and blue spruce and aspen trees planted on the rooftop, above, reflect the local landscape. Most of the works in the 1,200-piece art collection were created by Colorado artists.

From \$295. 1111 14th St., (303) 389-3000, fourseasons.com

HIGH CULTURE

BY SERENA RENNER

A former gold mining town, Denver has always embraced the spirit of adventure. Only recently, however, have the art and dining scenes revealed their boldness. More than 25 restaurants opened last June alone. Add craft distilleries to a flowing beer scene, and the city is heating up.



MUSEUM

The year-old Clyfford Still Museum displays dozens of the abstract expressionist's high-contrast paintings. For an intimate glimpse into Still's life, head downstairs to see his baseball glove and personal record collection. clyffordstillmuseum.org

FESTIVAL

On October 6, the Cultivate Festival—hosted by Chipotle, founded in Denver—combines beer and wine tastings, cooking demonstrations by such celebrity chefs as Michael Chiarello, and musical performances by Okkervil River and others. chipotle.com/cultivate

DINING

The Squeaky Bean reopened last summer in an oak-and-leather space that was once a saddlery. It's a casual backdrop for the cuisine of chef Max MacKissock, who tops his hot carrot soup with lime-Sriracha peanuts and savory ice creams. During happy hour, the Bean team serves improvised hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. (303) 623-2665, thesqueakybean.com

"THE DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS HAVE IT ALL: CACAO TREES, DESERT LANDSCAPES, A MANICURED JAPANESE GARDEN, AND MORE."

 Sherry Hardage, AFAR.com



SPIRITS

The city that helped launch the craft beer revolution has turned its attention to liquor. Here are three distilleries worth a visit.

1. STRANAHAN'S

The whiskey is made from barley grown in the Rockies. Factory tours end with a tasting in the new general store. stranahans.com

2. LEOPOLD BROS.

Todd and Scott Leopold specialize in old-school spirits such as absinthe, above, crafted in the 19th-century European tradition. leopoldbros.com

3. MILE HIGH SPIRITS

One of the only distilleries that makes vodka in all-glass stills, Mile High has a tasting room that hosts live music by local bands on Thursdays. milehighspiritsllc.com

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: KAJAMI/FLICKR; COURTESY OF FOUR SEASONS HOTELS AND RESORTS; COURTESY OF LEOPOLD BROS.; JEREMY BITTERRMANN/COURTESY OF THE CLYFFORD STILL MUSEUM