



DESTINATION

Destination: Chicago

All eyes are on America's Third Coast, which has emerged as a modern incubator for new ideas in the epicurean and hospitality worlds.

HOTELS

Since it opened, at the turn of the last century, the [Peninsula Hotel](#) has been a paragon of upscale service in downtown Chicago. But for many, the Rockwell Group–designed [Langham Chicago](#) outshines that grande dame in style and substance. Housed in a 1971 Mies van der Rohe building on the river, it welcomes guests with a ghostly Jaume Plensa sculpture in the lobby, then whisks them up to the second-floor reception area, where 500 pebbles of Czech glass hang from the ceiling and works by some 140 artists—many with Bauhaus connections—pepper the space. The 316 guest rooms adhere to Mies’s minimalist aesthetic, while the Travelle Kitchen + Bar delivers more than just inventive Med cuisine: seats at the bar overlook Bertrand Goldberg’s midcentury corncob-inspired Marina Towers. Hot on its heels in 2014—but perhaps for a younger crowd—came the [Chicago Athletic Association Hotel](#), a retrofitted private men’s club built in the Venetian Gothic style in 1893. The landmark across the street from Millennium Park reopened with much nostalgia as a hipster haunt; the open-plan lobby is stuffed with Chesterfield sofas, wingbacks, and a forest’s worth of wood paneling. Designers Roman & Williams kept the sports-club vibe in the guest rooms (note the pommel horses repurposed as benches), but locals come for the cocktail cart in the Cherry Circle Room restaurant, shuffleboard and bocce in the Game Room, and Cindy’s incredible rooftop views (plus the recently introduced boozy popsicles).