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Room Keys: Hotel Jerome is a cozy Aspen landmark

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Hotel Jerome's cozy Living Room is the perfect place to relax after a day on the slopes. Courtesy Hotel Jerome

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Hotel Jerome
330 E. Main St., Aspen, Colo.
970-920-1000; hoteljerome.aubergeresorts.com

Built in the 1880s, Hotel Jerome is an Aspen landmark that, over the course of just four months in late 2012, was renovated to open for this skiing season. Interior design by Todd-Avery Lenahan of TAL-Studio pays homage to the hotel's storied history, and the eclectic collection of pieces, apparent in every detail from the couch in the lobby to the artwork in the suites, is charming and authentic. This is one of those rare instances where there's as much to see within the hotel as there is to see outside.

The Neighbourhood

The Jerome is is located in the centre of Aspen, and easy drive in and out of town to nearby hills, and a short walk to the base of Aspen Mountain. And, if you don't feel like walking, or driving, the friendly door staff — who are always in cowboy hats — will gladly chauffeur you to your destination. It's also just a couple blocks to the main

The Vibe

Hotel Jerome is as much a local spot as it is a visitor destination. If you want to mingle with Aspenites, head to the always busy J Bar, once the hangout of Hunter S. Thompson. If you want to lounge, couches are plentiful in the Living Room — and the bartender there knows his way around gin-based drinks. Prospect, the main dining room, serves up meals throughout the day, with light automatically controlled to complement what's going on outside — it's bright in the morning, cozy for dinner. There's not much that hasn't been thought of in this hotel, but the execution of these well-considered details has been completed with an expert touch to make it all seem so natural. Staff is friendly and accommodating, and will insist on taking your small carry-on luggage to you room, even if it's really light. It's their job, they'll explain to you, and there's no point but to give in. Besides, you'll be too busy admiring the interior of the elevators, which are adorned with a variety of belts, quite possibly no two the same (at least I couldn't make a match).

The Rooms

With 93 rooms over three floors, the Jerome has a cozy atmosphere without skimping on spacious suites for its guests. Rooms run from 525 to 775 square feet (the Presidential Suite is 1265 sq. ft.), with spacious bathrooms, a sofa and workspace in every room, and wonderfully comfortable beds. Televisions are framed like artwork, so that, when off, they fade into the background, and mini bars (which, for the first stocking, are complimentary!) are designed to like a leather campaign chest. Wifi is gratis, as is a cheese plate that welcomes guests to the hotel (be sure to try the herbed cheddar). The hotel also has on-site ski storage, as well as a shop, should you misplace goggles, etc., and is pet friendly.

Rates start at \$445 in the summer and \$695 in the winter. For more information visit hoteljerome.aubergeresorts.com or call 970-920-1000. Travel assistance provided by Colorado Ski Country.

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