



CHECK-IN

THEY WANT YOU TO FEEL AT HOME

By Diane Bair and Pamela Wright | GLOBE CORRESPONDENTS

You could easily walk by No. 284 and not realize it's one of Boston's newest boutique lodgings. It is the epitome of understated elegance, a serene, luxurious oasis, steps from bustling Copley Square, that feels more like home than hotel. That is if your home happens to be a stately, six-story, 19th-century brick townhouse, filled with original art, 23 stylish rooms, and a coddling staff at your disposal.

"It's not a hotel," owner Sandra Edgerley, president of Hexagon Properties, told us when we toured the property. "It's a guest house, where we hope business and leisure travelers will feel at home."



No. 284 is one of Boston's newest boutique lodgings.

The former private residence, located in Back Bay at the corner of Commonwealth Ave. and Gloucester, underwent an 18-month, multi-million-dollar

rehab that managed to preserve the building's historic charm while adding loads of modern luxury. Wood front doors open to the ground floor foyer and staircase, with original woodwork, now painted glossy black. There is a small, help-yourself snack and beverage area, and a new, snug library, with

contemporary, custom-made tables, chairs, and booths, and built-in shelves filled with art books. What we liked best: the private outdoor brick courtyard. It was closed when we visited, but we can imagine sitting there on a warm summer evening enjoying pre-dinner drinks and conversation.

Rooms come in varying sizes but have all been updated. Interior designer Sharon Cameron Lawn didn't think too far out of the box: There are neutral gray and white palettes punctuated with a touch of blue here, a touch of orange there. A dimensional lattice-like contemporary wall behind the headboards adds interest, along with original details like ornate woodwork, wall paneling, fireplaces (lower floor suites have working gas fireplaces), and bay windows. Most rooms are bright with lots of natural light, with either views of Hancock Tower and Back Bay or Commonwealth Ave. Private baths are all brand new with glass showers and marble tile, and each room has a small kitchenette area, with a glossy white cabinet housing a mini-refrigerator, providing another homey touch. High-end Elemis toiletries, Frette linens, and high-tech bells and whistles provide modern convenience and added luxury.

Art plays a major role in the design and concept of No. 284. Each room is named after an artist and includes a book on the artist and an original piece of his or her work. Internationally known art consultant Kate Chertavian, who specializes in modern, postwar, and contemporary art, curated the predominantly American collection, spanning from 1880 to 2017. The art progresses through the years

as you climb the stairs, moving from abstract to contemporary. Pablo Picasso's 1914-15 cubist etching "L'Homme au chapeau" hangs in the foyer entrance. Ground floor guestrooms feature prints from Boston-born American Impressionist Childe Hassam. Other artists include Stanley William Hayter, Jasper Johns, Robert Rauschenberg, and Jim Dine. The collection culminates with an iconic Marilyn offset lithograph by Andy Warhol hanging at the top the staircase leading to the penthouse suite.

Ahhh, the penthouse suite: It's gorgeous, with an atrium glass roof and private terrace. We could definitely live here.

284 Commonwealth Ave., 617-603-0084, www.no284.com. Rates start around \$350.

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The penthouse suite at No. 284 has an atrium glass roof and private terrace.

The new, snug library has built-in shelves filled with art books.



NO. 284 PHOTOS

HERE

CATCH GUSTER AT CONCERTS AND SEA DOGS GAME

See Guster jam during several Portland performances and then hang out with the band during a Sea Dogs game. The band, born at Tufts University in Somerville 25 years ago, hosts multiple events during its' On the Ocean Festival in Portland, Maine, Aug. 3-5. The weekend kicks off with a performance at the State Theatre Friday night with Caroline Rose opening. Singer-guitarist Adam Gardner of Portland leads a service project on Saturday, Aug. 4, followed by an evening concert at Thompson's Point with Kishi Bashi, The Secret Sisters, and Rest Assured, the winners of the Maine Academy of Modern Music's high school rock-off competition. Guster band members will head to the Sea Dogs' stadium Aug. 5 to play catch on the field, throw out the first pitch, and hang with fans while watching the baseball game. *Tickets: \$46 for each concert; \$9 (adults), \$6 (children) for Sea Dogs game. 207-956-6000 (info) 800-826-9300 (tickets), www.ontheoceanfest.com.*

FILM FEST SHINES ON THE CAPE AND ISLANDS

Don't miss this year's Woods Hole Film Festival, which showcases a record number of films that are about — or made by filmmakers from — the Cape and islands. The event, July 28-Aug. 4, includes more than 160 feature-length and short films, workshops, panel discussions, and a master class by this year's filmmaker-in-residence and music documentary film-

maker John Edginton. It also features the world premiere of "Chet's Last Call," a film about the late Richard "Chet" Rooney and the Boston punk rock dive bar that launched the careers Bim Skala Bim (which will perform after the screening), the Boss-tones, and other groups in the 1980s. *Tickets: \$14 general admission; \$12 for festival members; ticket packages, and full festival, VIP, and Falmouth Academy passes also available. 508-495-3456, www.woodsholefilmfestival.org.*

THERE

HIRE A FOOD SHOPPER FOR OUR VACATION

Imagine traveling to your hotel, summer cabin, or rental cottage and having someone soon arrive with all of

your favorite foods. Whether you're vacationing from Maui to Martha's Vineyard, you can hire Instacart to handle your grocery shopping. The on-demand grocery delivery service operates in more than 260 markets nationwide. To use the service, go to www.instacart.com or open the Instacart mobile app on your Apple or Android device, choose your vacation destination and preferred local store, add items to the virtual cart, and then choose a delivery date — from one hour to five days in advance — and check out. An Instacart shopper then fills your order and delivers your groceries during the requested timeframe. No membership required; pay \$9.99 for orders under \$35 (\$10 minimum) or \$5.99 for more than \$35. With membership — monthly \$14.99, annual \$149 — you get free unlimited deliveries on orders of \$35 or more. www.instacart.com.



SKY-HIGH VIEWS ON NEW MOUNTAIN HIKE

Attach yourself to a secure cable and walk along a cliff edge during a new guided tour on Whistler Mountain. The Whistler Sky Walk just opened at Whistler, offering participants stunning mountain and valley views from high above Pika's Traverse in the Coast Mountain Range. The 2- to 2.5-hour tour, run by Mountain Skills Academy and Adventures, starts with a short hike up to the cliff area at the top of Whistler Mountain, following guides who offer an interpretive talk along the way. Then clip your harness into a cable and safely walk along a cliff edge and across small suspended bridges and features. Keep an eye out for pikas, Whiskey Jacks (Canada's national bird), and hoary marmots. Depending on conditions, your hike may include hiking across snow, scrambling along a rocky trail, or enjoying alpine wildflowers en route. Not to worry: Helmets, harnesses, and hiking boots are provided. The tour runs through September and is geared to anyone 8 years and older. Rates: Approximately \$83 per person for public tour; \$401 per private group with up to 8 people. Must purchase a \$48 Peak 2 Peak gondola ticket to access the mountaintop. 604-938-9242, www.mountainskillsacademy.com.

EVERYWHERE

A COMFY RECLINER FOR YOUR TRAVELS

Kick back in comfort with NEMO's new Stargaze Luxury Recliner, a portable swinging camp chair that sets up



quickly and provides a super-relaxed and comfortable feel without sacrificing stability. The Stargaze comes with a one-piece aluminum frame that snaps into place when unfolded (much like tent poles). The breathable mesh chair attaches to the frame using NEMO's trademarked Super Lock hardware, meaning the seat can't fall off while you're chilling out or swinging. The chair has a smooth, built-in pulley system that lets you adjust it from upright to reclining by just leaning back — great for sprawling out and looking at the starry skies or tree canopy above. The Stargaze comes with padded arm and leg rests, a removable pillow, and a drink pocket. It quickly folds up and stows away in its included carry bag, making it easy to pack for use at your campsite, summer cabin, or rental cottage. The company is based in Dover, N.H. \$219.95. 800-997-9301, www.nemoequipment.com. KARI BODNARCHUK