

TRUTH IN TRAVEL

CONDÉ NAST

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# Traveler

*A Love Affair  
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## Get Off The Loop

Finally, a place to stay in the same Chicago hood where you're already eating and drinking.



A guest room at The Robey.

- If you're from Chicago or visit enough, you've probably been hitting the West Side Wicker Park neighborhood for *tacos al pastor* at Big Star or civilized cocktails at Violet Hour for nearly a decade. As a traveler here, the only bummer with these epicurean excursions was that there wasn't a hotel nearby where you could end the night; you had to drag your full, likely tipsy self back to your room downtown. Thankfully, that's no longer the case. The Robey hotel—in a landmark Art Deco building—from Mexico-based Grupo Habita (known for glamming up Mexican destinations like Guadalajara and the fishing town of Puerto Escondido with its just-slick-enough design hotels), is shifting the city's hotel game four L stops northwest of downtown. Now, after a night of indulging, just walk a block to the loden-hued lobby with its reproduction mid-century Dunbar sofa and period table lamps that make you feel like you've stepped into Edward Hopper's *Nighthawks* (which hangs in the Art Institute of Chicago, a few miles away). Upstairs, dimly lit hallways with original marble wainscoting lead to 69 rooms, where you'll find vintage coffee tables, custom Amish-made beds, and Woolrich blankets. It's all finely crafted and unassumingly Midwestern, until you get to the rooftop lounge, a glass-walled, skyline-framing bar open exclusively to guests that captures the sex appeal of another Chicago original, the Playboy Club. ELAINE GLUSAC

### CLOSE BY & CAN'T MISS

#### Publican Anker and Dove's Luncheonette

Native son Paul Kahan and One Off Hospitality Group chose Wicker Park for two new additions to an empire that includes Nico Osteria, Blackbird, and Avec. Start at the Publican Anker beer hall for a pint of local Forbidden Root and a dozen oysters before walking a few doors down to the Mexico meets American South Dove's Luncheonette for smoked brisket with chayote squash.

#### Robin Richman

At her namesake boutique, Richman successfully mixes contemporary fashion, like abstract print dresses from Henrik Vibskov and fitted frock coats from Elena Dawson, with whimsical objets d'art from Maison Margiela and Astier de Villatte.

#### Violet Hour

End up at The Robey's lounge for a nightcap and city views, but have your first belt at this cocktail bar with a Prohibition-era vibe and house rules we can get behind, like no cell phones, baseball caps, or demands for Jaeger shots. It's not new, but it's still one of the best.