

Enjoy The Nines, a luxury hotel in downtown Portland, Oregon

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(Photo: Courtesy of Jean Chen Smith)

Recently while covering the Waterfront Blues Festival in Portland, Oregon, I happened upon The Nines, a luxury hotel in downtown Portland.

What struck me most is that while Portland has many hotels, lodgings and even air bnbs, the city is lacking is a luxury boutique hotel. That's the exact reason The Nines is such a gem.

The Nines hotel is located inside the Meier and Frank Building, which was constructed in 1908.

For decades, the retail dynasty created by Aaron Meier and Sigmund Frank was a long-standing hub of commerce for Portland.

This iconic monument featured the first escalator installation in Portland and, in 1922, also functioned as the studio for Meier & Frank's very own radio station. As the premier department store in Portland, clientele would often dress up to look their very best, dressed to "the Nines". The name of the hotel The Nines pays homage to the history of the building.

In 2005, the building began its transformation into a luxury hotel, which opened in 2008. The original exterior was retained, while a seven-story atrium was created to allow for beautiful views and natural light to flow inside. More than 416 original works of art were commissioned from select local artists and is incorporated into the design of the 330-room hotel.

While I loved the luxury and elegant décor of the hotel, there were numerous other amenities that made my stay simply delightful.



The Nines is a luxury hotel in downtown Portland, Oregon. (Photo: courtesy of Jean Chen Smith)

The hotel fitness facility is open 24 hours and features updated equipment in a sleek and modern environment, which is not what you typically think of at a city hotel.

Working out was a dream since I am an early bird and was on the treadmill at 4 a.m. I took advantage of the refreshing citrus water and light fruits offered at the front area of the center.

Additionally, we were able to bring our 14-year old tzu Coco on our trip. Despite the hotel being lovely, dogs were very welcome and found some treats for our dog, a dog bed and bowl upon our arrival. It was a nice touch for sure since we actually forgot to pack those items.

The Nines has diverse offerings when it comes to dining, but each of them are highlights in their own rite.

Urban Farmer Restaurant is a modern steakhouse with an expansive wine list and cocktails made with many local and sustainable spirits. The bar even delivers a Moonshine punch with locally crafted moonshine whiskey blended with grains from a local brewery.



Delicious breakfasts are on the menu at Urban Farmer. (Photo: Courtesy of Jean Chen Smith)

There is a Mushroom Incubator in Urban Farmer Restaurant where mushrooms are grown and harvested daily to use in cooking, along with an herb garden on the roof, also for use in cooking.

There are bee hives on the roof where honey is harvested for the restaurants and to make soap. Though we didn't have dinner here, we had a lovely breakfast with diverse offerings from a refreshing salad for me to a nice plate of waffles for my husband.



Healthy options, even for breakfast, at the Urban Farmer. (Photo: Courtesy of Jean Chen Smith)

Chef Gregory Gourdet of Bravo TV's Top Chef fame heads Departure Restaurant, which offers modern Asian cuisine in a sleek, cosmopolitan setting with two outdoor decks and stunning views of the city, mountains and river.

Traditional Asian preparations meet Northwest ingredients in signature dishes such as the restaurant's grilled kushiyaki selections, kobe meatballs and maguro karai honey sushi rolls.

The Concierge as well as all the hotel staff were eager and willing to help with any questions we had on this recent trip.

So, when you think there are lots of offerings in the city, and just can't decide on one, look for a gem in the City of Roses. Rates start at \$269 per night.

Jean Chen Smith is a freelance writer, social media consultant and Pilates studio owner in Corvallis, Oregon. Jean, a marathon runner, is passionate about health, fitness and fashion, which is the reason she started her lifestyle website, www.projectcloud9.com and Pilates studio www.studiocloud9pilates.com. Email her at info@projectcloud9.com or follow her on Facebook and Instagram.

THE NINES HOTEL

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