

Top of the Town

Every year we give you our list of the absolute best stuff in Denver. Here's just a taste of this year's winners.

Edited by Cheryl Meyers

Hotel Bar

EDITORS *Second Home*

This new upscale watering hole at the back of the JW Marriott lobby in Cherry Creek (former home of Mirepoix) is just the spot for a cozy fireside chat with a glass of Napa Cellars Merlot or a breezy raspberry gimlet on the patio. The microbrew selection and reasonably priced wine list complement the tempting bar menu—comfort food with a delicate twist, like beer-battered baby artichokes and BBQ lamb riblets with green apple slaw. While the unpretentious service, warm decor, and comfy seating make for a relaxing experience, the space is elegant enough for a more formal soiree as well. *150 Clayton Lane, 303-253-3000, www.secondhomedenver.com*

READERS *The Cruise Room at the Oxford Hotel*

Sipping a cocktail in the Oxford Hotel's 1930s art deco lounge is like stepping back in time—to the day after Prohibition was repealed, to be precise. You can almost feel the history when you order one of the infamous martinis—a surreal reddish glow illuminates the historic panels lining the narrow room, which is modeled after a lounge on the plush Queen Mary ocean liner, circa 1936. Pssst: We swear those ghost stories are true. *1600 17th St., 303-825-1107, www.theoxfordhotel.com/cruise-room.htm*