

# HOTEL CONCORD A DIAMOND IN STATE CAPITAL



**ROCHELLE LASH**  
Hotel Intel

The Hotel Concord is the new hospitality centrepiece of New Hampshire's capital. The upscale boutique hotel attracts politicians, businesspeople and visitors who love good food and tax-free shopping, and there's a lot of both in this appealing, historic community.

The Concord operates on three floors of the Capital Commons building on Main St. The hotel's cleverly named Lobbyist Bar, the meeting place for tout le town, is at street level, and the 38 guest rooms are on the fourth and sixth floors.

Guests enjoy free indoor self-parking, a fitness area and a generous continental breakfast buffet.

The lounges on each of the two guest-room floors add a clubby aspect. One has a guest computer and a fireplace, and is perfect for relaxing or reading; the other is equipped with six TV screens, ideal for watching election returns or sports.

**Hotel:** The Concord has a four-diamond rating from the AAA/CAA — quite a coup for a boutique property.

"The quality of our guest rooms is our strength," said general manager Sue O'Donnell. "They're fine examples of traditional comfort and furnishings, equipped with modern amenities."

The 36 rooms and two suites are spacious and sturdily built with soundproofing and fine, classic-contemporary furnishings. The colours are deep blues and charcoal greys, with natural accents of wood panelling and linen fabrics.

The Concord provides deluxe bedding and bathrobes, well-lit work areas and good-sized bathrooms. The beautiful toiletries by William Roam are vegan and eco-conscious. Some rooms have balconies with views of New Hampshire's State House, Main St. or the Merrimack River.

Tech features include the latest climate control systems, 55- to 65-inch flat-screen TVs and Amazon Echo Dots, an Alexa device for voice-controlled music and room controls.

Art is a major feature at the Concord, especially the striking



The Hotel Concord boasts soundproof rooms and has a four-diamond rating from the AAA/CAA. DAVID MURRAY/CLEAR EYE PHOTO

## IF YOU GO

Concord is a four-hour drive south of Montreal.

**Hotel Concord and Lobbyist Bar:** 11 S. Main St., Concord, N.H.; 603-504-3500; hotelconcordnh.com

**Price:** rooms start at approximately US\$179, Capital Suite at approximately US\$499; including continental breakfast, indoor parking, newspapers, bottled water, robes, slippers, nightly turndown with chocolates by Astor, Alexa for music/room controls, in-room Starbucks coffee/Celestial Seasonings tea, mini-fridges, gym, YMCA day passes

ing abstract prints and oils of landscapes. And a nod to politics is essential (New Hampshire is influential politically because of the primary, which will be held on Feb. 11), so there are vintage photographs of presidents who have campaigned here, including Reagan, Kennedy, Clinton and Obama.

**Dining:** Hotel Concord guests are treated to free dessert (Tues.-Thurs.) at Revival Kitchen & Bar, arguably the city's best dining spot. The rustic-chic urban bistro radiates warmth with copper tables, wooden floors, a brick wall and terrific food, drinks and service. Award-winning chef-owner Corey Fletcher

(pool, yoga). Discount of 10 per cent if booked directly.

Packages include noon checkout. Date Night features a movie; Shopping Day includes two \$25 cards to Tanger Outlets in Tilton, N.H.; Main Street Tour includes lunch at O Steaks & Seafood; Romance Getaway offers wine, a \$150 credit at Simplicity Hair Studio & Spa and an \$80 dining voucher.

**Revival Kitchen & Bar:** 11 Depot St.; 603-715-5723; revivalkitchennh.com; Tues.-Sat. from 4 p.m.

**Concord info:** visitconcord-nh.com

aims for fine dining at accessible prices, using local produce from New England farms and the Atlantic Ocean. It works brilliantly.

Revival offers nightly fish, veggie and meat specials, and the selection often includes appetizers (\$7-\$13) such as lamb and beef meatballs, cauliflower with blue cheese mousse or tortellini with rabbit and brie. Main courses (\$17-\$28) might be seafood cioppino, pork porterhouse, grilled quail or lamb chops, or seared scallops. Comfort choices include shepherd's pie with lamb, grass-fed burgers, fish or chicken sandwiches and platters of charcuterie and cheeses. For a taste



Revival Kitchen & Bar chef-owner Corey Fletcher delivers contemporary cuisine at accessible prices. MICHAEL BROWNING/PINE & BARS CO.

of Quebec, Fletcher does lobster poutine.

I would start at the bar for a cocktail, wine or local microbrew. After dinner, wind down with an

amazing dessert such as the dark chocolate terrine or brown-butter walnut carrot cake, followed by drinks like the coconut martini or a cappuccino with walnut liqueur.

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