

Hip West Hollywood Hotel

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A rock-and-roll past, hip accommodations and a modern approach to hospitality makes Andaz West Hollywood one of Tinsel Town's hottest stays.



Located on West Hollywood's famed Sunset Strip, Andaz West Hollywood was once a playground for music's wild children. In the 70's, the hotel, which was Continental Hyatt House at the time, was nicknamed "Riot House" as the likes of Axl Rose, Keith Richards and Jim Morrison were known to toss TV's off balconies and hang from windows. To further its rockin' reputation, "Almost Famous" and "This is Spinal Tap" were both filmed at the hotel.

Nowadays, Andaz West Hollywood celebrates its past with music-inspired décor (like framed albums on the walls), which suit the minimalist, modern rooms perfectly. Design standouts include the showers lined with gorgeous Calcutta marble mosaics and the dining area that is crowned by a glam dripping-crystal light fixture. Thanks the hard-partying rock stars, the once-balconies have been transformed into sunrooms, a darling nook surrounded by floor-to-ceiling windows, a few cozy seats and a TV.

In addition to its cool, modern aesthetic, Andaz sets itself apart with its unique check-in/check-out system. Instead of having a traditional reception desk, Andaz guests are greeted at the door by one of several hosts. Guests are invited to sit down and have a drink while the hosts check the guests in and answers any questions. The host then takes the guests to their room, with their luggage, and gives them a tour of the room and nearby attractions to check out.

When it comes to mealtime, Andaz's RH has become a celebrity and hipster hot spot. During our visit, "Extra" host Mario Lopez was hosting a dinner for his staffers. Though, we're not sure what Lopez ordered from the exhibition-style kitchen, the open-face ravioli was our menu favorite, and the farm-fresh appetizer salads were bursting with flavor. The list of cocktails is ready to impress, as well.

Even though Andaz has dining and accommodations down, the hotel's rooftop pool was our favorite feature. The pool is lined with lounge chairs and cabanas, ready to be nestled into with a good book, and swimmers included everyone from pretty local 20-somethings to out-of-town families. Plus, there is rooftop bar to ensure that pool-goers don't go thirsty. Views on one end include the Hollywood cityscape while the other side had a panorama of gorgeous hilltop homes. We're still not sure which view was better. www.andaz.com.