



SAN FRANCISCO

The Best View in the Bay Area

MANDARIN ORIENTAL SAN FRANCISCO

ROOM WITH A VIEW: Either of the luxe suites on floor 38 would suit a captain of Silicon Valley industry. But unless another tycoon has beaten you to it, go for the Oriental Suite. Its 800-square-foot terrace leaves you nose to nose with the Transamerica Pyramid and offers sweeping views that stretch from the Golden Gate to the Bay Bridge.

BACKSTORY: A last-gasp scrapping of luxury-condo plans for the city's third-most-vertiginous skyscraper allowed the stately Mandarin Oriental to debut its first U.S. property here in 1987. The hotel occupies the top 11 floors of a distinctive twin-spined building (aka the "Tweezer Towers") by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill—the firm behind New York's One World Trade Center and the world's tallest building, Dubai's Burj Khalifa.

WHAT'S NEW: The premises are still aglow from a \$25 million renovation in 2012, timed for the property's 25th anniversary. The hotel made over its 158 rooms in breezy, Left Coast-appropriate sandy beiges and sky blues, retired its fine-dining restaurant in favor of the friskier Brasserie S&P and opened a bliss-dispensing five-star spa.

SIGNATURE COCKTAIL: Order anything with gin. The brasserie's bar is packed with enough of the stuff to float a steamship—more than 35 kinds, from local standout Anchor Distilling Co. Junipero Gin to elusive imports like Sipsmith London Dry Gin. It also offers a perilously engrossing build-your-own G&T app on its iPad menu.

PHILADELPHIA

A Historic Hotel Gets a Modern Makeover

THE RADISSON BLU WARWICK HOTEL

BACKSTORY: Opened in 1926 in Philly's tony Rittenhouse Square neighborhood, the English Renaissance-style Warwick Hotel, with its elegant red brick and white stucco, was listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places in 1978. Last November, following a \$20 million renovation, the 301-room property reopened as the country's third Radisson Blu hotel.

LOBBY RESEMBLES: A Pop Art Apple store. Guests enter through a glass cube and into a sleek, modern white space illuminated by globe pendants. Fireplaces anchor either end of the room and are framed by "word walls" that spin two connected yarns, told from the points of view of two brothers. Enjoy it from the comfort of high-backed gray Ro chairs by designer Fritz Hansen.

HOT DISH: Just off the lobby, stylish Tavern 17 serves hearty "local favorites" with a twist, like a Philly Cheesesteak made with caramelized onions, or Amish chicken with potato puree, broccolini and salsa. But look to the menu's sides for the restaurant's most indulgent dish, tater tots with truffle oil and garlic, which are even better when washed down with a hopped-up Nugget Nectar from Pennsylvania craft brewer Tröegs.

TOM CRANE (RADISSON BLU)

