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HOT LIST: PHILADELPHIA, PRAGUE, BEIJING, SWEDEN, LONDON, MILWAUKEE

OCTOBER 29, 2008

Iron Horse Hotel, Milwaukee.

Inside a 100-year-old former warehouse just south of downtown Milwaukee, the Iron Horse Hotel breathes new life into this historic building with its unique design and welcoming approach. Motorcycle gear-shifts form the lobby chandeliers, and 1920s drafting chairs are lined up at the Branded bar. The hotel's breakfast room, The Library, provides cozy leather sofas, a book collection, and long tables with industrial lamps that accompany breakfasts-to-order.

Wait staff, although enthusiastic, is still finding its groove. In each loft-style room, Cream City brick walls were preserved and modern amenities, such as murals and tiled walk-in showers with rain showerheads, were added.

Pros: located next to the Harley-Davidson Museum; cocktails served in hotel bar, Branded, are made from fresh, seasonal ingredients. Cons: Neither restaurant (Smyth and The Yard) open at time of writing; \$25 fee for valet parking in adjacent fenced lot.

500 W. Florida St., Milwaukee, 888/543-4766 (ph.). 414/755-0084 (fax).

www.theironhorsehotel.com. 100 rooms, 2 suites. In-room: safe, Internet. In-hotel: 2 restaurants, spa, bar, Wi-Fi. AE, DC, MC, V. Rooms start at: \$149.

READ FULL STORY ONLINE AT WWW.FODORS.COM