



Left: Hotel Vandivort in Springfield is located in a renovated Masonic Temple. Hotel Vandivort

Below: Enjoy breakfast in the airy and elegant Francesca's Greenhouse Lounge at Hotel Sorella. Hotel Sorella Country Club Plaza

several attractions within a ½-mile of the inn. He said his staff often points people to things to do in Springfield.

Of course, some guests simply wish to enjoy the inn, and that includes breakfast served either in the dining area or brought to the room.

Saves money on your family Christmas portrait. The Hotel Vandivort in downtown Springfield didn't intend to become the place for local selfies, but thanks to some fortuitous lighting in the lower lobby bathroom, it now has its own hashtag (#hotelvandivortbathroomselfie), a grassroots fan club and, at last count, more than a thousand Instagram selfies.

"People make special trips just to take a selfie," says J.P. Roberts, general manager of the hip hotel that has become a social media sensation. "Something about the ring lighting makes everybody look like a celebrity."

The boutique hotel (AAA Four Diamonds) is a renovated 1906 Masonic Temple that's on the National Register of Historic Places. It has 50 rooms and suites, ooh-la-la amenities, and a fabulous restaurant (The Order) that specializes in local ingredients and handcrafted cocktails.

And, yes, the whole family can squeeze into the unisex bathroom for a family portrait. Say cheese.

You can leave the pancake syrup in the cupboard. In Europe, upscale hotels usually include breakfast. The same is true at Hotel Sorella (AAA Four Diamonds), a posh boutique hotel in Kansas City's Country Club Plaza; a full European breakfast comes with every overnight stay and is served in Francesca's Greenhouse Lounge.

Not that free breakfast is much of a deciding factor for celebrity guests who have made Hotel Sorella their bunk of choice since it



Makes someone else give directions. It's bad enough that great-aunt Ethel can't hear, but after the fifth time she loses the napkin with the carefully sketched route to the shopping mall, it can turn your ho-ho-ho into ho-hum.

But with hosts like Luke Hackbart and Pedro Espino, who cheerfully run the 1812 Overture B&B in Kansas City's Crossroads Arts District, you gain an ally to run interference.

In fact, they'll treat your guests like family in the post-Civil War home that's conveniently located near the Power & Light District, the Kaufmann Center for Performing Arts, and the free Kansas City trolley. Themed rooms (there are five) come with a gourmet breakfast that usually includes to-die-for peach jalapeno jam made from peaches grown in the backyard.

This year, don't stress creating a picture-perfect guesthouse for your holiday guests. Lodging options are plentiful where all can gather to celebrate the season. ●

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The 1812 Overture B&B in Kansas City's Crossroads Arts District. 1812 Overture B&B