

CARBONDALE STAYCATION

FOR A RECENT FALL getaway, I took a trip downvalley for an overnight staycation in Carbondale with a few close friends. It was the perfect respite for a change of pace from Aspen, packing in as much as possible of today's safety guidelines with social distancing, mask-wearing and hand-washing.



MAY SELBY

We started with a hike up Red Hill, meeting at the newly configured parking area at the intersection of Highways 133 and 82, a major enhancement from before with a better-defined arrival experience, more space to allow for parking apart from one another and direct access to the trail. The steep ascent led to stunning vistas of Sopris, then we looped around and down, back to the lot and headed straight to Main Street. We strolled downtown,

stopping to shop at local boutique, Lulubelle, to find thoughtful holiday gifts, a selection of stylish masks and cute and clever greeting cards. Next up was a blissful massage at True Nature Healing Arts in their spa set behind the main building, accessed by an outdoor path. I opted for a 60-minute massage (masks are required for both the therapist and guest), which wasn't an easy choice as the entire spa menu is enticing from reflexology to facial treatments to sound healing.

We then checked into The Distillery Inn at Marble Distilling Company. It's not only a comfortable and contemporary boutique hotel with luxe appointments, but it's also the only inn in the world housed within a working distillery. This spring, they also started making hand sanitizer and have dispensers throughout the property. As described by co-founders Connie Baker and Carey Shanks, "guests can sleep with the stills," which are located on the first floor behind The Marble Bar, their vaulted-

ceilinged tasting room and a social hub of town. As head distiller, Baker greeted us upon arrival, apologizing for "being covered in grain dust" and invited us for a tour of the stills. Speaking to their sustainability efforts, she described how they utilize all-natural, only Colorado-grown grains, pure Crystal River water and filter it through crushed Yule Marble (home of the Lincoln Memorial and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier). Shanks spoke about the awards they've won for their flavorful spirits and green practices with a goal to be net zero waste by 2022.

We crossed the street for a sushi dinner at Izakaya, a sister restaurant to Kenichi in Aspen, which earned our rave reviews, and were seated as a group apart from other tables. In the morning, we headed to Silo off of Dolores Way/133 for their all-day breakfast menu, sitting outside on their intimate deck. (I recommend the King of Convenience breakfast sandwich.)

Next visit, I'll add in a stop to

Landmark Café on Main Street, who is introducing several new programs starting this week — a Mercantile Market on Friday nights with live music, a full bar and light fare; Saturday Happy Hour with a DJ named Lil' City Market and also holiday gift baskets with everything organic inside.



1. Chris Davenport of Old Snowmass checks out the original still on a tour at Marble Distillery.
2. Sushi chef Jesse Denver at Izakaya in Carbondale.
3. A relaxing treatment room at True Nature Healing Arts.
4. Connie Baker, co-founder and head distiller at Marble Distilling Co.
5. Carey Shanks shakes up drinks in the Marble Bar at Marble Distilling Co.
6. Aleyshia White with Landmark Cafe in Carbondale.
7. Landmark Cafe co-owner Aaron Rogers.
8. Checking into Marble Distillery Inn for the night.
9. Mount Sopris on view from Red Hill on a November

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