

## IN THE FIELD

THE GETAWAY: **THE DWELL HOTEL**

# Midcentury Marvel

*Vintage glam comes to Chattanooga*

By Lia Picard



THE PARLOR



MATILDA MIDNIGHT

### INSIDER'S ★SCOOP★

Owner Seija Ojanpera scouted vintage shops and sites for the hotel's period decor.

**THE NEIGHBORHOOD:** The sixteen-suite boutique hotel is a hop away from downtown Chattanooga's Innovation District, known for its startups, popular eateries (including the Pickle Barrel and the Bitter Alibi), and Warehouse Row's high-end shopping.

**THE VIBE:** Built in 1909, the brick building that houses the Dwell has seen many incarnations. The latest transports guests to the set of *Mad Men* with tightly curated midcentury modern decor. It's an Instagrammer's paradise with vibrant floral wallpaper and tastefully appointed vintage furniture.

**THE DIGS:** Owner Seija Ojanpera seems to have taken the phrase "it's all in the details" to heart, as each room has its own theme. For example, the Palm Springs balcony suite has punchy pink and blue accents found in the wallpaper, chairs, and lamps, along with a cutout of a fifties gal in a swimsuit above the fireplace. The Tropicana has a Miami flavor with palm frond wallpaper and bright yellow lounge chairs.

### DINING IN

Bright and cheery, hotel restaurant Solarium is adorned with flower lamps and blue-green hues harkening back to a '60s sunroom. The menu is built on small plates meant to be

shared. Standouts include the jasmine rice cakes with carrot-ginger dressing, sesame salad, and hibiscus tea egg. Cleanse your palate with a "day-time" cocktail like the Juniperus Lavandula with lavender gin and a rosemary, lemon, and balsamic gastrique. After dinner, have a nightcap at Matilda Midnight. The bar pivots from the hotel's otherwise bright decor to an intimate, dark space. Funky green wallpaper sets the backdrop while inset lights that emulate twinkling stars keep the vibe romantic. Post up at the brass bar or get cozy in a plush booth. The Midheaven is the ultimate good night kiss, a blend of espresso-infused Old Forester, Luxardo, Hoo-doo chicory liqueur, cream, and orange bitters. It's a rich tippie that nearly resembles dessert—although, there are actual desserts too. The glazed and sprinkled donut holes would satisfy anyone's sweet tooth.

## WHAT TO ORDER

### FOR BREAKFAST

Solarium's **savory oatmeal** with a fried egg, sausage, cheese, and scallions is the new All-Star Special.

### FOR LUNCH

The **crab-stuffed piquillo pepper** hits comfort food notes with cream cheese filling and crunch from crispy rice noodles.

### FOR DINNER

Plan on sharing a couple dishes, like the **duck confit** with a minted pea puree and charred root vegetables, and a **mushroom-crust cauliflower**.



SOLARIUM