

The LATEST in Downtown Culture, Food & Luxury

By Lakendra Lewis

Whether you're up for a day trip to check out the latest in immersive art or looking to explore the newest in nightlife, downtown San Antonio is bustling with new exhibits, hotels and eateries guaranteed to satisfy the wanderlust of visitors and locals alike. So, if you're looking for new places to add to your must-do summer checklist, here are a few suggestions:

HOPSCOTCH SAN ANTONIO

This immersive art gallery with innovative rotating exhibitions moved into the Travis Park Plaza Building for a permanent residency last October, with the main entrance located on the park side at the corner of Navarro and Travis.

Founded in 2018, Hopscotch seeks to create unique experiences that are a respite from the outside world and invoke a sense of joy and wonder in its guests by allowing them to interact with technology-infused installations, many of which are about looking or listening rather than touching.

The Hopscotch philosophy believes art can be a vessel to tell stories and illuminate important messages of the past, present and future while allowing artists to showcase their works in sustainable and creative ways and encourage them to be inspired by new mediums to reach new audiences.

As an immersive art form, Hopscotch is committed to engaging with and supporting local, national and international artists by giving them a platform that allows them to showcase their works. Among installations from artists nationwide and internationally, works created by artists from San Antonio are currently on exhibit including "Walls Within," an indoor street art gallery created by the San Antonio Street Art Initiative, "Strange Slant of Light" by Amada Claire Miller and "Perspective" by Gary Sweeney.

The 20,000-square-foot gallery also houses a full bar, large patio, food truck and a gift shop full of unique curiosities and items sold by local artists.

THOMPSON SAN ANTONIO

Nestled just north of the heart of San Antonio's Arts District, this luxury hotel is a new modern oasis that recently opened within walking distance to attractions such as the Alamo and the San Antonio Museum of Art.

In addition to its 162 rooms and 33 suites that boast floor-to-ceiling windows, breathtaking views, lounge areas, wide-plank hardwood floors and sleek, modern furnishings, this trendy new hotel also features a pool deck and a full-service spa complete with five treatment rooms, relaxation areas, a sauna and a steam room across 5,000 square feet.

Not sure where to eat during your hotel stay? Try Thompson San Antonio's rooftop eatery **The Moon's Daughters** that floats 20 stories high above the River Walk with a dazzling view of the city's skyline. Inspired by the Greek goddess of the moon, this 300-seat restaurant and bar offers indoor and outdoor seating framed by a backdrop of twinkling city lights. Or tantalize your tastebuds at the **Landrace**, another of the hotel's signature restaurants headed by **Cured** owner and local celebrity chef Steve McHugh. The hotel also offers a bustling lobby bar as well as an alfresco bar on the fourth-floor pool deck that is exclusive to hotel guests and residents of the adjacent Arts Residences. Not to mention, guests have access to **Thompson San Antonio Tastemakers**, ultra-connected insiders who help curate local under-the-radar experiences.

CANOPY BY HILTON SAN ANTONIO RIVERWALK

This 195-room chic hotel opened its lobby doors in April and is located in the heart of all things downtown on the San Antonio River including the Alamo, La Villita Historic Arts Village, the San Fernando Cathedral, the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center and Market Square, all within walking distance.

Designed as a natural extension of the surrounding city, Canopy by Hilton® San Antonio Riverwalk mixes colorful old-world vibes with the city's rejuvenated art, entertainment and culinary scene. Its spacious guestrooms, suites and public spaces strike a balance between modern

Hopscotch San Antonio



Little Rhein Prost Haus



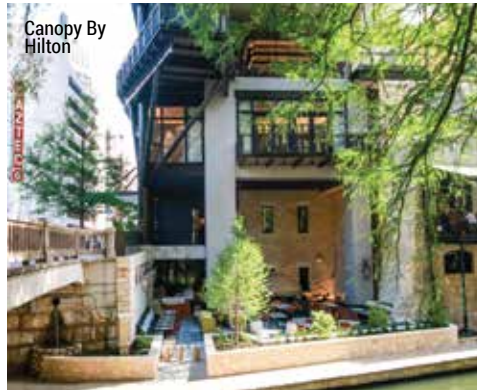
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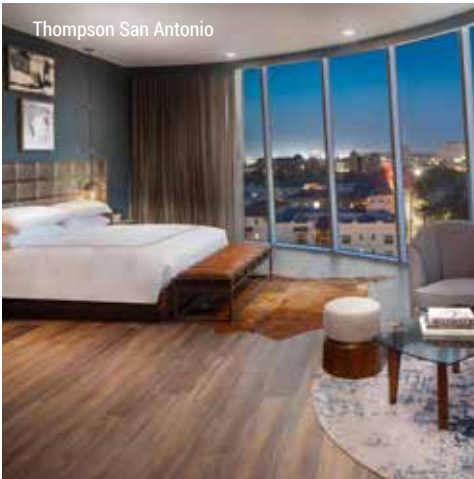
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LandShark Bar & Grill



Thompson San Antonio



Hopscotch San Antonio



design and rich cultural décor that includes the integration of the old Civil War-era Alamo Fish Market building that sits at the base of the hotel, and the repurposing of its historical elements such as the cistern and limestone walls.

Each thoughtfully designed guest room showcases artwork and textiles that reflect the Alamo City, with an intricate black-and-white shower tile pattern in the bathrooms that represent the classic San Antonio quatrefoil logo honoring the four city pillars of People, Pride, Passion and Promise.

Be sure to also grab a bite at the hotel's restaurant, **Domingo**, or order a cold one at the hotel bar, **Otro**.

CALLING ALL PARROT HEADS

Fans of Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville® restaurant chain won't have to search for that lost shaker of salt with the recent opening of a second eatery linked to the singer-songwriter.

LandShark Bar & Grill San Antonio, located in the Shops at Rivercenter, made its Texas debut towards the tail end of last year with a menu consisting of American fare with a coastal twist.

Inspired by the Atlantic Coast beach bars, the LandShark® chain focuses on fresh seafood, street tacos, burgers and tropical desserts, along with island-style cocktails, cold draft LandShark beer, wine and a lineup of fabulous frozen concoctions featuring the margarita.

The new 6,000-square-foot restaurant is a paradise for Parrot Heads and features indoor and outdoor seating on the River Walk along with menu items such as peel-and-eat shrimp, teriyaki chicken bowls, fried cod sandwiches, taco nachos, fish and chips and Caribbean-inspired burgers and salads.

LITTLE RHEIN PROST HAUS

Every day is Oktoberfest at this updated dining attraction—a Bavarian revamping of what was formerly Little Rhein Steak House in the **La Villita Historic Arts Village**.

Located on the south bank of the San Antonio River in the **Bombach House**, a century-old building with strong German roots, the restaurant revealed its makeover to the public this past March (the new owners chose to keep "Little Rhein" as part of the new name in honor of the steakhouse that

operated there for more than five decades) with a menu that now serves homestyle German cuisine and showcases various types of family-friendly live music and entertainment including authentic Bavarian Polka players.

The interior of the building features a Bavarian Bier room and a Restaurant-Opera Haus that includes a full dining experience complete with entertainment, as well as a small party room and two of the most spectacular Bier Garten patios in Texas. And with more than 20 draft beers, many imported directly from Munich or craft-brewed locally to wonderfully purist German recipes, steins are sure to be raised alongside beer sampler flights and the largest selection of schnapps in Texas.

But wait! This new biergarten is more than just beer, brats and pretzels. Don't forget the delicious made-from-scratch food that will bring out your inner Bavarian. From tender schnitzels and German potato salads to sauerkraut, homemade beer cheese and apple strudel, there's something on the menu for everyone including burgers, chicken sandwiches, salads and a dedicated menu for the kinder. *Prost, y'all!*

WRITER'S BIO

Lakendra Lewis is an arts & entertainment journalist, editor and author whose articles have appeared in Edible San Antonio Magazine, The Texas Observer and San Antonio Christian Woman Magazine. She enjoys movies, music, cooking, singing and telling other people's stories. You can contact her/read more of her stories at lakendralewis.journoportfolio.com.

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