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Going North

I’LL ADMIT THAT MINNEAPOLIS AND ST. PAUL get a lot of our attention here at *Minnesota Meetings + Events*. We do venture outside of the city, both in our coverage and free time, when something grabs our attention, though.

As a matter of fact, I’ve had the pleasure of visiting Grand View Lodge twice this year—once when temperatures were well below zero in January and then again in late June for the ribbon-cutting ceremony of North, the property’s shiny new boutique hotel. During my January stay, I trekked out onto Gull Lake for the annual Brainerd Jaycees Ice Fishing Extravaganza as a shivering spectator; five months later, I was taking pontoon rides and feeling like a kid again banana tubing on that same lake. We’ve been watching Grand View’s multimillion-dollar expansion closely, which has a lot of exciting options for groups looking to get away from the city, too. Read more on page 12.

Alas, back to Minneapolis, where we explore the trendy North Loop on page 26. It’s the neighborhood that’s been getting noticed by trendy travelers and for good reason. The Bachelor Farmer and Spoon and Stable have helped to put NOLO on the map, but there’s a unique venue or hip brewery/cidery/eatery at every turn of this seven-square block neighborhood.

On the other side of Interstate 94 is Royal Foundry Craft Spirits, headed by industry veteran Nikki McClain and her husband Andy. On top of raising two children and running a wildly successful distillery, Nikki is still a full-time planner. Find out how she does it on page 48.

Flip to our Meeting Notes section starting on page 9 for a cocktail recipe from the Royal Foundry as well as a virtual reality team-building activity, homey meeting space, and notes from the magazine’s editorial advisory board.

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