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Magic at the Maxwell

Locally-owned, the Maxwell Hotel is quintessential Seattle – fun, funky and totally fido friendly!

Written by Brandie Ahlgren | Photos by Jamie Pflughoeft

A giant mosaic pineapple is the first thing you see as you walk through the doors of the **Maxwell Hotel**. More than art, it is a symbol of hospitality, welcoming you and your four-legged friend to what promises to be a delightful stay.



In fact, it says it right on the brochure, the Maxwell Hotel is “designed to delight the senses.” With pops of color throughout and a mix of patterns and textiles, one would think “designed for sensory overload.” But, Seattle interior decorator Karen Earl makes it work beautifully. Be sure to appreciate the mural in the hotel lobby, commissioned from painter Victor Ostrovsky to celebrate The Maxwell’s grand opening and to honor Seattle’s art scene. The hotel is filled with other fun, creative and unexpected touches as well, like colorful art tiles, handcrafted by local children, accenting the indoor swimming pool. Or, the bright yellow bumbershoots in the lobby!



Located at the base of Queen Anne, just a few miles north of downtown Seattle, the locally- and family-owned Maxwell Hotel opened in March 2010 and has been dog friendly since day one. In fact, the Foreman family dogs, Kiska, Pierre and MeToo, are a few of the hotel's first four-legged guests!

Sleep. Of the hotel's 139 rooms, 18 are dog friendly and available in three categories: Aria Suite, Duet Suite and Prima Donna Suite. The Aria Suite features a king bed, walk-in shower and views of Queen Anne Hill or the Space Needle. The Duet Suite features two queen beds, a walk-in shower and views of Queen Anne Hill or the Space Needle. I'm staying in the Prima Donna Suite, which features two king beds, a seating area with sofa sleeper, spa tub, separate walk-in shower and a view of the Space Needle. All three categories feature a 42" flat screen TV, complimentary WiFi (bonus!), in-room safe, a refrigerator and microwave, a Keurig coffee maker plus an iPod docking station/alarm clock. Karen Earl's design touch can be seen throughout the suites as well, with black and white floral bed linens, chartreuse ottomans, argyle-patterned chairs, and a turquoise couch. She is one designer who does not shy away from color!



As I mentioned earlier, the Maxwell Hotel is located in the Queen Anne neighborhood of Seattle, but what I didn't mention, is that it also sits adjacent to Seattle Center, home to the world-famous Space Needle. Also within close proximity, is Intiman Theater, the Seattle Opera, Seattle Children's Theatre, Experience Music Project and Teatro ZinZanni, a three-hour whirlwind of cirque, comedy and cabaret all served up with a five-course gourmet meal.

Eat. Speaking of gourmet, I'd heard rave reviews about Toulouse Petit, located within walking distance from the Maxwell. Before getting too settled in to our suites, photographer Jamie Pflughoeft and I decide to check it out...and, wow! It took us over half an hour to pour over the menu. Not including the extensive beer, wine and cocktail lists (pomegranate mojito anyone?), the menu features over 120 dishes—delicious sounding items like Jumbo Barbecued Shrimp New Orleans over Creamy Corn Grits, Halibut Wrapped with Proscuitto di Parma over a Poblano-Leek Chowder, or a classic New York Strip Loin, accompanied by a Stilton Bleu Cheese Quenelle (which I learned, is a dumpling).



Play. First stop, Myrtle Edwards Park. Myrtle Edwards features a 1.25-mile bike and pedestrian paths, with fantastic views of the Olympic Mountains, Mount Rainier and Puget Sound. It's a great place to stroll with the pooch, or the Maxwell offers complimentary use of its bicycles if you wish to explore that way.

Next to Myrtle Edwards Park, also be sure to visit the Olympic Sculpture Park with your four-legged buddy. Once a nine-acre industrial site, the sculpture park is now an open and vibrant green space for displaying art. Located along Seattle's waterfront, residents and visitors alike can experience a variety of sculptures in an outdoor setting, all year round!

Seattle is very lucky to boast a large number of parks and green spaces and if you really want to get the heart pumping, head up the hill to Bhy Kracke Park, located at 1215 5th Avenue. This unusual park with an unusual name is perched on a steeply sloping hillside with great views of Seattle, Lake

Union and Capitol Hill. Further up the hill, on Upper Queen Anne, is David Rodgers Park (known to residents as “Rodgers Park”), a peaceful nine-acre park with plenty of room to play. Upper Queen Anne is also home to All the Best Pet Care, so before or after your romp in the park, pick up some yummy treats for your pooch.



All in all, we thoroughly enjoyed our stay at the Maxwell Hotel. Whether traveling on business, pleasure or both, it’s the perfect place for you and your pooch to rest your pretty heads.

More Information

The Maxwell Hotel

300 Roy Street
Seattle, Wash.

Hotel Direct: 206.286.0629
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themaxwellhotel.com

Love is in the air, so mark your calendars -- CityDog Magazine and the Maxwell Hotel are hosting a **Puppy Love Muttmixer**, so join us for some 'heavy petting,' a cocktail or two, and mix and mingle with fellow dog lovers, Saturday, February 18, from 3 to 6 p.m.! Click [here](#) for more details and to RSVP today.