Portland hotel lobby scene: The people, décor, perks (free stuff)

By Janet Eastman | The Oregonian/OregonLive | Posted May 10, 2019 at 11:29 AM | Updated May 15, 2019 at 10:11 AM

Hotel lobbies are a case study in design. What you see, how you feel and how you react are all well considered long before the first guests push through the front doors.

The historic weight of the walnut-paneled Benson Hotel is in stark contrast to the edgy, artsy Nines' atrium lobby. We hung out in two dozen downtown Portland hotels to categorized each by the vibe: Hushed, Spirited or Business.

And while there, we asked about free stuff offered to overnight guests and those of us just wandering by, from local wine, beer, whiskey and kombucha tastings to tarot card readings.

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Staypineapple at Hotel Rose

Spirited: Is it the glamorous blasts of pineapple yellow decor or the beer-bottle chandelier that puts people into party mode when entering Staypineapple at Hotel Rose? Whatever: The feel that you’ve just walked into something fun is palpable. And no one seems to pay attention to the amount of mini cupcakes, coffee and pineapple water you consume while lingering in the lobby. While there, don’t miss seeing the witty writing on the decorative chalkboards created by Gresham-based Chalk Out Loud.

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