

Culinary Arts

The Vendue: Charleston's First Art Hotel

Locals have long adored the Rooftop bar at the former Vendue Inn for its relaxed atmosphere and views of the Holy City. No one ever seemed to remember that there was an entire hotel beneath it. Thanks to Jon and Lisa Weitz, those days are long gone.

The Vendue has undergone a major renovation, both cosmetic and structurally. “We basically gutted the building,” opening rooms to facilitate natural, easy movement throughout the space, which actually takes up an entire city block.

The Weitzs knew this new era for The Vendue needed a distinct character—one which reflected the vibrant city, as well as setting their once-hidden gem apart from other upscale hotels in the area. “When we bought The Vendue, one of the first phone calls I got was from [local gallery owner] Mary Martin, asking to put a painting in our lobby with some of her business cards,” says Weitz.



Many months of deliberation later, the concept of ‘Art Hotel’ rose to the top, given the rich history of art in Charleston and Martin’s persistence. They are located in the French Quarter, a district brimming full with fine art galleries. Weitz will be the first to admit that he is an art enthusiast, but not an expert, so he reached out to Robert and Megan Lange of Robert Lange Studios.

The Langes serve as curators of the art program and ambassadors to the larger Charleston art community. The Vendue features original artwork in all the public spaces, daily tours led by an art docent, and an Artist-in-Residency program that boasts accomplished local oil painter Charles Williams working daily in his studio.



Book one of their 15 Concierge Rooms; these gems go above and beyond all the lovely amenities of The Vendue by featuring all original artwork, and a companion publication that highlights each room's art and artists.

Here Now is the inaugural exhibition; it will change as artwork sells (yes! It's all for sale!), and next season, the Langes will put together a new group show. Weitz gives the Langes the ability to curate without censorship, ensuring the artistic expression remains organic, evolving, and authentic. Those are magic words to a creative team, and we know they will not disappoint.

Just wander the first floor, and you'll see what we mean. The entire art program is a shining display of unprecedented collaboration from the local art galleries, which hearkens a brighter future for all. The artwork activates the halls and rooms of The Vendue, and creates an opportunity for engaging visitors. Just check out "Look" by Carl Janes, installed just outside The Press coffee shop on the first floor. It is composed of old viewfinders, a nostalgic item from childhood, and during our interview I saw at least a dozen visitors actively engage with the work of art.

Join The Vendue for a drink, a stay, a meal, a coffee, or just soak up the view and the artwork—it is a welcome addition of artistry, from top to bottom, in the Holy City.



– Dining at The Vendue –

The Press, a Starbucks-serving coffee shop and light bites facing East Bay Street

The Drawing Room features breakfast, happy hour, and dinner in a swanky atmosphere.

The Rooftop: enjoy lunch and dinner with a view, open from 11am to midnight



Posted in *Culinary* on July 12, 2014 (Summer 2014) by admin.