

Don't Want A Car At Your Luxury Hotel? Take A Free Vespa

Josh Max ,
CONTRIBUTOR



Vespa

Vespa Spring 50

Luxury hotels offering Vespas and other scooters have long been the norm in countries outside the US. [RoomAndVespa.com](#), for example, caters to those traveling to Indonesia; if it's Vietnam you're headed to, check out [JourneyWonders.com](#).

We were pleased, therefore, to find our first American hotel offering use of the iconic two-wheeler in [Denver's Halcyon – A Hotel In Cherry Creek](#), where we visited for the specific purpose of Vespa toolage. [Our test of their Spring 50](#) reminded us that a Vespa is practically as simple to operate as a bicycle and as much fun. Yes, you'll need some basic equilibrium in your DNA, but based on our test

it's almost impossible to tip over – that's how well-balanced it is. It's also powerful but without the jackrabbit acceleration that puts people off anything with two wheels and an engine. Finally, it's as stylish as a pair of Gucci shoes or Armani Suit; one feels classy whilst touring.

And why not? Launched in 1946 in Italy, Vespa became a part of pop culture almost immediately, helped in part by its appearance in “Roman Holiday,” the 1953 rom-com starring Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck. Vespas were also relatively inexpensive and they looked great; the name means “wasp” in Italian. Though the machines never completely disappeared in the United States, a spirited 2001 relaunch brought them back into the public eye. That's when we first met the Vespa, pushing them all over Manhattan's Upper West Side, Inwood and Riverdale from 2001-2009 and finding them a great alternative to both cars and motorcycles.



Courtesy of Halcyon

The Halcyon - A Hotel in Cherry Creek offers a free Vespa with any stay.

And the Halcyon?



Courtesy of Halcyon

Denver's Halcyon

We were pleasantly surprised at its singular touches you're not apt to find at chain hotels. They include:

*An LP player in each room, complete with 33 and 1/3 discs from the classic rock canon.

*Being driven where you need to go in the neighborhood in a complimentary Land Rover.

*Free espresso and coffee drinks in the lobby at all hours of the day and night, and a continental breakfast.

*A "Gear garage" where guests can procure a bicycle, backpacks and other assorted action-oriented items.

*A lovely rooftop pool overlooking the lovely Rockies.



Halcyon

Halcyon's rooftop pool

There are dozens of eateries in the swank section of Denver's Cherry Creek, too, but you'll want to try brunch at [Departures, adjacent to the Halcyon](#). Its modern Asian atmosphere skews upscale; in the evenings it bustles with Denver's movers and shakers. Our more sedate Sunday brunch brought us sushi and sashimi, some choice Dim Sum cart selections and strong coffee.

Bravo, Vespa; bravo, Halcyon.