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JUMP INTO FALL FASHION

INTERCONTINENTAL BOSTON BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

by Robert Adams

Anyone visiting Boston on business would be advised to plan on staying a couple of extra days in order to enjoy some of the many pleasures this fascinating city has to offer. On a recent trip, I arranged for a suite with an adjoining room at the **InterContinental Boston** (510 Atlantic Ave. Tel: 617-747-1000. www.InterContinentalBoston.com). Our accommodations were perfect for meetings during the week and then as our spacious home away from home on the weekend.

Entering the suite through a grand foyer, the spectacular view of the waterfront from the living room and dining area is sure to impress your clients. There's a great little kitchen off the foyer with a full-size refrigerator in case you would like to cater a meal or cocktails. If you just want to grab a quick bite, the Club Lounge serves up snacks and drinks throughout the day. As our suite was just across the hall, it was like having our own private lounge to entertain guests!

When choosing a hotel for business, location always plays an important role. The InterContinental Boston is located on the historic Boston waterfront, close to the Financial District, within walking distance to the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, and with easy access to Logan International Airport. The hotel is only a five-minute walk to South Station where transportation options include Amtrak trains, buses, or the subway (T).

If you like traveling by boat, the hotel has its own private dock that is accessible year round to/from Logan Airport (Logan Boat Dock) via water taxi (City Water Taxi: \$10 per person one way/\$18 per person round trip).

InterContinental Boston features 424 guestrooms and suites with great waterfront and city skyline views. Ideal for business people are the executives suites, the Royal



Ambassador Suite, and the Penthouse or Presidential Suites. Guest rooms are sophisticated in design with an ultra-modern residential feel. They are wired with the latest technology and come equipped spa-like bathrooms with a soaking tub and separate shower.

My partner and I like to invite our business associates up to our suite for meetings, and our accommodations at the InterContinental Boston proved to be ideal for making a good impression. Everyone loved the views and appreciat-

ed the room service lunch that arrived quickly and was perfectly prepared.

If you need to work on a project or presentation, business services are available at the hotel's Business Center and include shipping, Internet access, and translation and secretarial services.

When it comes to dining and drinking options, the InterContinental Boston aims to please. At Miel, their Provence-inspired brasserie (and Certified Green Restaurant), they

celebrate the organic wonders from this beautiful region of France. The Maitre d', sommelier, and servers go out of their way to make sure your meal is a memorable one. The dining room is relaxing and casual, and there is a seasonal outdoor terrace along Boston's Fort Point Channel waterfront and gardens that's perfect for alfresco dining. Meat lovers will rejoice that the Brandt beef served here is all natural, corn fed, and hormone and antibiotic free. One of our favorites is the Côte de Boeuf Grillée aux Herbes. This 16 oz. grilled rib eye comes with addictive pommes frites and a delectable Béarnaise sauce. The seafood selection here is also wonderful. Not to be missed is the grilled tuna steak à la Marseillaise served with olives, haricots verts, sun-dried tomato, and basil polenta with mascarpone. Meanwhile, the burgeoning vegetarian in me can't get enough of their sweet pea and ricotta ravioli sautéed with wild mushrooms and served with sage crisps. If you love wine, take note: Miel offers the largest selection of rosé wines in Boston.

Another great dining option is Sushi-Teq, the InterContinental Boston's chic

sushi bar offering more than 100 different tequilas and an innovative sushi menu. The Contemporary décor with glazed granite floors and light-infused walls melds perfectly with the rhythmic sounds of salsa, cumbia, and merengue. Their signature dishes are a marvel of fresh ingredients and craftsmanship. One of our top palate pleasers is the salmon ravioli: daikon-wrapped minced salmon, pecans, Nameko mushroom, and oyster sauce topped with strawberry, scallion, cilantro, and strawberry-infused grape seed oil.

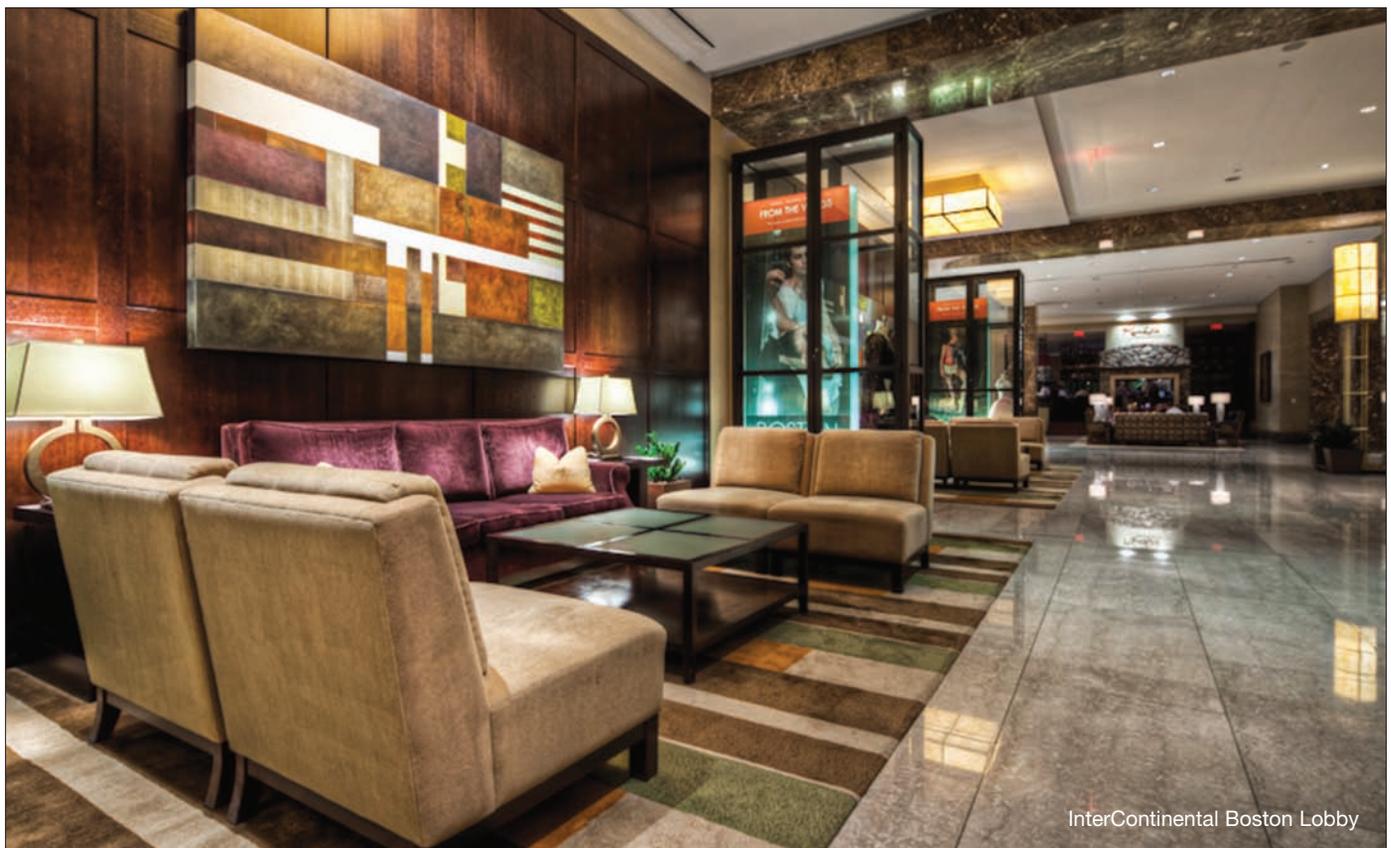
If you're like us and sometimes drinking takes precedence over eating, RumBa offers bar and lounge seating as well as a seasonal outdoor bar. Select from nearly 100 international rums as well as signature cocktails and a wonderful array of wine and beers. For lovers of sparkling wines, a special treat awaits. Step into their private Champagne bar that is only accessible through discreet, sliding mahogany doors that reveal an exclusive "Moulin Rouge" themed hide-away that emanates deep reds, burgundy, and cabernet colors.

If you work up an appetite from all that drinking, not to worry, Rumba has some

excellent small bites, including tempeh, beef, pork, and lobster sliders, as well as macaroni and cheese, salads, oysters, and my favorite, fried clams.

Walking is one my preferred forms of exercise, and visitors to Boston will soon discover that it is a great walking city. The cultural and historical attractions easily accessible on foot from the hotel are numerous and diverse. If you're pressed for time, but want to experience a unique and important part of American history, make sure to visit the **Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum** (www.bostonteatpartyship.com) that is located right behind the InterContinental Boston. Here, you'll meet the colonists (played by live actors), explore the ships, and dump tea overboard just as the Sons of Liberty did on that fateful night of December 16, 1773. The tour takes about an hour, and afterward you can peruse the gift shop for kitschy souvenirs to give to your friends.

If art is one of your passions, the **Institute of Contemporary Art** (www.ica-boston.org) features cutting-edge art, photography, film, theatre, music, and dance.



InterContinental Boston Lobby



For a special treat, make sure to attend ICA First Fridays where on the first Friday of the month you get to experience guest DJs, live performance, gallery talks, specialty drinks, and more. The ICA's Water Café also offers a small-plates menu and full bar, including cocktails inspired by the museum's current exhibitions.

Also close by is the **Faneuilhall Marketplace** (www.faneuilhallmarketplace.com) that hosts spectacular lights shows every night, street theatre, art exhibits, and dozens of shops and restaurants for insatiable shoppers and foodies.

Whether out exploring the city or attending business meetings, when I

returned to the InterContinental Boston each afternoon the first thing I did was head to the 45-foot indoor lap pool for a swim. The light-filled room with floor-to-ceiling windows is great any time of year. The 24-hour, state-of-the-art health club features the very latest energy building strength training and cardio vascular equipment. Special fitness classes include Sunrise Yoga outdoors on the waterfront lawn (summer only), Relax & Renew Yoga indoors, and a Runners' Social, a three-mile run through historic Boston.

For guests who enjoy a little pampering, the SPA InterContinental Boston offers a full-service, comprehensive facility designed to

be the epitome of pleasure and rejuvenation. They provide an array of body treatments and skin therapy to keep you looking and feeling your best, including hot stone and couples massage, hydrotherapy body wraps, waxing, manicures, pedicures, and lots more.

When choosing a hotel, whether for business or pleasure, we always look for a place that offers a unique experience. Sometimes it's a great spa, special restaurants, art exhibits, social events, or location-specific tours that highlight a destination. Also very important to us are hotels that are working to protect the natural environment and incorporate that into their guests' experience. Here, guests will appreciate the InterContinental Garden, a gorgeous, two-acre promenade along Fort Point Channel on the south side of the hotel. The Garden features herringbone brick with marble and granite steps, framing a circular outdoor piazza. In the summer, they plant traditional Provence herbs such as rosemary, thyme, and lavender.

Of special note is the hotel's rooftop apiary. In keeping with the name Miel (meaning honey), in June 2010, InterContinental Boston launched Boston's first hotel rooftop apiary with 10,000 bees. By September 2010, the apiary grew to more than 40,000 bees that were hard at work pollinating the flora of an approximate four-mile radius of the hotel, that includes Boston's expansive 21-acre green space, the Rose Kennedy Greenway, and Boston Common and Boston Public Gardens in the Back Bay

In April 2011, two additional beehives were added to the apiary and by September 2011 there were over 120,000 bees. In August of this year, over 120 lbs of honey was collected. The honey is incorporated into Miel's dishes and cocktails. In September, National Honey Month, Miel hosts an annual Honey Harvest Dinner, a special three-course dinner with each course infused with the hotel's own honey.

With a plethora of historical sites, cultural attractions, a vibrant arts community, and its proximity to the sea, Boston is one of our favorite cities to explore and enjoy. Having the InterContinental Boston as our home base truly made doing business here a pleasure. ■