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LIVING TRAVEL

# This chain hotel in DC fooled us with its 'indie' charms

By [David Kaufman](#)

August 7, 2017 | 7:34pm



The hotel offers the efficiency of a big chain as well as the hip local nods you'd expect from a boutique spot.

(c) 2017 Curio

A former ho-hum Hilton Doubletree hotel now has a stylish new life as the first DC member of Curio, Hilton's three-year-old brand of sophisticated "indie" hotels. With its local chef-helmed restaurant and rotating pop-up retail experiences (such as an elegant florist), the Darcy is aimed at both taste-making visitors and hip Washingtonians.

## Why

**The Darcy** could not be more central, located in the heart of the Logan Circle district within walking distance of Dupont Circle, the Mall and even Georgetown if you're up for a hike. While the immediate area is distinctly residential, the Darcy is barely five minutes from the jam-packed 14th Street retail corridor where everything from artisanal tapas spots and wine bars to Whole Foods and Starbucks is readily at hand.

## Look



The Darcy now has 226 rooms on offer.

(c) 2017 Curio

During its redo, the Darcy grew from 220 to 226 rooms including 37 suites. All are well-sized, awash in light and feature modern design elements like light woods and distressed metal details; many of the larger suites include dreamy oversize soaking tubs. One unusual touch are the men's fashions on display in each room: a surprisingly chic collection of guy garments (ties, pocket squares, etc.) curated by local clothier Read Wall and available to borrow if needed. Flag down the cocktail cart that roams around the hotel, armed with specialty drinks crafted from local tipples, like Green Hat gin from New Columbia Distillers.

## Must try

Siren is a seafood eatery from local celebrity chef Robert Wiedmaier, a German-born, Belgian-American toque beloved for his mini-empire of European boîtes across the DC area. At Siren, look for locally sourced catches (Maryland crab, Chesapeake Bay eels) and global goodies like turbot presented as both shellfish towers and intricately prepared main courses. There's also an elaborate caviar service featuring four kinds of the fancy fish eggs beautifully presented atop and within tiny, dessert-like pastries.

## Don't miss

The service. Despite its relative newness — and being part of a chain — the Darcy team was astonishingly attentive. One afternoon, we needed to change our infants' diapers and staffers offered up an entire empty conference room to give us some privacy. Upon check-in, employees sorted out a complicated room arrangement situation with minimal fuss — and in two languages. The hotel may be large, but it's keeping a sharp eye on the smallest details.

## Needs work

During our stay in late July, the Darcy's Lil'B café had yet to open, which meant a short — but still annoying — walk for afternoon coffee (particularly given the capital's stifling summer heat).

## Bottom line

With its super-central location and expertly attentive staff, the Darcy is a smart new addition to the DC hotel scene. It boasts all the efficiency of a major chain paired with the hip, neighborhood-y nods of a chic boutique retreat.

## Details

From \$139; [TheDarcyHotel.com](http://TheDarcyHotel.com)

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*The author was a guest of the Darcy.*

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