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Special
DOUBLE ISSUE

western living

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Summer HOMES

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The perfect
lakeside retreat

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barbecues



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decor ideas



JUNE/JULY 2008 Price \$3.95

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Denver Metro Commission & Victoria Burana

➤ The eclectic LoDo neighbourhood belies Denver's old image of a staid metropolis.

The Hills. The embroidered designs will appeal to both Johnny Cash and Liberace fans, with patterns ranging from flaming skulls to pink hearts with fringe and rhinestones.

From LoDo, hop on the free mall ride shuttle at 16th Street and take it through downtown to the Civic Center station—ground zero for architecture aficionados. Here Daniel Libeskind's design for the Denver Art Museum competes for the skyline with Gio Ponti's original 1971 building. Next door, the Michael Graves-designed

Denver Central Library—the largest public library between L.A. and Chicago—plays the architectural jester and brings a playful classicism to the square.

Where to Eat

Denver has long been home to a sizeable Mexican American

population and the city is awash in good, inexpensive Mexican food. One of the best is D'Corazon, which offers over 30 tequilas from single barrel to handcrafted while the totally delicious house margaritas are only \$3 apiece. Meltingly soft pork carnitas benefit from fresh-made tortillas and a deeply satisfying combination of salsa and guacamole, rice and beans.

Rioja, with its UFO-shaped lamps and open kitchen, is one of the city's most celebrated restaurants. The vibe is relaxed and comfortable while the service manages to be at once highly professional and casual. Don't miss the signature dish: artichoke mousse-stuffed pasta with artichoke broth, truffle essence, queso de mano cheese and fried artichokes (pictured, left). If that's enough to bring you back for brunch be sure to order the homemade beignets.

Osteria Marco is a bottles and bricks kind of place with a marble bar and a pizza oven. House-made cheeses include burrata and ricotta and the charcuterie plate might include bresaola and ciccioilli (Italian pulled





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➤ Denver's
Grand Dame: the
Brown Palace
Hotel.

pork). Best of all are simple pizzas with a side of bright, fresh red pepper flakes, freshly grated parmesan and house-made chili oil.

Go Now

Ritz-Carlton Denver,
303-312-3800, 1881 Curtis St.
ritzcarlton.com

Brown Palace,
303-297-3111, 321 17th St.
brownpalace.com

Rioja,
303-825-2588, 1431 Larimer St.
riojadenver.com

Osteria Marco,
303-534-5855, 1453 Larimer St.
osteriamarco.com

D'Corazon,
720-904-TACO,
1530 Blake St. #C.
dcorazonrestaurant.com

Rockmount Ranch Wear,
800-7-ROCKMO,
1626 Wazee St.
rockmount.com

Where to Stay

The city has just been blessed with a shiny new Ritz-Carlton, which will play contemporary yin to the classic yang of the Brown Palace, Denver's luxury choice since before Teddy Roosevelt stayed there. The Palace's soaring lobby is flooded with natural light filtered through a stained-glass skylight,

whereas the Ritz favours a subdued modernity with interplay between beiges and dark wood. *W*