

# DEPARTURES



THE

# HOTELS

ISSUE





# Spoiled for Choice

With a flurry of important openings and redos, three of the world's top cities for hotels just got even better.

A Writer Series suite at Hotel Figueroa comes with a collection of books by L.A.-based authors.

## LOS ANGELES



### HOTEL FIGUEROA

Maude N. Bouldin, the first female hotel manager in America, still presides over the lobby of the Hotel Figueroa, a modest high-rise that stands in elegant contrast to the Staples Center nearby. Her portrait, by artist Alison Van Pelt, renders Bouldin engaged in one of her favorite activities: riding a motorcycle. (She also liked to fly planes and smoke cigars.) The new Figueroa, the result of a sensitive two-year renovation, would have made its former manager proud. Local design team Studio Collective brought the original Spanish-colonial style back to the

sweeping public spaces with arched entryways, dark wood accents, and romantic lighting. The 268 guest rooms have a fizzy eclecticism—look for blue-fig-leaf wallpaper, a witty nod to the hotel's name, in some of the bathrooms. Pieces by contemporary women artists hang throughout, and Writer Series suites are thoughtfully stocked with books by L.A.-based authors like recently rediscovered memoirist Eve Babitz. At Brevva, chef Casey Lane prepares Basque-inspired dishes, while all-day café Veranda overlooks the pool. But the hotel's best asset might be its warm staff. *Rooms from \$339; [hotelfigueroa.com](http://hotelfigueroa.com).*