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VISIT BUFFALO NIAGARA

# IN THE BUUF

YOUR GUIDE FOR EVERYTHING TO SEE & DO IN  
BUFFALO NIAGARA 2018 / 2019



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“THIS IS BUFFALO? WHOA,  
*I think I like it here!*”

A FIRST-TIME VISITOR FINDS A LOT TO LOVE IN THE **UNEXPECTED BUFFALO**

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**BUFFALO RIVERWORKS**

Buffalo's newest waterfront hotspot includes a brewery and beer garden along the water's edge.



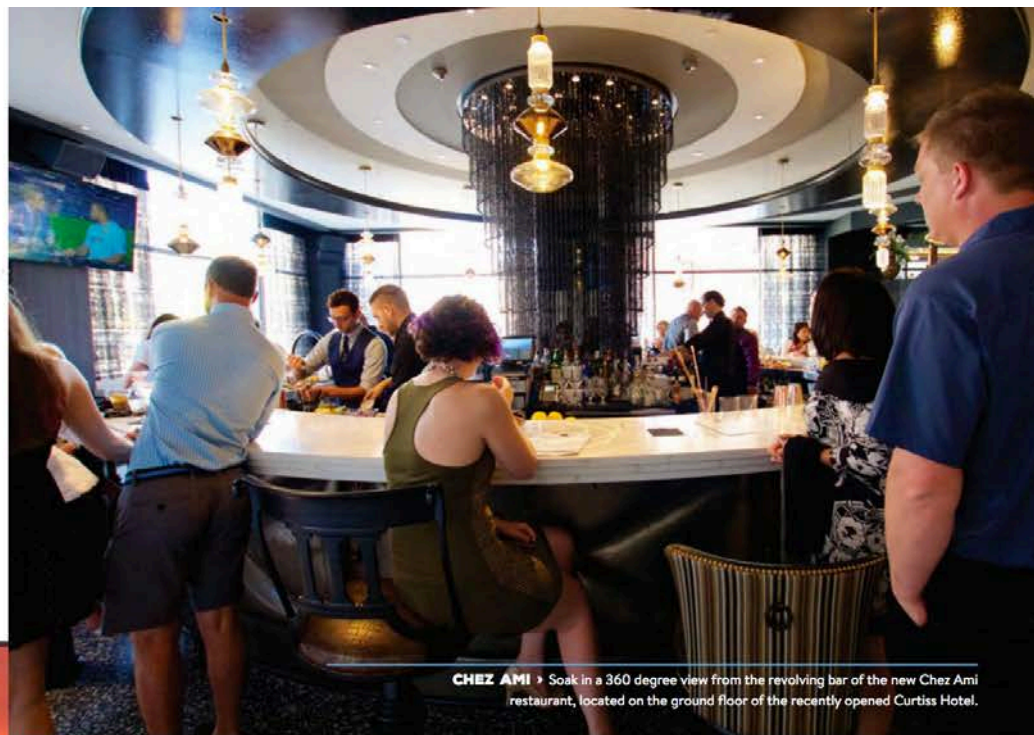
BY LISA LUBIN

## It was a Friday afternoon in the summertime.

I could hear live music in the distance. Relaxed-looking couples walked arm-in-arm down the sun-soaked wooden boardwalk. Gleeful kids ran around laughing and playing. A massive, spandex-clad group had assembled on the grass under a soaring overpass for some restorative, end-of-the-work-week yoga. And folks had taken to the water by boat, paddleboard and even bicycle (yes, water bicycles).

"This is Buffalo!?" I thought. "Whoa, I think I like it here."

I've been to many city waterfronts, but **Canalside** was not a typical touristy area with a few vendors and scattered activities. It was thriving! I kept thinking to myself that Buffalo was doing something right. The planners, designers, and organizers hadn't just thrown this together; instead, it felt like they were really paying attention to the details — down to the smallest things like colorful Adirondack chairs that create these cozy zones for folks to take a load off and just enjoy the scene. I loved trying out a water bike — a little pontoon with pedals —



**CHEZ AMI** ▶ Soak in a 360 degree view from the revolving bar of the new Chez Ami restaurant, located on the ground floor of the recently opened Curtiss Hotel.

PHOTOS BY LISA LUBIN

and getting a unique perspective from the water. What a neat way to get some exercise and take in the views of the grain silos from the heyday of the Erie Canal.

I had heard for a few years that Buffalo had been quietly reinventing itself. But how had such a cool city eluded me for all these years? To this first-time visitor, Buffalo was flourishing; it felt alive. There was an infectious energy in every friendly face.

We rented bikes and jumped on the **Queen City Bike Ferry** to the far side of the Buffalo River, and were soon on our way riding along a bike path past wooded nature preserves with wild grasses and the glistening waters of

**TERRACE AT DELAWARE PARK** ▶ Pristine patio views of Hoyt Lake await at this new Delaware Park restaurant.



**RESURGENCE BREWING CO.** ▶ This West Side brewery, located in a former boat engine factory, has become a local favorite with its large beer garden and unique brews like sponge candy stout.

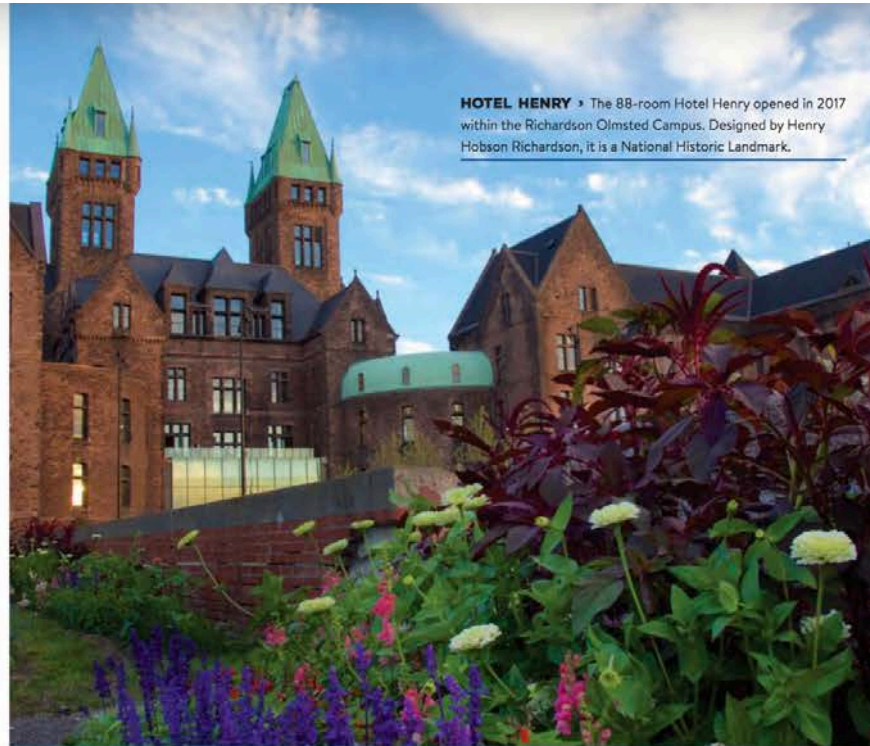


Lake Erie. Lest we forget we were still in the city, the skyline and signature grain silos stood tall in the distance. It felt like we were a world away from the frenzy of activity just across the river.

After our ride and in need of some refreshment and relaxation, we headed to the lively **Resurgence Brewing Co.** on the city's once-neglected West Side. The interior was a bright, refurbished warehouse with a soaring ceiling, lots of exposed beams...and a giant Jenga game. But it was the back patio that I fell for — local folks sipped IPAs and frothy lagers at large, wooden picnic tables topped with bright red umbrellas. Friends played a round of cornhole. And twinkling lights dangled overhead as dusk fell on the city.

table movement that's fueled by plenty of nearby farms. At the new **Terrace at Delaware Park**, we shared a delicious gnocchi appetizer before a main course of mushroom Bolognese that was a creative take on this classic Italian dish. Sitting on the patio that overlooks the picturesque park and Hoyt Lake, soaking up the colorful sky at twilight hour, I said to myself, "OK, I really love it here."

I was in Buffalo for a huge concert and lightshow on the beautiful front lawn of the newly refurbished **Hotel Henry** at the **Richardson Olmsted Campus**. The towers of the former Buffalo State Hospital were illuminated with a stunning lightshow, set to the music of the **Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra**. It was a fantastic spectacle of



**HOTEL HENRY** ▶ The 88-room Hotel Henry opened in 2017 within the Richardson Olmsted Campus. Designed by Henry Hobson Richardson, it is a National Historic Landmark.

## MY INITIAL "LIKE" HAD TURNED INTO A BIG CRUSH. SERIOUSLY.

Excited to dig into Buffalo's growing food scene, we made our way to **Buffalo Proper**, a cool spot with a bustling bar and inventive cocktail menu. Their sophisticated small plates really stoked my curiosity about the city's resurgent restaurant scene. I discovered that chefs are flocking to Buffalo (or returning home), thanks to a healthy farm-to-

sight and sound. While I sat there gazing at the show, I felt lucky to be among these Buffalonians and just soaked up their palpable pride in their city.

Settling into my room in the historic Hotel Henry that night, I thought about this underrated gem of a city. The sheer number of fun things to do, see, and eat in Buffalo is such a pleasant surprise.



**BREADHIVE BAKERY & CAFÉ** ▶ Grab a bagel sandwich or homemade cookies from this worker-owned cooperative.

Did you know Buffalo is home to seven of **Frank Lloyd Wright's masterworks**? I was amazed at the multitude of incredible landmark buildings and homes in this city. Name a great American architect and he likely put his stamp on Buffalo. **Wright, Louis Sullivan, H. H. Richardson, Frederick Law Olmsted** — their legacies all live on here in the buildings and parks they designed. Just as surprising are the many new breweries bringing life back into long neglected neighborhoods. My whirlwind introduction to this charming city had left me eager for more.

I'm not from Buffalo, and I had never visited before. From the eyes of this non-native, Buffalo is booming; it feels alive with a youthful enthusiasm and entrepreneurial spirit. And it's easy to understand why. After decades of decline, the city is back with a vengeance. After years of waiting, change has truly come.

## I'M EXCITED TO KEEP RETURNING TO SEE WHAT'S NEXT.



**PUBLIC ART** ▶ The author posing with *Magic Buffalo* by Bunnie Reiss, one of the city's new murals.