

VANITY FAIR

SUNHEE'S BLOGS

Escape to the Liberty Hotel in Boston

by **Vanity Fair** June 30, 2010, 6:27 PM

6
tweets

retweet



The entrance and lobby of the Liberty Hotel has a cool, medieval feel.

City dwellers don't always yearn to escape to the beach or countryside. Sometimes we want to explore another metropolis, and for New Yorkers, an ideal destination is Boston. You know, the place known as **Beantown** that's now renowned for its distinctive blend of charming historic districts and modern architecture.

The best area to stay in is **Beacon Hill**, a quaint neighborhood filled with well-preserved Greek Revival and Federal-style buildings. No wonder it is the most desired and expensive section of Boston. It also has wonderful little antique stores and many culinary gems. It's where John Hancock had his country estate back in the day. And the best part about this neighborhood is **The Liberty Hotel**, which is just down the road on Charles Street, across Cambridge Street.

Overlooking the tranquil Charles River, the Liberty Hotel caters to all. The original structure was built as a progressive Victorian-era prison, but it was completely restored and repurposed back in 2005, and it's the perfect destination for any traveler, either alone or with family and friends. The hotel's developers and architects decided to keep traces of the old prison throughout the building, some of them tongue and cheek. For example, the main restaurant is called Clink, the "do not disturb" sign on your door is labeled "Solitary," with a replica of an old jail-cell key (but new and shiny), and a breakfast dish called "The Slammer" is featured on the menu at Clink.



The best rooms come with large (and sometimes ornate) windows that look out on the Charles River.

Staying at this uniquely designed hotel was definitely a four-star experience: all amenities are luxe, you're greeted with a glass of champagne upon check-in, and all rooms are stocked with **Molton Brown** products. And if you are lucky enough to score a corner room, you'd be in the money with a fantastic panoramic view of the Charles River.

Side note: If you are traveling with children, avoid arriving late on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, since the Liberty Hotel has an incredibly popular night spot called **Liberty Bar** (natch!) located on the ground level. But if you are single and want to mingle, its peek hours start at 11 p.m.