



WANNA PARTY
LIKE IT'S 1999? PG. 28

big life

MOUNTAIN LIFE AT ITS BEST

10

**BEST
PLACES
TO JUMP START
YOUR SUMMER**



**ROCK ON
ESTES PARK, CO**



learn to
Kiteboard
stargazing in jackson hole
a legend in **aspen**
sailing on lake tahoe
got nuclear in idaho?



go!

ASPEN • BHUTAN • BOZEMAN • BOISE • BOULDER • BRITISH COLUMBIA
ESTES PARK • INDIA • JACKSON HOLE • LAKE TAHOE • LOS BARRILES
HOOD RIVER • MOAB • NEPAL • NEVADA • NEW MEXICO • TRUCKEE
PARK CITY • SUN VALLEY • YELLOWSTONE RIVER



PLACE



words by JENNIFER WALTON

**BOZEMAN'S BOUTIQUE HOTEL
UNITES TRAVELERS AND LOCALS**

becoming THE LARK

ONCE AN ABANDONED MID-CENTURY MOTEL AT THE CORNER OF BOZEMAN'S MAIN STREET AND GRAND AVENUE, THE IMPERIAL INN PROPERTY AND SHELL WAS PURCHASED BY THE OWNERS OF BOZEMAN-BASED THINKTANK DESIGN GROUP WHO OPTED TO RESTORE RATHER THAN RAZE IT. MORE THAN A RESTORATION, IT'S REALLY A REINCARNATION. NOW CALLED THE LARK, IT'S GONE FROM RUN-DOWN EYESORE TO A CENTRAL HUB FOR COOL IN BOZEMAN.

Located at the headwaters of Bozeman's dynamic Main Street, The LARK is named after Montana's state bird, the Western Meadowlark, that sports a vivid yellow chest; ThinkTank adopted that color scheme to set the tone and character of the design. The

signature yellow and white logo is visible throughout the property and is a lively calling card.

ThinkTank's architects, Erik Nelson and Brian Caldwell, decided to elevate the open-air patio and install a glass garage door in the lobby, which can be

raised during long summer days and nights, creating a space that links traveler and local. Add a jewel-like vintage Airstream Spartan serving fresh tacos and ice cream and you've got the makings for one hell of a stay.

Victory Taco (the cool Airstream) and the suggestive power of the words "Fish. Hike. Climb. Ski. Work. Give Back. Love. Create. Buy Local. Be Nice" emblazoned on its side and layered over the multi-colored BOZEMAN letters announces entry into town and implies that this is more than a food truck and The LARK is more than a hotel. It's a feeling. And that feeling is about connection.

ThinkTank's intention was to



give visitors the feeling of localism and to establish a home base from which travelers can engage with and explore town and beyond. That “beyond” includes Big Sky Resort, Bridger Bowl, Yellowstone National Park, and the Gallatin and Madison Ranges where hiking, biking, fishing, hunting, and skiing are part of a daily itinerary. By employing truly thoughtful guides who, as staff, represent The LARK life as curators of that localism, and by adding a sophisticated presentation of community art and found objects within the public spaces and 38 rooms, it’s evident that a playful spirit, minimalism, and function have come to define

The LARK. Here’s why.

THE LOBBY IS A BLEND OF MODERN RUSTIC AND CONTEMPORARY ECLECTIC. IT HUMS WITH THE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN GUESTS AND GUIDES IN AND AROUND THE NATURAL SITTING AREAS, ONE OF WHICH IS DESIGNATED FOR MAPS.

USGS maps in open glass shelves invite guests to pull out a map while sipping on local Treeline coffee and organic snacks and learning about the region’s history and seasonal activities.



OPPOSITE: On the second floor, bold yellow doors line the walkway and open to views of Bozeman’s active Main Street. ABOVE (top): The Victory Taco truck (affectionately known as “The V”) is a welcome wagon for travelers wanting to connect with locals on The LARK patio over good food and drink. ABOVE (bottom): The lobby is more than a place to check in—it’s a meeting place for locals and visitors to enjoy art, linger in the ‘Map Room’ to plan adventures, and drink local Treeline coffee.



AN INTERACTIVE DATA TRANSMITTER BOX WITH A SIMPLE TOGGLE SWITCH SHOWS SNOW DEPTH, NEW SNOW, TEMPERATURE, AND THE GAUGE HEIGHT OF SURROUNDING SKI SPOTS AND HOME RIVERS (LIKE THE JEFFERSON, MADISON, AND MISSOURI) ON A STAINLESS STEEL ENGRAVED STATE MAP.

Information graphics are the name of the game here. An appealing combination of wood, ceramics, mixed media, and varied industrial lighting pairs effortlessly with retro pale blue plastic chairs, black cowhides, leather sofas, and concrete floors to welcome the traveler and local into the space. Oversized windows brighten the spaces and beckon to the wood-burning

outdoor fireplace and the tasty street food that locals line up for.

THE LARK ROOMS ARE AT ONCE MODERN AND MINIMAL, YET COLORFUL AND COMFORTABLE.

Each is a story reflecting the town of Bozeman and the state of Montana. Stories of mountain peaks, the fishing culture, trees, and animals are visually displayed on room walls. From tree rings to a life-size moose to state facts, the infographics are distinct and decorative, inviting guests to discover what makes Bozeman a town ripe for discovery. Dutch Navy blankets and sumptuous sheets adorn the wood-platform beds, while a small half-wall divides the sleep area from a dedicated workspace. A combination of spot and recessed lighting is thoughtfully considered and utilized. Moving barn doors in varying shades of painted reclaimed wood separate bedrooms from






ABOVE (top): The Grand Avenue King suite is cheery, clean, and comfy with a sitting area, workspace, and oversized bathroom. ABOVE (middle): The Queen and a Bunk suite is just that—so bring the kiddos. ABOVE (bottom): The MTD Box shows the area's snow depths, snowfall, and river heights.

MONTANA TOTAL AREA **147,040**^{SD MI}
 380,800^{KM²}
 7916 0079 TOTAL LENGTH **630**^{MI} **255**^{MI}
 1,015^{KM} 410^{KM}

HELENA 406 MT
 STATE CAPITAL AREA CODE ABBREVIATION
1889 MTN 41ST 56
 ADMISSION TO UNION TIME ZONE STATE COUNTRY

LATITUDE \odot LONGITUDE λ
49° N **104° 2' W**
 NORTHERN BORDER EASTERN BORDER
44° 21' N **116° 3' W**
 SOUTHERN BORDER WESTERN BORDERS

HIGHEST POINT **12,799**^{FT}
 GRANITE PEAK
 AIRPORTS RUNWAY **120** **450**
 PUBLIC USE PRIVATE
 LOWEST POINT **1,804**^{FT}
 POTOMAI RIVER
 LONGEST RIVERWAY **14,000**^{FT}
 LINDSEY'S LARKING WEST

RAILROAD TRAIN STATIONS
12 **100** **8**
 AMTRAK RAIL LINK CHARGER
 WILDS BY TRAIN **900**^{MI}
 1,400^{KM}

DRIVING HIGHWAYS **7**

WINTER WIND TEMPERATURES
4.5^F
8^F
 JANUARY



ABOVE (clockwise from top left): The art at The LARK is centered on the narrative of Montana. State facts adorn the wall in the Queen and a Bunk suite; yellow is the signature color at The LARK; on another wall, "Rings of Time" portrays events in Bozeman's history; handmade stamped art depicting people in a crowd is bold and delicate; Bozeman's tallest mountain peaks are displayed in a fictitious range.



bathrooms. White subway-tiled walk-in showers, MALIN + GOETZ bath products, and beautifully hand-cast stamped figural art elicit a feeling of simplicity and ingenuity, which successfully defines The LARK's character.

The property hints at nostalgia but was designed with vitality, hospitality, and modernity front-of-mind. Outside walkways were installed to create a privacy buffer and to encourage walkability. The "motel" feel is gone, but the openness that motels offered with each room opening to the outside is still there. Design aside, clearly the best attributes at The LARK are its people, who convey their loyalty to community, its art, recreation, food, and big-town energy.

From checking in, where guests receive a passport-sized

field guide with daily offerings, to complimentary valet parking and the lounge-like qualities of its spacious patio, The LARK feels personal. Since opening in April 2015, it continues to provide reasonable prices, special packages like "Date Night" and "On a Lark," and a unique perspective on downtown ambiance. When in Bozeman, share a story or two over a taco and start to feel like a local from the first bite. 

LARKBOZEMAN.COM

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