

SUMMER
2017PLACES
NEWS YOU
NEED

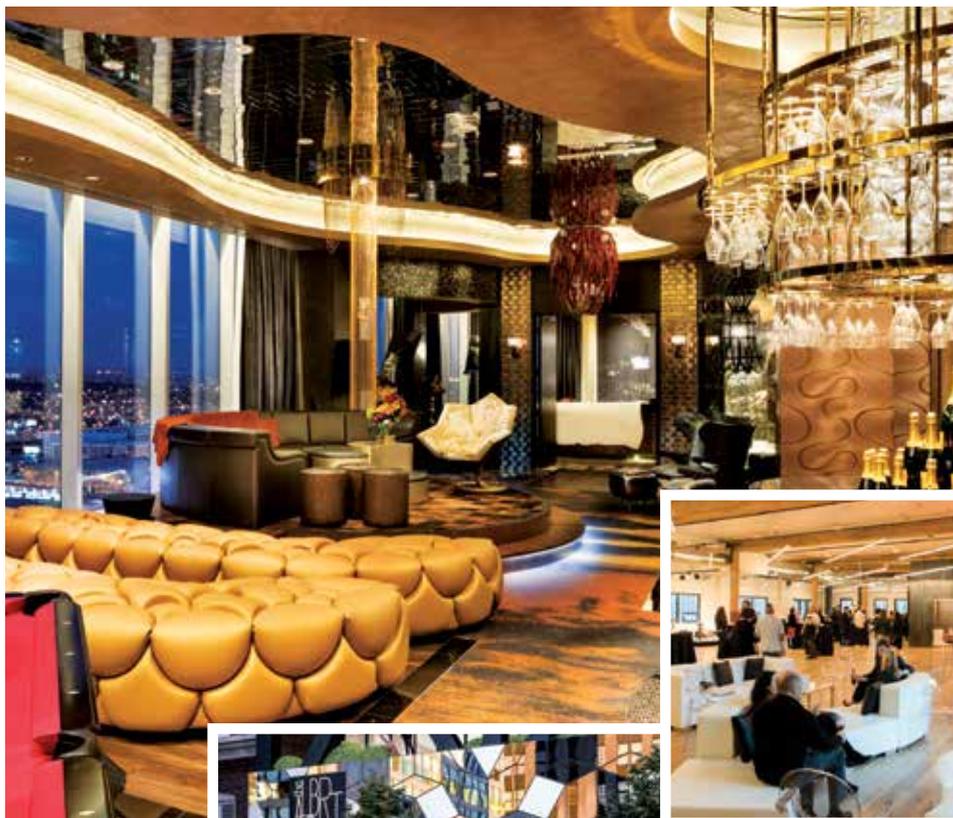
A former ice warehouse from 1927 in Seattle's Belltown neighborhood reopened as a private event venue in March. **Block 41** has three open indoor spaces—think exposed brick and wood beams—across two levels (totaling 15,000 square feet), plus an outdoor courtyard. It can accommodate events for up to 800 people.

Hunt Valley Inn outside Baltimore reopened as **Delta Hotels Baltimore Hunt Valley** after a \$15 million renovation. The 392-room, full-service hotel is part of Marriott and includes 27,000 square feet of event space in Maryland's horse country.

Planners have a new off-site venue to consider in Las Vegas with the 75,000-sq.-ft. **Enclave**, only a few minutes' drive from McCarran International Airport and the Strip. Powered by 3G Productions, the venue is equipped with the latest AV technology. In addition to multiple ballrooms, a production studio, a green room and conference rooms, an outdoor garden and rooftop deck will be added by summer.

In June, **Grand Geneva Resort & Spa**, the only AAA Four Diamond resort in southeastern Wisconsin, will open 29 new villas, bringing the total guest accommodations to 384. Studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom units offer a variety of setups for group stays at the property, which has 62,000 square feet of indoor meeting space and a 12,000-sq.-ft. conference center. VIPs can fly directly to the resort thanks to a private on-site airport.

Perfectly timed with the end of ski season, **Grand Summit Hotel** in Park City, Utah, closed in April to undergo a \$15 million renovation. Come midsummer, it will be flagged as a RockResorts property (a division of Vail Resorts) and unveil a complete overhaul of its suites (212 total),



Clockwise from top:
The Westin Nashville;
Block 41; Hotel EMC2.

communal spaces, spa, cafe and meeting spaces.

Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino completed a multimillion-dollar renovation to its 357 guest rooms, pool deck, cabanas, beach tennis court and Sunset Grille restaurant in March. The property has 24,000 square feet of outdoor flexible space and 15,000 square feet of indoor meeting space, including an 8,100-sq.-ft. ballroom.

A \$25 million renovation completed in April updated **Hilton Daytona Beach Resort/Ocean Walk Village's** 60,000 square feet of meeting space, two restaurants and 30 beachfront cabana suites. The pool deck also got a face-lift, including transformation of the Pelican Bar into a tiki bar concept.

Smaller groups have a new boutique option in Chicago with the opening of **Hotel EMC2** off Michigan Avenue late this spring. Part of Marriott's Autograph Collection, the 195-room

hotel will be themed around art and science. On-site, find a contemporary American restaurant and 2,000 square feet of meeting space.

Hotel Nikko San Francisco celebrated its 30th birthday in a big way in March by unveiling a \$60 million renovation of its guest rooms, meeting spaces, bar, music venue and expansive fitness center. The new design honors the brand's Japanese heritage.

Kimpton Hotel Palomar Los Angeles Beverly Hills completed a \$12 million renovation this spring that modernized the 264-room boutique hotel. An open floor plan of the lobby and entrance area flows into a back lounge, a design intended to help guests easily transition between meetings, meals, work and entertainment.

Rochester, Minnesota, home to the world-renowned Mayo Clinic, unveiled its newly expanded **Mayo Civic Center** in April. The center now has more than

200,000 square feet of meeting and exhibit space, plus specialized event suites, meeting rooms, a new ballroom and the outdoor Riverfront Plaza. More than \$7 million in technology enhancements including high-definition projectors and Smart Board displays enrich the center's capability for hosting medical meetings.

Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, Connecticut, will have a convention center next year. Slated to be the largest meetings space between Boston and New York City when it opens in summer 2018, **Mohegan Sun Expo Center** will have 132,000 square feet of meeting space, a 22,000-sq.-ft. ballroom, 18 meeting rooms, a wraparound terrace, free parking and more. It's expected to help draw more large associations and expos to the destination, which has 1,563 hotel rooms, two spas, a golf course and multiple entertainment venues including a 10,000-seat arena.

Upping the glam ante of Music City is **The Westin Nashville**, which unveiled several penthouse entertainment suites this spring. The largest of the three, the Nashville Suite includes a Champagne tower and a personal dance floor, perfect for housing VIPs or hosting a lively opening reception for small groups.