

# Profile: The Liaison Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

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The Liaison Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

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Washington, D.C.

**Location** This former Holiday Inn, which sits within steps of the Capital, is now a sleek modern boutique hotel, with a swinging bar and dining scene at weekends. Also, within easy walking distance are the monuments of the Mall, while the Downtown shopping and nightlife district is only several blocks away too. For the best deals, book when Congress is not in session; the average rates are as low as half the high season price.

**Ambiance** Breezy and youthful. The Liaison opened in April 2008 and no longer feels like a Holiday Inn -- and well it shouldn't after a 15 million dollar renovation. The open plan lobby is filled with comfy faux sixties mod furniture and flows through into the bar and on into the restaurant. It's perfect for lounging and mingling, and promotes a communal atmosphere.



**Rooms** Understated, yet opulent with rich browns and beige decor promoting a restful atmosphere. The six different pillows offered on the sleep menu aids a good night's sleep. Pet-friendly with comfortable Bowser Beds. No fee for basic pet amenity of bed, bowl, bags. For additional fees, the Jet Set Pets program offers everything from walking to organic dog food to... A pet psychic? But who would want to give the pleasure of walking Washington with your dog companion to someone else?

**Dining** In October 2008, Art Smith (best known as Oprah's former personal chef) opened his southern inspired restaurant Art and Soul. In keeping with the hotel's airy freshness, the restaurant is large and brightly colored, with cool white vinyl booths to the side. Pop artist Randy Slack's work forms a characterful display. A huge outdoor patio has pretty views -- you can even see the Capital if you get a street side table. The food is simple, comfort food featuring local ingredients. Weekend brunch is a must, especially for the gorgeous lemon-honey pancakes and -- for those with a hearty morning appetite -- Smith's signature southern fried chicken, which is served with a waffle. The adjacent ArtBar is the place for snacking and elegant cocktails.

**Perks** A rooftop pool is due to open on Memorial Day 2009. iPod walking tours.

**Perps** Weekend bar scene is quite a party. Can be noisy.

415 New Jersey Ave NW

Washington, DC 20001

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Check-in: 3 p.m. Check out: Noon. Rates: \$179- \$350.

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