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Beehives: a buzz-worthy hotel amenity

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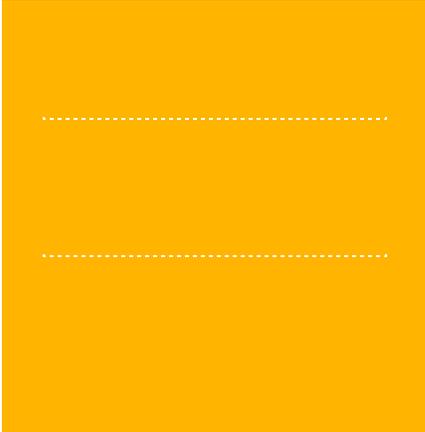
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Honey from the beehives located atop the roof of The Nines hotel in Portland is jarred and sold at its Urban Farmer restaurant.

courtesy of The Nines hotel



In 2014, President Obama created a special task force comprised of individuals from various agencies across the country. The goal? To save the [honey](#) bee. Yes, believe it or not, the number of honey [bees](#) and other pollinators is in jeopardy—an issue that endangers our country’s food supply—and an unlikely source is stepping up to help save the day: the hotel industry. A growing number of [hotels](#) across the nation have introduced onsite beehives, typically located on the property’s rooftop. But these hotel apiaries aren’t just benefiting the bee population; they’re proving to be a sweet treat for hotel guests as well. I cited several examples in a [recent story for BravoTV.com](#), but there are so many now, I wanted to share a few more here.

[Fairmont Washington, D.C.](#)

It’s not just the politicians creating a buzz in D.C. More than 100,000 Italian honey bees reside in three hives atop this stylish 415-room property. Their honey is used in hotel menus in everything from soups to salad dressings.

[Terranea, Rancho Palos Verdes, California](#)

This gorgeous resort overlooking the Pacific is known for providing an extensive list of activities, from falconry to surfing. That list now also includes honey harvesting, a part of the three-day, two-night Land to Sea Culinary Immersion Package. The hotel’s four hives produce more than 150 pounds of honey each year, which can be purchased at the onsite cafe and, starting this year, will be incorporated into signature treatments at the spa.

[Salish Lodge & Spa, Snoqualmie, Washington](#)

How does a custom herb and honey body scrub sound? At the spa at this luxe retreat outside Seattle, a mixologist will combine your choice of chamomile, rosemary, lavender, basil, lemon verbena, or other herbs with honey from the hotel’s [apiary](#), along with essential oils and a salt or sugar scrub, to create a personalized exfoliation just for you. It’s just one of the pampering treatments utilizing nectar from the onsite hives.

[La Cantera Hill Country Resort, San Antonio, Texas](#)

Originally located offsite, this Hill Country resort’s 20 hives came from the American Honey Bee Protection Agency, which is working with the hotel to create “show hive windows” to help educate guests about its honey-producing residents.

[The Nines, Portland, Oregon](#)

The hyperlocal microbatch honey produced from The Nines’ four rooftop

hives can be found in several items at its Urban Farmer restaurant, including the cheese cart service, the Farmer #3 cocktail, and the honey vinaigrette dressing. Chef Chris Starkus also created a beeswax lip balm that's given as an amenity at the hotel and which will also be sold at a planned retail shop.

Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort, Fernandina Beach, Florida

Just one of the handful of Omni properties participating in the save-the-bee efforts, the beachfront Omni Amelia Island houses eight hives churning out some 1,200 pounds of honey per harvest. One of the ways it's used at the hotel is in creative cocktails like the Honey Blossom Margarita, which you can re-create at home with this easy recipe.

Honey Blossom Margarita

2 oz Herradura Reposado tequila

1 oz lime juice

*1 oz orange blossom honey water**

Splash of grapefruit juice

In a cocktail shaker, combine all ingredients with ice. Shake vigorously and strain into iced cup. Garnish with an orange and lime wheel.

*Honey water: 2 parts honey to 1 part hot water. Stir until dissolved. Keep in squeeze bottle and refrigerated or on ice.