Brutally Chic Digs in Hip Koreatown
THE LINE HOTEL, LOS ANGELES

BACKSTORY Built in 1964, this exquisite example of Brutalist architecture in LA’s Koreatown has been run by numerous hotel brands, including Hyatt, when it was the site of late Yankees owner George Steinbrenner’s infamous elevator brawl with two Dodgers fans during the 1981 World Series. Decades later, after a few more incarnations, the property was acquired by the Sydell Group—also behind New York’s NoMad Hotel—which renovated it and in 2014 rechristened it The Line.

DESIGN NOTES Acclaimed Venice Beach designer Sean Knibb favors industrial style throughout the 388-room property. “Concrete” wallpaper—made from photographs of the building’s actual exterior walls—ingeniously evokes the structure’s architecture, while the platform beds, writing desks and other furnishings combine for an inviting midcentury minimalism. This stripped-back aesthetic also emphasizes the floor-to-ceiling windows and, in the north-facing rooms, the views of the Hollywood sign.

BEST PLACE TO HANG OUT It’s no coincidence that Commissary, the onsite restaurant and bar, is located in a lush greenhouse, as its menus focus on fresh produce, like grilled melon and green curry eggplant. The verdure extends outside to the intimate hotel pool, where citrus trees provide privacy. Decidedly less sunny, though no less inviting, is the new Break Room 86, an ’80s-themed karaoke bar and dance club—entered, in true speakeasy fashion, through a retro vending machine.

HOT DISH Commissary’s lighter fare is undeniably tasty. But this is Koreatown, after all, so you’re going to be craving braised beef ssam, spicy chicken wings and kimchee everything. The lobby restaurant Pot, by Korean-American celebrity chef Roy Choi (owner of the iconic Korean taco truck Kogi), features all that glutonous goodness and more. The laid-back eatery is named for its scrumptious pots of either pork neck or marinated rib eye, which serve two and are warmed by induction burners encased in the tables.