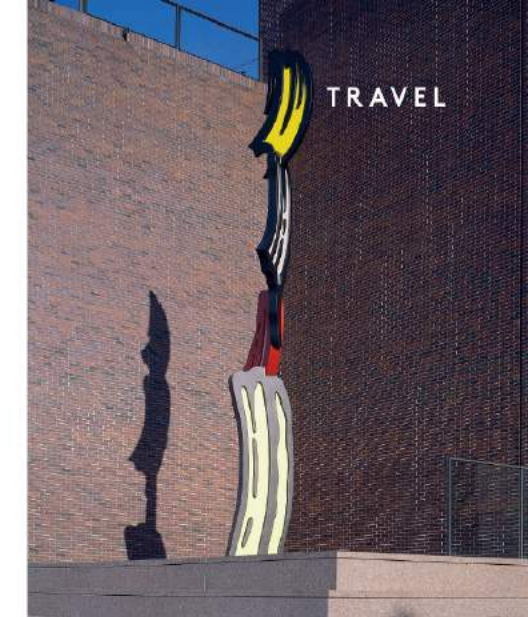


COLD *comfort*

It may be chilly but Minneapolis is braving the deep freeze to forge a bold new identity as a cool creative hub with food, art and design at the forefront.

Words **CARLI PHILIPS**



Minneapolis may well be one of the coldest places in the US but it is also one of the most beautiful. Together with its twin city St. Paul it's well equipped to deal with the frost (above-ground 'skyway' footbridges are enclosed and connect city blocks) and grassroots movements are advocating for, rather than enduring, the freeze. Spearheading the movement is Eric Dayton – or King of the Cold as he has come to be known – whose 'Keep the North Cold' charity campaigns for an end to climate change. The 37-year-old also co-founded the Great Northern Festival, an outdoorsy celebration of all things winter with fine dining street feasts, loppet racing and the US Pond Hockey Championships. There's lively events even during the chilliest and most isolating months, like the popular Art Shanty where temporary cabins are transformed into an interactive creative hub. Twenty-two of Minnesota's 10,000 lakes are in Minneapolis and the interconnectedness of its pristine boulevards, gardens, trails, creeks and riverbanks have earned it the title of Best Park System in America. Its most scenic route, the Grand Rounds, is a mob scene during winter and, when the lakes freeze over, skiers, ice-surfers and snowmobilers come out to play.



The state by and large has been overlooked, its claim to fame being as Prince's hometown (his Paisley Park compound is now open to the public) and the site of this year's Super Bowl. "For as long as I can remember, Minnesota has been lumped in with the Midwest and written off as flyover country. Over the past several years we've started to take control of our own identity and narrative and I think 'The North' better defines not just where we are, but who we are," says Eric, the son of Minnesota's governor (his family also founded the Minneapolis-born Target).



While it has long been regarded as progressive, with top-tier liberal colleges, strong support of the arts and a vibrant cultural scene, Minneapolis is entering a new phase. The city's early adoption of the minimum wage ordinance has millennials flocking, bringing entrepreneurship, culinary innovation and a flourishing Made in America movement, as new creative communities adopt time-honoured traditions, handcrafting everything from small-batch beer to leather-goods, glass-blown lighting (check out Hennepin Made) and, at Solid Manufacturing Co., kids' handmade toys from sustainably harvested timber. Think vegetable tanned leather slingshots, northern pine scout swords and hunter shields. The state is home to 19 Fortune 500 companies, but the open-minded and largely affluent citizenry hasn't lost its famously unpretentious Midwestern friendliness. Modest millionaires drive dusty FWDs and hipsters give service with a smile.

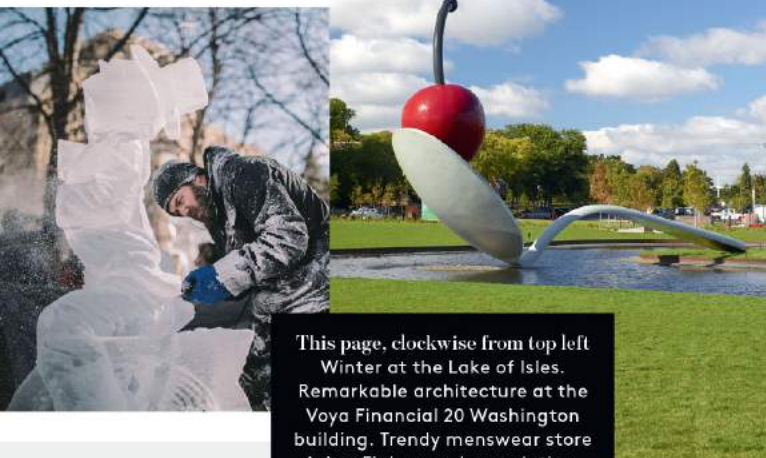
This page, clockwise from top left The 1960s Guthrie Theatre sits in front of the Gold Medal Flour Mill. Roy Lichtenstein's *Salute to Painting* at the Walker Art Center. Ready for loppet racing. Prince's Paisley Park compound. Katharina Fritsch's *Hahn/Cock* at the Walker Art Center. Art Shanty. Opposite page James Turrell's *Sky Peshier* at the Walker Art Center.



Hailed as America's hottest new foodie destination, gutsy young chefs are taking risks and winning critical acclaim with 12 James Beard semi-finalist nominations this year. Together with brother Andrew, Eric



PHOTOGRAPHS: PAUL WARCHOL (LIAM'S TURRELL), JILL FRANK (ART SHANTY), MIKE KRIVIT (GOLD MEDAL FLOUR MILL), GERRIE BITTMAN (BRITISH), WEISMAN ART MUSEUM - COURTESY OF MEET MINNEAPOLIS. PHOTO COURTESY OF PAISLEY PARK-NEO RECORDS AND MEET MINNEAPOLIS.



This page, clockwise from top left Winter at the Lake of Isles. Remarkable architecture at the Voya Financial 20 Washington building. Trendy menswear store Askov Finlayson. Ice sculpting. Japanese dining at Kado No Mise. Faribault Woolen Mill Co. blankets. Claes Oldenburg's Spoonbridge and Cherry.



co-founded the Bachelor Farmer, a 'New Nordic' cafe with original exposed bricks and pipes. It's a crime not to order their warm baked popovers with honey butter, but the menu is largely Scandi-inspired. There's an organic rooftop garden and all ingredients are from small local farmers following the cycle of the seasons. Their speakeasy bar Marvel is in the basement where bearded and tattooed bartenders serve the best cocktails in town. Classics are top notch, but mixologists are given free rein so expect inventions like the 'Sundial', a blend of Rujero, yellow Chartreuse, phosphoric acid and cardamom. Basically, it's "whatever's in bartender Stephen's head". Also in the building is the boys' trendy store Askov Finlayson stocking outdoor apparel – field jackets, decorative canoe paddles, brass compasses and their cult 'North' beanies.

It's all about the North Loop neighbourhood where stylish stores are repurposing the gritty industrial milling warehouses that made Minneapolis rich back in the 1800s as the largest producer of flour in the world (it's still one of the best places to get artisan bread). Adaptive re-use projects include shared artists' studios, the Mill City Museum, Russell+Hazel (nirvana for stationery addicts), and the magnificently curated MartinPatrick3, an apothecary, barbershop, tailor and lots of shop-in-shops serviced by true gentlemen. Nearby Grethen House is a sartorial stalwart for women, showcasing edgy brands such as Isabel Marant and Golden Goose.

In the shell of an old farm-equipment warehouse, the Hewing Hotel has a hunting-lodge atmosphere replete with cosy fireplaces, pine forest beams and plaid rugs from 19th-century company Faribault Woolen Mill Co. (the factory tours are an hour away but the beloved brand is available at retail stores in town). Their Tullibee restaurant is hearty and heavy – pork sausages, sauerkraut and all manner of fish and fowl. Don't miss Spoon and Stable (yes, it's housed in old horse stables), modern American-cum-French food from self-confessed "emotional chef" Gavin Kaysen. The menu must-have (if you can get in) is Dorothy's Pot Roast, sentimentally named after his grandmother. At the other end of the spectrum is Kado No Mise, a triple threat of delicate Japanese dining, with three floors spanning an intimate eatery, authentic Kaiseki and secret eight-seat whisky bar. Dishes are classic and delicate.

What the West Village is to New York, Linden Hills is to Minneapolis. Yuppies stroll the charming, lamppost-lit, tree-lined boutique shopping strips, stopping at Penny's for artisanal coffee, fresh juices and hearty

PHOTOGRAPHS: ELISEA JOHNSON (MARTINA); BRANDON STROEL (HEWING HOTEL); NICK LEFFEMAN (VOYA WASHINGTON SQUARE BUILDING); KENNY THOMAS (FARIBAULT WOOLEN MILL); GENE PITTMAN (SPOONBRIDGE)

sandwiches from premium butcher Lowry Hill Meats. Close by is Rose Street Patisserie, a heavenly bakery owned by the first American to be accepted into the prestigious Relais Desserts, a small secret society of the best French pastry chefs. There's millefeuilles and baguettes, but the humble American choc-chip has not been forgotten. The hottest new addition to the area is Martina, its high-low interior reminiscent of a South American estancia ranch. Rustic, wood-fired Argentinian-Italian cuisine is a curious combo, but chef Daniel del Prado knows what he's doing, especially with the empanada hand pies with gorgonzola and leeks. Relaxed local 'Brasserie Americana' Tilia has earned rock 'n' roll veteran chef Steven Brown a James Beard 2018 nomination for Best Chef in the Midwest. Queues are inevitable, plates are shared (but keep the butterscotch pot de crème to yourself), there's 21 craft beers on tap and wine is mostly biodynamic.

Minneapolis boasts the second most theatre seats per capita in the US and its 1960s Guthrie Theatre is worth visiting, even just for an architectural tour. Re-imagined by Jean Nouvel, its huge cantilevered observation platform has a magnificent vista over the city and Saint Anthony Falls by the Mississippi. The city's biggest drawcard, however, is the cutting-edge Walker Art Center. Herzog & de Meuron was responsible for its expansion in 2003 and the vast complex hosts multidisciplinary exhibitions, educational programs and festivals. Its famous sculpture park is breathtaking, with giant works by Alexander Calder, James Turrell, and Claes Oldenburg's iconic *Spoonbridge and Cherry*.

The 'new' Minnesota wears its frost with pride but is equally as generous in spring when the sky splits and the sun begins to bloom. As the ice melts, sleighs, sleds and swimmers as the land of The Great Lakes turns over a new leaf. It's year-round fun.



This page, clockwise from top Hewing Hotel is in the shell of an old farm-equipment warehouse. Hot new dining venue, Martina. Weisman Art Museum was designed by Frank Gehry. The MartinPatrick3 store combines barbershop, tailor, apothecary and more.

THE NORTH HOT LIST

HAI HAI Punchy South-East Asian street food in a fun, pseudo-tropical environment.

YOUNG JONI Korean-inspired pizzas with a wood-fired twist. Bar's open if the red alley light is on.

GRAND CAFE Rolling marble carts with cognac and devilled eggs. Nostalgic, Frenchy fun.

THE MONTE CARLO Old-school stalwart famous for its fried chicken wings.

WEISMAN ART MUSEUM Designed by Frank Gehry, the exhibits are engaging and fascinating.

MILLE Best womenswear boutique in town stocking A.P.C., Ulla Johnson and Apiece Apart.

HOTEL ALMA Seven naturally decorated rooms with a cosy-chic restaurant and coffeehouse.

D.NOLO Funky co-op of women's retailers under one big industrial roof.

THE FOUNDRY Honest homewares. Natural linens, porcelain, vovtes and wooden tools.

BLU DOT Founded in Minneapolis, visit its furniture outlet.

