Super Natural STAR

THE JAMES, SASKATOON

Since The James opened in the fall of 2011, it's become common for guests at this independent downtown boutique to simply remark, "Man, Saskatoon really needed this." The property, designed by Calgarian Michael Shugarman, raises the stakes with rich materials—loads of onyx, marble and walnut. And your $220 stay includes a full-on breakfast with a chef-attended buffet and made-to-order Bennies. Feeling plush? Check into the 12th-floor penthouse, a 1,600-square-foot beauty with river views, fireplace and two balconies. It's the only thing like it in the province.

ESSENTIALS

Rooms 59 **Rate** From $220 per night **Perks** Microfibre linens—The James is the first place in Western Canada to make use of these ultra-soft options (equivalent to 600-thread-count sheets). **Personality** Leave the kids at home. This one's a quiet treasure—corporate during the week and focused on hushed leisure during weekends.
855-244-6446, thejameshotel.ca

★★★★★

THE PERFECT MORNING

Suss out the riverside Meewasin Trail, directly behind the hotel; it stretches for miles along the water.

STEAL THE LOOK

Kit out the bath in luxe marble. The bathrooms are given a ritzy finish with Carrara Venatino marble. Then there's the onyx in the lobby and Brazilian Arabescato marble in the vanities. All were sourced at Icon Stone & Tile.
iconstoneandtile.com

Get a statement sofa. A comfy mohair Brannan love seat was custom made for The James's lobby by Red Eight Workshop.
redeightworkshop.com

Pick up an Adrian Stimson painting. Ask to see this Siksika Nation artist's muscular paintings of bison at Regina's Nouveau Gallery.
nouveaugallery.com