

A HIGHER STANDARD

Following his success with the Standard in West Hollywood, Andre Balazs has staged a sequel in L.A.'s long-overlooked downtown. The hotelier bought the Superior Oil headquarters, a 12-story Modernist landmark, and opened it this summer as the Downtown L.A. Standard. The 207 guest rooms are spare yet spacious, with oversized platform beds and, in some bathrooms, an inexplicable giant rubber foot. But it's the rooftop pool bar that has been luring half the city—a *mojito*-mad crowd assembles to gawk at the skyscrapers and lounge on vibrating water beds. Those pin-striped oil-company execs must be turning in their graves. DOWNTOWN L.A. STANDARD, 550 S. Flower St., Los Angeles; 213/892-8080; www.standardhotel.com; doubles from \$95. —PETER JON LINDBERG

Los Angeles like you've never seen it before: the topiary-topped bar at the Downtown L.A. Standard.