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Bonus Map!  
**Appalachian Drives**

# TRAVELER

April 2008

CHECKING IN

## Luxury Lockdown

*Historic jails turned haute hotels captivate guests.*

The Liberty's topaz-hued lobby incorporates the Charles Street Jail's original brick walls.



**F**or the law-abiding folks who've always wondered what incarceration feels like, renovated historic institutions are just what the warden ordered. That curious, behind-bars mystique can be bought by the night—along with room service and flat-screen TVs. In Boston, Beacon Hill's Charles Street Jail, which once held the Boston Strangler and Malcolm X, recently underwent a \$150-million renovation and is now the **Liberty Hotel**, boasting 300 rooms with oversize windows, touch-pad phones, and martini shakers. Historic catwalks link up to an open lobby, and original jail cells remain in the sultry, street-level bar. Across the pond the **Malmaison Oxford** maintains the cold exterior and original three-story corridor of its past life as a medieval English prison. Authentic jail cells with iron doors have been converted to guest rooms and stocked with all the swank amenities of a modern boutique hotel. In Taylors Falls, Minnesota, **The Old Jail Bed and Breakfast** offers a suite in the 1884 town jail, where couples can hole up in a rustic atmosphere and redefine confinement.

—JENNIFER BLAISE KRAMER