



HAPPY HOUR

## SODERBERGH'S SPIRIT

“People travel and experience new food and drinks [all the time], but they don’t always decide to become importers,” jokes producer/director/cinematographer Steven Soderbergh, alluding to his newest venture, **Singani 63**—a Bolivian spirit he recently bottled and brought stateside. “If the 5 ½ months I was shooting *Che* [in Bolivia] hadn’t involved drinking Singani every night, I’m not sure I would have made the decision to bring it to the United States,” explains Soderbergh. “Over a long period of time, [I] got so used to the spirit and so enamored by it... to the point that my crazy idea [to import it] began to sound not so crazy.” This floral alcohol, which is native to Bolivia, is considered a not-so-distant relative to pisco and can be served in a variety of ways, from neat and on the rocks to mixed in a cocktail. “When I first tried Singani, it was like nothing I had ever tasted. I consider myself somewhat of a professional drinker, and I hadn’t ever experienced the combination of this bouquet, smoothness and [high] alcohol content,” says the creative. “And once I brought it [home], I began to discover its versatility.” While Soderbergh is looking to garner “box office success” for Singani 63, he’s doing so at a reasonable pace. “My ultimate goal for the brand is to not be bought out—I want to turn Singani 63 into a sustainable business,” he says. We’ll drink to that. \$30, *Binny’s, 213 W. Grand Ave., binnys.com; singani63.com* —Meg McGuire



FieldHouse Jones, the new boutique hotel and hostel, offers flexible room options, including The Rosewall penthouse loft apartments, with four bunk beds.

CHECKING IN

## FIELD DAY

Robert Baum is the first to admit that the Borden’s dairy depot building in River North appears unassuming. “It doesn’t look like much,” observes the Urban Holiday Management principal, “but when you actually analyze how far back it goes, it’s pretty substantial.” To wit, the structure measures approximately 220 feet, or 11 stories, deep—and now it’s getting a new life as **FieldHouse Jones**, a 52-room hotel. Inside, the three-story space pays homage to the sporty field houses of yesteryear, from the gymnasium-style wooden bleachers welcoming guests to the lobby,

to the basement level defined by a shimmering swimming pool-inspired corridor (leading to six slot car tracks and a demonstration kitchen).

For Baum and business partner Michael Downing, who have tastefully filled the space with items they’ve sourced from Architectural Artifacts, flea markets and auctions, this character-driven concept has been a yearslong labor of love. “Unique’ and ‘curated’ might be overused words,” Baum says, “but we stressed over everything in here.” *Rooms from \$99, 312 W. Chestnut St., fieldhousejones.com* —Meg Mathis

MOVIE MAGIC

## ROCKET SCIENCE

Set aside a couple of hours to explore the red planet May 9—without actually leaving Earth. As a part of the **Cinema Science program**, a collaboration between the Music Box Theatre and The Field Museum, Ridley Scott’s *The Martian* will screen at the Music Box Theatre, and afterward, Philipp Heck, the museum’s associate curator of meteoritics and polar studies, will lead a discussion for sci-fi fans of all ages. The conversation will focus on the movie’s parallels to real-life missions to Mars as well as The Field Museum’s collection of Martian meteorites. “Compared to other science fiction movies, they tried to follow the recommendations of scientists,” says Heck. “I have no complaints!” *Tickets \$11, 3733 N. Southport Ave., musicboxtheatre.com* —Sadie Miller



The Field Museum teams up with the Music Box Theatre to talk science and Ridley Scott’s *The Martian*.

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