

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE: AN ORAL HISTORY P.88

AUSTIN

MONTHLY | MAY 2017



For as long as I can remember, I've openly mocked **College Station**. As a liberal Austinite and University of Texas graduate, I'm irked by virtually everything about the town—its ultraconservative vibe; its small size and lack of things to do; and, of course, its residents: the fanatic, Longhorn-hating Aggies, who live for their ridiculous **Texas A&M University** traditions. (Midnight Yell practice? Really?)

So when I began receiving a flurry of emails last fall detailing a trio of cool boutique hotels that would soon debut in the Bryan-College Station area, I was skeptical. Was it possible for the homeland of all things Aggie to *actually* become a spot worth visiting? I decided to do some reconnaissance.

After driving 100 miles east from Austin, whizzing past goats, donkeys, and horses in pastoral fields, I arrive in Bryan and put on a hard hat to tour **The Stella Hotel**. The

Distance: 107 miles
(1 hour, 50 minute drive)

Stay: Opened in April, **The Stella Hotel** in Bryan features farm-to-table dining, a craft cocktail bar, and spectacular star watching. Rooms start at \$135 per night. In College Station, new military-inspired **Cavalry Court** has a motor-court-style layout and a hip bar called **The Canteen**. Rooms start at \$129 per night.
thestellahotel.com; cavalrycourt.com

ad
to

property was still under construction, but my guide, general manager Peggy Trott, set the scene with buzzy phrases usually reserved for urban settings, like “seasonal farm-to-fork fare,” “a speakeasy-style bar,” and “free bike and paddleboard rentals.” Though this property would be right at home in any big city, the very thing the Stella is named after—its spectacular star-watching—could only be achieved in this type of rural location.

Post-tour, I drive through College Station to check out the globally inspired fare of **Christopher's World Grille**, recently named one of “The Top 100 Most Romantic Restaurants in America” by *Travel + Leisure*. Christopher's influences range from Italy to Asia to Mexico, and I am blown away by my order, the Zihuatanejo snapper, which comes with fresh lump crab and creamy chardonnay sauce and a rainbow of sides like spinach,

yams, and roasted tomato.

Bryan-College Station

→ RECONSIDER THE APPEAL OF THE CAPITAL OF AGGIELAND

By Madeline Hollern

For as long as I can remember, I've openly mocked **College Station**. As a liberal Austinite and University of Texas graduate, I'm irked by virtually everything about the town—its ultraconservative vibe; its small size and lack of things to do; and, of course, its residents: the fanatic, Longhorn-hating Aggies, who live for their ridiculous **Texas A&M University** traditions. (Midnight Yell practice? Really?)

So when I began receiving a flurry of emails last fall detailing a trio of cool boutique hotels that would soon debut in the Bryan-College Station area, I was skeptical. Was it possible for the homeland of all things Aggie to *actually* become a spot worth visiting? I decided to do some reconnaissance.

After driving 100 miles east from Austin, whizzing past goats, donkeys, and horses in pastoral fields, I arrive in Bryan and put on a hard hat to tour **The Stella Hotel**. The

