

WSJ

THE OFF DUTY SPRING 50

50 Origin Stories Behind Everything From eBay to the Spork

In honor of the season of rebirth, we've traced the genesis of fifty springlike designs, foods, gadgets and destinations. Plus brands you love, legendary guitars and even Elsie the Cow.

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ALL

FOOD & DRINK

DESIGN & DECORATING

ADVENTURE & TRAVEL

STYLE & FASHION

GEAR & GADGETS



FRANCISCO NOGUEIRA

Visit a New Hotel Steeped in Norwegian-American History

Throughout the 20th century, when Norwegians came to America for vacation (or forever), their voyages often began at Norwegian American Lines' stately headquarters in Oslo's port district. This spring, that building becomes a place where journeys end, not begin: the Amerikalinjen hotel. The structure's nautical heritage is a recurring motif. Pendant lamps in the hotel's 122 rooms, made by Hadeland Glassverk, are reproductions of the fixtures produced for Norwegian American's liners; and when guests sip Champagne at the hotel's Pier 42 cocktail bar (named for the ships' habitual Manhattan berth), they might do so from vintage glasses that have crossed the Atlantic countless times. *From about \$265 a night, amerikalinjen.com*

—Matthew Kronsberg