

Supersized Hotels

Suzette Laboy:

After the big game, a supertall sports star needs a big bed for their tired bodies to rest. But that can often be a problem.

Mark Boulris:

For years, decades, um, athletes have had a hard time, you know, functioning in hotel rooms comfortably.

Suzette Laboy:

Mark Boulris knows all about it; he's a former NFL player: six-four, 250 pounds. But now he and other tall guests won't have to complain: this bed is too small! Some luxury hotels are reaching out to this niche market of tall athletes by providing supersized beds in supersized rooms.

Mark Boulris:

There is, I think, a correlation between the-the-the functional comfortableness of a hotel and how people do when they're away on the road.

Suzette Laboy:

Hotel Beaux Arts in the JW Marriot Marquis in Miami has an entire floor with rooms catering to the extra tall client. The California king has an extra four inches on the average king-size bed. The vanities are also raised, which is great for Boulris, who used to have to hunch over to prevent water from splashing.

Suzette Laboy:

The hotel is just a short distance from where the Miami Heat play. Being so close to downtown Miami, hotel managers jumped on the opportunity to accommodate athletes.

Hotel representative:

Probably ninety percent of all the NBA teams have, uh, looked at the hotel.

Suzette Laboy:

A rain-style shower offers more space for tall guests at the EPIC Hotel in Miami, along with those larger beds.

Eric Jellson:

It's a very popular room. I mean, let's face it, who wouldn't want a little more room on their bed?

Suzette Laboy:

The Palms Casino Resort in Las Vegas also attracts athletes with its indoor basketball court. And over in Chicago, Hotel Monaco has been catching the attention of the sports elite for years.

Marco Scherer:

We have a lot of the players from the local, uh, Chicago Bulls, um, stay here.

Suzette Laboy:

With an indoor basketball court, larger beds, and longer bathrobes, these hotels are ready to host anyone who sees life a little bit taller than everyone else.

Suzette Laboy:

Suzette Laboy, Associated Press, Miami.

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