



THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

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HERE & THERE

Christianne Sharman

Hotels can make your stay suite

Let's talk about hotels. At the most fundamental level, a hotel is just a bed for the night. And there may be any number of reasons you're not in your own bed – some of which I don't want to hear.

So in order to differentiate one bed from another, hotels market "experiences." And I just had a good one.

My brother wanted to get married, as so many evolved, commitment-friendly men do. Accordingly, our older brother reserved a suite at the Seattle Westin to accommodate the small affair.

But when he and I arrived to set up the wedding folderol, they gave us a regular old room. It had a nice view of the sound, sure, but we were all going to have to stand on the bed during the ceremony.

One short conversation with Kyle at the front desk yielded the Royal Suite and a bowl of chocolate-covered strawberries courtesy of Camilla.

And that's how hotels make us love them.

A couple of other lodgings in the area would like to have a chance to woo and win you, and they've found their own ways of sweetening the pot.

The historic Heathman has a selection of packages meant to lure you to Portland for a couple of days.

"Girls' Night Out" welcomes you with two Cosmopolitans (they do know what the ladies like), two "Happy Feet" packages at The Barefoot Sage foot spa (they're killing you, aren't they?) and lunch at the Heathman Restaurant. You'll stay in an executive room with two double beds for \$184 per person per night.

For even more indulgence, try the "Gourmet Weekend." The \$199 per person per night price tag buys you a deluxe room for two; a \$50 gift certificate to Sur La

Table; breakfast at the Heathman Restaurant; a \$100 gift certificate for dinner at Obaf, Wildwood, Southpark Seafood Grill & Wine Bar or another Portland nightspot; a bottle of pinot noir; chocolate truffles; and the latest issues of Wine Spectator, Portland Living and Gourmet magazines.

There are more packages to be had, of course, and you can peruse your options at www.heathmanhotel.com or call (800) 551-0011.

If you can wait until May 3 for your trip to Portland, you'll have the chance to rub elbows – by proxy – with old Hollywood at the new Hotel deLuxe.

The 130-room hotel's art deco design features more than 400 photographs from the 1930s, '40s and '50s. Stroll the corridors surrounded by such glamorous folk as Clark Gable, Judy Garland, Frank Capra, Otto Preminger and Audrey Hepburn. Each floor reflects its own theme, and one is devoted entirely to Hitchcock.

Hotel deLuxe comes out of the starting gate with the "Lights Camera Action!!!" package.

(Yes, that's three exclamation marks. They're nothing if not excited.)

You'll get martinis, appetizers, a pair of silk pajamas (you'll have to split them up; bottoms for him, top for her – or however else you choose), a Sinatra CD for mood music and an "intimacy kit."

Ohhhh. That's what all the exclamation points are for.

The package runs \$350 for two people.

If you're what the package description calls a "glorious gay man," you can pony up \$425 for two people and enjoy "Over the Rainbow." It comes with a disposable camera, a walking tour map, town car service to and from the men's salon, Hair M, and a \$200 gift certificate to use when you get there.

And I bet if you're just a regular old gay man, you can get the package deal, too.

They'll take your reservation at www.hoteldeluxeportland.com or (866) 895-2094.

Finally, over in Missoula, they're now accepting guests at the brand-spanking new Hilton Garden Inn and Missoula Conference Center.

You'll find 146 rooms' worth of Herman Miller chairs, flat-screen televisions and complimentary high-speed Internet access. Find out more at www.hiltongardeninn.com or (877) 782-9444.