

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Cocktailing reason

enough for Portland weekend escape



Lobby of Hotel deLuxe

by Albert Rodriguez
SGN A&E Writer

Looking for somewhere to cocktail vigorously and show off those new Chip and Pepper jeans? Think Portland. At two and-a-half hours by car or three and-a-half hours by train (www.Amtrak.com, \$60 RT

coach, \$85 RT business), the Rose City is a terrific overnight or weekend escape from Seattle. Currently in the midst of an upscale makeover, Portland is home to great restaurants, trendy bar-lounges, numerous shopping malls and department stores, and friendly locals. The city's light rail and functional bus system allow easy and affordable access to all neighborhoods and suburbs. For Gay travelers, visit www.travel-portland.com/glb. On a recent trip to the Rose City, my itinerary consisted of nothing more than checking into a nice hotel and hitting the town for a night of all-out partying. If your inner partier beckons for an overnight or weekend-full of good times, here's where I suggest barhopping at in Portland.

STAY

Hotel deLuxe

729 SW 15th Avenue

www.hoteldeluxeportland.com

A fabulous place to begin your Portland visit is Hotel deLuxe, literally blocks from downtown's main streets and a 10-15 minute walk from Union Station. This seven-floor property brings film buffs and film icons together as it pays homage to Hollywood's Golden Age of cinema with nearly 400 movie stills in its guest rooms, hallways, and grand lobby. From Judy Garland to Alfred Hitchcock, Audrey Hepburn to Orson Welles, Ginger Rogers to Billy Wilder, and Joan Fontaine to Federico Fellini, the most prominent filmmakers of the '30s-'50s are displayed throughout Hotel deLuxe. Glitzy and glamorous, the 130-room Pearl District haven has undoubtedly become a favorite amongst Gay travelers venturing to Portland. At Hotel deLuxe, expect star treatment with spacious rooms that include firm beds and crisp linens, HDTV flatscreen televisions, complimentary business center privileges (with Internet access), high-speed wireless connections, fitness center, MP3 docking stations, choose-your-own pillow menu, and a spiritual menu that allows guests to select their in-room reading material according to their personal faiths, from Buddhist to Catholic. The service is top notch, setting is divine, very Gay-friendly atmosphere, and its centralized location puts you within steps of Portland's trendiest nightspots. For a fun-packed agenda in the Rose City, home base should definitely be Hotel deLuxe.