

February 22, 2010

Boutique Hostelries: Authentic and Eccentric Experiences

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January 21, 2010

A Sense of Provenance

A passion for hospitality typifies locally branded, small hotels around the globe, whether they are family run for several generations or part of a collection, such as Provenance Hotels, based in Portland, Oregon, with its five art-themed hotels, all with 100 rooms or so, in Portland; Seattle; Tacoma, Wash., and Nashville.

Provenance, as all boutiques, aims to provide guests with superior customer service, unique and luxurious amenities (24-hour room service, business center and Pillow Menus, among other touches) and a memorable experience.

At Provenance's hotels, that would be an educational art experience more similar to a gallery or a museum than simply viewing beautiful art on the hotel walls, says Dina Nishioka, the Provenance spokesperson.



For example Provenance's aptly named Hotel Murano in Tacoma's restored downtown, features the works of more than 45 glass artists from all over the world using various techniques.

Each guestroom floor focuses on a single artist with the entire floor telling a story about the artist and their technique.

Photos of the artist making their pieces or with their inspirations for their pieces are hung along the corridors and sketches that the artist created for the piece adorn the guestroom walls.



The Golden Age of Film is the theme at Provenance's 130-room Hotel deLuxe in downtown Portland, with its art-deco and Hollywood-40s inspired design.

Each floor is devoted to a Hollywood theme featuring almost 400 photographs from films made from the 1930s to the 1950s. The second floor, for instance, is devoted to Alfred Hitchcock. But the deLuxe, on the Conde Nast Traveler's Gold List in 2008 and 2009, is no Bates Motel.

The deLuxe, Murano and their siblings -- the Hotel Lucia, also in Portland; the Hotel Max in Seattle and the Hotel Preston in Nashville -- provide top-shelf services and quirky touches to add to the guest's experiences.

Along with the expected four-star amenities such as flat screen HDTVs, sumptuous beds and linens and top of the line Aveda bath products, guests also will find an MP3 menu along with MP3 docking stations in every room.

And there is also the "spiritual menu." "Buddhist? Taoist? Catholic? Scientologist? We have the perfect bedtime reading for you," says Nishioki.