

The essence of cool in Portland

735

*A visitor
drops in on
three of the
Rose City's
most stylish
hot spots*

By Chris Wille
Staff writer

The woman dined under a Paragon Restaurant umbrella along a sidewalk in Portland's Pearl District.

Time and again, she handed morsels from her plate to the white cockatoo perched on her left shoulder.

Later that day, we spotted an SUV with a poodle riding shotgun and wearing blue goggles.

Ah, Portland. What a cool place.

While my wife and I were there last month, we checked out the city's new boutique hotel, a hip restaurant and a stylish spa.

Hotel Lucia

The Hotel Lucia debuted in May after undergoing a top-

to-bottom makeover from its past life as the Imperial Hotel.

The tony lobby showcases the best of the hotel's collection of 680 photographs by Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer (and Oregon native) David Hume Kennerly. Two shots show Ansel Adams holding a giant antique camera and President Nixon flashing the victory sign before boarding a helicopter. Kennerly's photographs of political leaders and celebrities have appeared in Time, Newsweek and Life magazines.

The lobby is a finalist for a hotel design award. The Gold Key Award winner will be announced next month in New York.

Kennerly's black-and-white photographs also hang in the elevators, hallways and guest rooms. The small fireplace

Continued: **Portland/H4**



The Hotel Lucia in Portland features photographs by David Hume Kennerly, an Oregon native and photojournalist who was named the presidential photographer during the Ford administration.

Chris Wille
The Spokesman-Review

Portland: Spa occupies part of overhauled warehouse

Continued from H3

sitting room off the lobby holds paintings.

Overall, the hotel looks cool with a modern and minimal decor, though the mustard- and rust-colored walls and wooden blinds in our guest room created warmth.

The comfy pillow-top mattress and soft linens inspire lingering in the morning. A "pillow menu" offers guests five options, from soft to extra firm and hypoallergenic.

In the bathroom, a sleek, chrome sink sits on a small shelf of frosted glass. The black table desk and other furniture also reflect a contemporary look.

The Lucia also offers a roomy fitness center, high-speed Internet connections and a Thai restaurant called Typhoon!, which has earned

high marks from such publications as *Bon Appetit*, *Zagat* and *Sunset*.

The hotel is located in the heart of Portland's shopping and business center, at 400 SW Broadway. Rack rates for a couple start at \$195, though deals can be had. The AAA rate is \$151 weekdays and \$142 weekends. The senior rate is \$130. That final figure is also available for everyone through a special Portland program (see below).

For more information, call (877) 225-1717 or check the Internet at www.hotellucia.com.

Saucebox cafe and bar

We walked two blocks down Broadway and discovered a place called Saucebox. Since opening seven years ago, the pan-Asian bistro has attracted a hip crowd.

A line of tables sits beneath a

massive mural that my artist daughter Kristin could only describe as "surreal and weird." On this Friday night, the packed spot reverberated with loud conversation. Our table up on the mezzanine provided some relief from the din.

In 1998, the *Oregonian* newspaper selected Saucebox restaurant of the year. Once my Thai chicken curry arrived, I tasted why. The green curry with haricot verts, yellow potatoes, trumpet royals, cilantro and kaffir lime proved superb.

My wife, Susan, described her Javanese roasted salmon, with a sauce of soy, hot pepper, garlic, palm sugar and lime, as "heavenly." And our vegetarian daughter was pleased with her meal of two appetizers, the shiro miso soup and crispy sweet potato spring rolls.

Entrees range from \$8 to \$18, with starters from \$5 to \$9.