

# Seattle Post-Intelligencer



**HEALTH**  
Three ways  
that food  
labels can  
fool you  
THE YOU DOCS B10

**STARS TO  
'ER' - STAT!**  
Clooney, others return for final episodes  
LIFE AND ARTS B1



**TRAVEL**  
Portland's  
hotels range  
from classic  
to quirky  
GETAWAYS

## Quirky or classic, Portland hotels say come on down

BY DESTON NOKES  
Special to the P-I

Part of the fun of visiting a different city is being able to stay in a hotel that reflects the region's character and is central to the activities you want to experience. People who relish travel learn to avoid the cookie-cutter creations often found in the suburbs or out by the airport.

Fortunately, Portland has a fun, funky and fancy selection of downtown lodgings, from quirky to classic in a variety of price ranges, featuring impressive collections of local and national art, memorable cuisine and proximity to theaters, museums and river recreation.



Hotel deLuxe celebrates Hollywood's golden era.

### Hotel Lucia

A stunning and popular lodging choice is the Hotel Lucia. I was wowed by its lobby's collection of art, its friendly staff and the cozy library, where I found a warm fire and a guest knitting.

Throughout the hotel is a vast collection of David Hume Kennerly's photos of the Kennedy family and other world leaders, such as Leonid Brezhnev and . . . "Seinfeld's" Kramer. In the relaxing, elegantly furnished rooms, guests can choose different pillows or even select from a spiritual menu, with texts for followers of many of the most popular religions and spiritual pathways – or you can just watch TV.

Just off the lobby is Typhoon!, one of the city's finest Thai restaurants. Even better, it provides room service.



Hotel Lucia has a vast collection of David Hume Kennerly's photos

### Hotel deLuxe

Just a few blocks away is the Hotel Lucia's sister property, the newly renovated Hotel deLuxe, which takes the shimmering elegance of Hollywood's golden era and runs with it. In this rainy city, the deLuxe brightens the mood with light, alligator-textured hallway wallpaper, and buttery yellows and lime-sherbet-colored rooms.

Each floor has a classic film theme: The Rebels (adorned with photos of Ford, Wells, Kazan), the Immigrants (Wyer, Preminger and Lang) and others. In the lobby is Gracie's restaurant, as well as the Driftwood Bar, in case you don't feel like venturing out.

The Hotel deLuxe is a few blocks off Broadway, but Portland's public transit makes it easy to enjoy local foods, festivals and fun.

While Portland is easy to navigate, it's friendlier to pedestrians and bicycles. So unless you enjoy circling one-way blocks looking for elusive parking spaces, at most Portland hotels it's best to throw your keys to the valet for the duration of your stay and take the easy-to-use Max light rail and street car. Or, just take the train from Seattle. If you fly, the Max light rail goes from Portland International to downtown.