

OREGON

Secret PORTLAND



THE UNIQUE GUIDEBOOK
TO PORTLAND'S HIDDEN
SITES, SOUNDS, & TASTES

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2010 EDITION

S E C R E T
S L E E P S



The **Hotel Vintage Plaza** (422 sw Broadway, Downtown, 503-228-1212 or 800-263-2305, www.vintageplaza.com) is the place to stay if you are a wine lover. The hotel, which was built in 1894 and is on the National Register of Historic Places, has paid homage to Oregon wine by naming the rooms after various area vineyards. The décor has a vineyard theme and there are complimentary evening wine tastings. If your wallet can stand the strain, pop for a night in one of the bi-level suites with Japanese-style soaker tubs and spiral staircases.

The **Hotel deLuxe** (729 sw 15th Avenue, Downtown, 503-219-2094 or 866-986-8085, www.hoteldeluxeportland.com) is a set straight from the movies of the 1930s and 1940s — plush, a little bit art deco, a little bit sexy, and just a touch opulent. It will be easy to imagine you as the star in your own romantic moment. The hotel also features an excellent restaurant, Gracie's, and a dark, almost film noir bar, the Driftwood Room.

The newest kid on the block is the **Hotel Lucia** (400 sw Broadway, Downtown, 503-221-1717, www.hotellucia.com), most recently known as the Imperial Hotel. It was recently renovated, and the corner rooms are especially large. The hotel has all the best contemporary features, wifi, iPod docking stations, and my personal favorite — two bathrooms! Anyone who has ever waited, ahem, patiently, for their turn will adore this hotel. To make your life even easier there is a cocktail lounge (Bo's Restobar) and a Thai restaurant (Typhoon) on the ground floor. The only drawback is the 4 PM check-in, but they will hold your luggage while you go and explore the city.

The **Pony Soldier** (9901 NE Sandy Boulevard, Gresham, Oregon, 503-265-1504) is another hotel find. What's so secret about this Best Western? The warmth and service. Alan and Christine Crosby have been running the Pony Soldier for more than a decade. The staff members, who almost never seem to change, remember your name and go out of their way to be helpful. The generously sized rooms have microwaves, refrigerators, robes, irons, and comfy recliners for an end-of-the-day read. There is a pool and a hot tub, an exercise room, and a guest laundry. It's a little to the east of the city, but within two blocks of the MAX train. The Pony Soldier will also pick you up from the airport from 8 AM to 9 PM, if you call in advance.