

Sunset

LIVING IN THE WEST | HOME | TRAVEL | FOOD | GARDEN

YOUR
COMPLETE
HOLIDAY
MENU
PAGE 100

Amazing Thanksgiving desserts

Recipes your friends will beg for

Seafood
& fun on
Highway 1

Inside our
greenest
Idea House

Spice cake with
coffee toffee
crunch, orange
ribbon cheesecake,
and vanilla-bean
leaf cookies

NOVEMBER 2007

\$4.99US \$6.50CAN



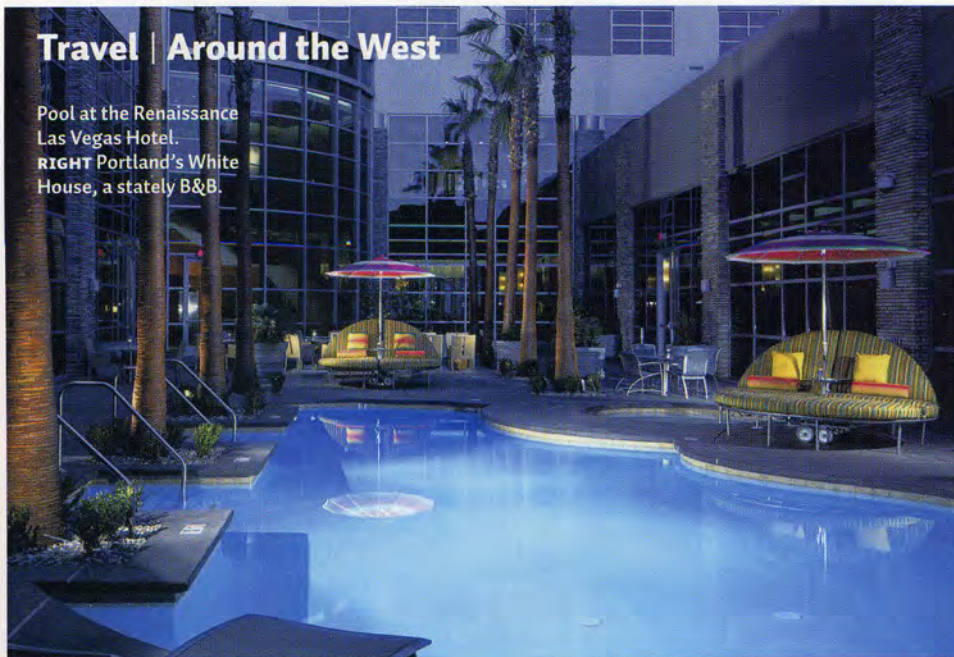
INSIDER'S GUIDE

10 city hotels too
good to keep secret

Travel | Around the West

Pool at the Renaissance Las Vegas Hotel.

RIGHT Portland's White House, a stately B&B.



second-floor suites include both kitchens and private baths.) Pensione Nichols sits above trendy First Avenue, which bustles with good restaurants and interesting boutiques—so stash your bags, take in the sights, and pat yourself on the back for scoring such a steal. *10 rooms (some with skylights only) and 2 suites from \$120, including continental breakfast; pensionenichols.com or 206/441-7125.* —**ALI BASYE**

6 SANTA FE **THE INN OF THE FIVE GRACES** You wouldn't expect that a place filled with crafts and antiques from Afghanistan, India, and Tibet would feel much like Santa Fe. But somehow the Inn of the Five Graces takes these Eastern elements and creates an experience that is Santa Fe through and through. Arrayed around courtyards and in adobe buildings, the inn is hidden away in one of the city's most historic neighborhoods, the Barrio de Analco. The rooms are rich with the textures of rough woods and the glow of vibrant colors—reds, golds, and deep blues—that suggest exotic locations but offer homey comfort. Here's a spot for anyone looking for a retreat rather than a resort. *24 rooms from \$375; fivegraces.com or 505/992-0957.* —**MATTHEW JAFFE**

7 DENVER **HOTEL TEATRO** Conveniently located in the heart of downtown—it's directly across the street from the Denver Center for the Performing Arts—the whimsical boutique-style Teatro offers plenty of

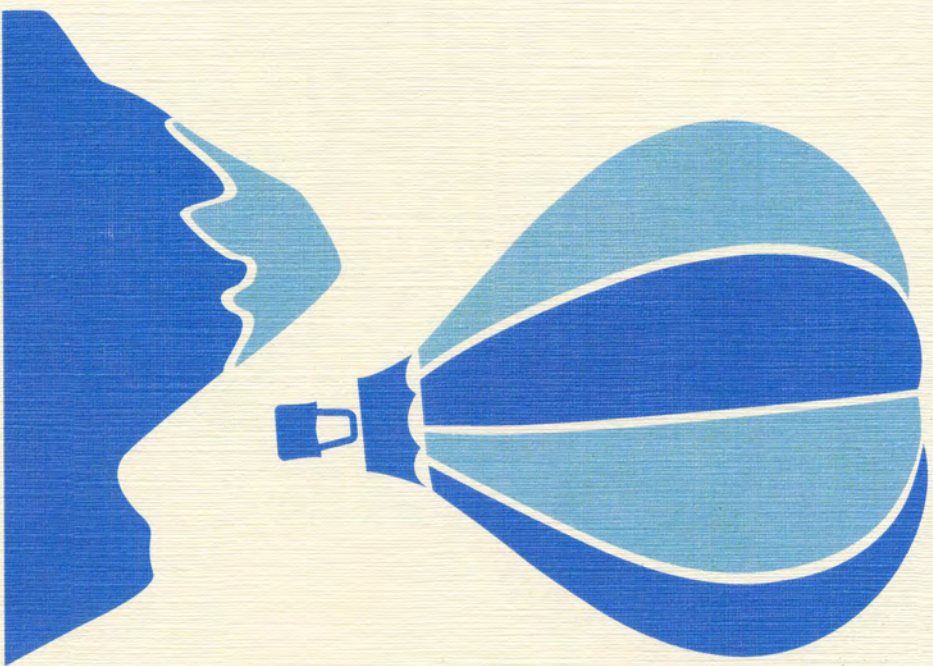
city-hotel amenities. Ensnore yourself in a room outfitted with a come-hither bed, Zen-elegant furnishings, theater photographs, and a spacious, marbled bathroom enhanced with a rain shower, flat-screen TV, and oversize tub. Venture downstairs for a preheater dinner—it's been called the best in Denver—at Restaurant Kevin Taylor (\$\$\$\$; 303/820-2600). In the morning, rise and shine to eggs over easy with warm Caprese salad under the 18-foot ceilings at the hotel's Prima restaurant (\$; 303/228-0770). *110 rooms from \$165; hotelteatro.com or 888/727-1200.* —**LORI MIDSON**

8 PORTLAND **PORTLAND'S WHITE HOUSE** Set in the historic Irvington neighborhood and surrounded by Craftsman-style homes, the inn evokes the city's graceful past, though it's mere minutes (and at the same time a world) away from downtown's hot spots. Uniquely decorated guest rooms, all with private baths, take you back: Picture four-poster beds, cherry armoires, and your great-grandmother's prized porcelain collection. Indulge in fresh ginger or Oregon berry scones during the ample breakfast service. Afterward, let the meal settle with a stroll around Irvington's quiet streets. *8 rooms from \$150, including breakfast; portlandwhitehouse.com or 800/272-7131.* —**ELISA BOSLEY**

9 VICTORIA, B.C. **FAIRHOLME MANOR BED AND BREAKFAST INN** Hidden down a lane behind ornate Victorians in the quiet Rockland

district, Fairholme is an 1885 Italianate mansion that's just a 15-minute walk from the tourist shuffle of Victoria Harbour. Owner Sylvia Main relocated from Austria and eventually opened the inn in 1999, and her gracious, sophisticated style translates into features like big guest rooms with unfussy furnishings and plenty of nooks for taking tea. The property's 1-acre garden and surrounding neighborhood also offer opportunities for strolling in grand style. In fact, you can't get more regal than Fairholme's neighbor: Government House, home to the Queen of England's representative in British Columbia, hosts visiting royalty from around the world. *5 rooms from \$137 U.S., including breakfast; fairholmemanor.com or 877/511-3322.* —**LISA TAGGART**

10 LAS VEGAS **RENAISSANCE LAS VEGAS HOTEL** The strains of Sinatra provide the only clue that you're in Sin City at the nongaming Renaissance Las Vegas. Tucked between the famous Strip and the Las Vegas Convention Center, the AAA Four Diamond Award winner—which at 548 rooms qualifies as a boutique hotel by Vegas standards—is both understated and elegant. Nonwagering types will appreciate the absence of smoke and slot machines. Request a west-facing room for a fantastic view of the golf course at the super-luxe Wynn Las Vegas Country Club. *548 rooms from \$139; renaissancelasvegas.com or 800/750-0980.* —**J.C. DAVIS**



The Inn of the Five Graces

Santa Fe, NM

Top 10 Hidden city hotels
November 2007

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