

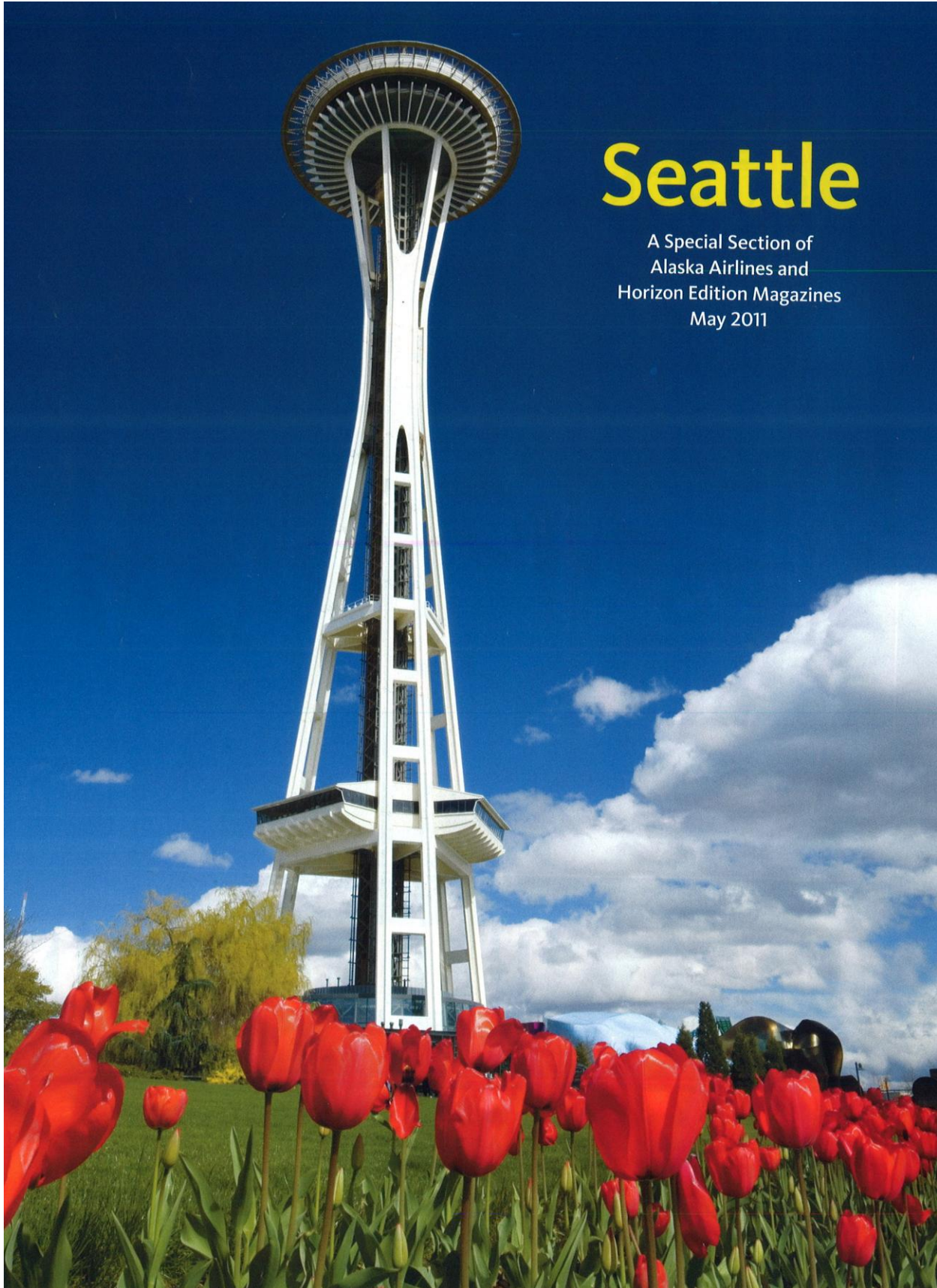
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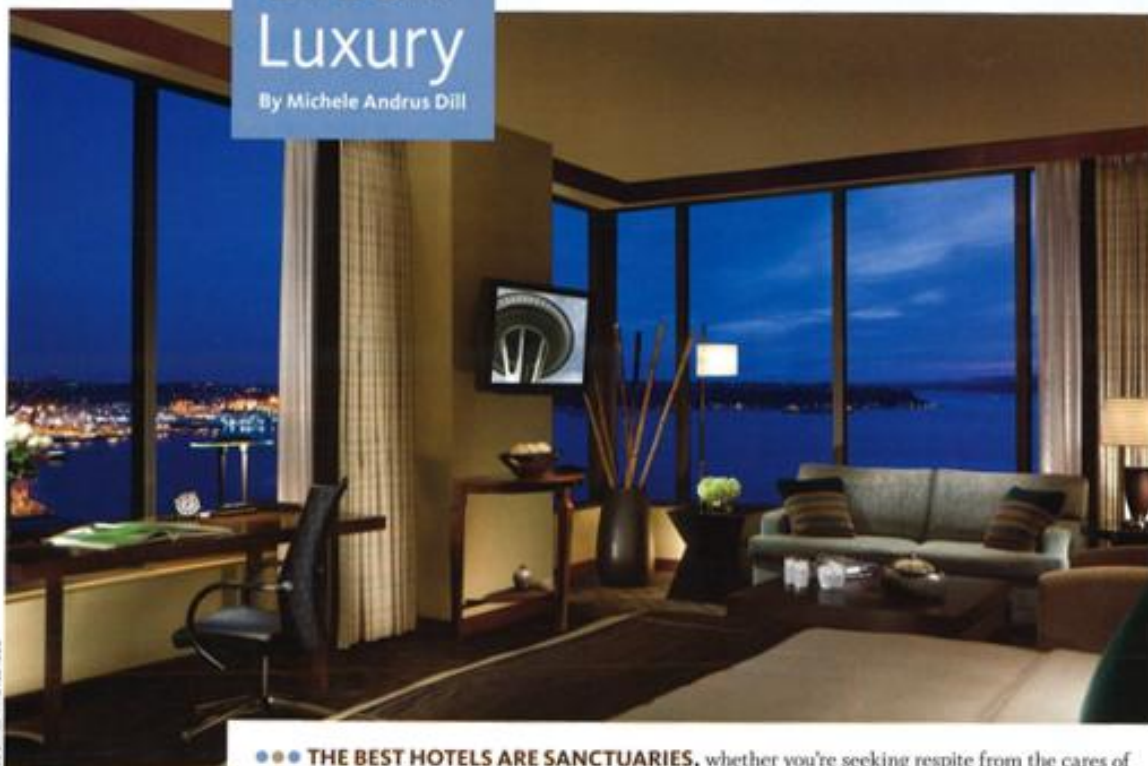


Seattle

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Urban Luxury

By Michele Andrus Dill



COURTESY: HOTEL 1000

●●● **THE BEST HOTELS ARE SANCTUARIES**, whether you're seeking respite from the cares of daily life or the press of meetings during a business trip. **Hotel 1000** and **Hotel Andra**, both in downtown Seattle, provide that sanctuary—offering serenity yet sophistication, and combining a warm and welcoming ambiance with excellent amenities. The modern, 120-room **Hotel 1000**, part of the local MTM Luxury Lodging group, was immediately embraced by discerning travelers when it opened in 2006. The popular 119-room **Hotel Andra** is a historical property built in 1926 and renovated to create upscale accommodations.

Hotel 1000

1000 First Ave., 877-315-1088,
www.hotel1000seattle.com

The first thing we notice when we enter our spacious Grand Luxe room at Hotel 1000 is that the large TV screen welcomes us by name. The second thing we notice is that it offers an extensive menu of choices, including Personal Media, World Radio and Moodz travel-experience channels.

Michael picks up the remote and sinks into a plush armchair. "Live radio streams from Madrid," he shows me. "And there are nine Moodz. Do you want Golf, Harmony, Tranquility, Unity or Escapes?"

I vote for "Escapes," and we find ourselves

experiencing a gondola ride through Venice. It's wonderful, but, actually, our room itself feels like an escape. Furnishings in colors such as rich gold, lichen green and Douglas-fir brown connote a sun-graced Northwest woodland. The south-facing picture windows provide a view of Mount Rainier. The west-facing windows showcase the Olympic Mountains and ferry traffic on Puget Sound.

Although the room is restful, it offers technological conveniences, too, such as the flat-screen TV with numerous HD channels; the media hub for device plug-ins; an electronic do-not-disturb button; an electronic doorbell; an electronically monitored mini-bar; and a two-line telephone with free local and U.S. long-distance calls via VoIP.

Creature comforts include Starbucks coffee

The restful accommodations at **Hotel 1000** include this room with a view of Elliott Bay.



The **Hotel Andra** lobby has been renovated to create a relaxing “living room.” Stairs from the lobby lead to the Loft, another appealing seating area.

and Tazo tea, arranged in baskets next to a French press, and a king-size bed with Thai linens and a silk throw. The hotel likes to acknowledge guests' special occasions, and we're delighted to see, on the large work desk, a round two-person cake with a white-chocolate “Happy Anniversary” sign perched on top. We agree to eat the cake later, but I sneak a strawberry off the vanilla frosting.

While Michael forwards to the Unity Moodz option—waves rolling onto a rocky beach—I discover the terry robes in the built-in cherrywood wardrobe, and notice that we have a four-fixture bathroom with a granite-top sink, a water closet, a glass-surround shower and a freestanding two-person soaking tub, which fills from the ceiling. A rubber ducky at the edge of the tub adds a playful touch.

I wander down to the second floor, which contains much of the hotel's 7,200 square feet of meeting space, and am enchanted by an oil painting of an amber horse on an amber background. It's one of the many original artworks on display at the hotel, whose collection also includes

an intriguing glass-sculpture installation representing bamboo, by Seattle artist Jean-Pierre Canlis.

At the atriumlike Terrace on the fourth floor, I find an ecstatic mother-of-the-bride orchestrating arrangements for a rehearsal dinner. “We wanted someplace that didn't feel like a hotel banquet room,” she says. “This is perfect.”

When I reconnect with Michael for dinner at the hotel's BOKA (Bold Original Kitchen Artistry) Kitchen + Bar, we find that our meal is also perfect. Fun lighting cycles through the colors of the rainbow as we toast each other and trade tastes of our entrees. My sea scallops, with spiced carrot mousse and cayenne-honey-glazed root vegetables, are flavorful, and Michael raves about the pan-roasted Brick Chicken, which is crispy on the outside and tender within. The Chocolate Decadence dessert—housemade chocolate sorbet and a panna cotta brownie enlivened by toffee and macadamia nuts—is surprisingly light and, not surprisingly, delicious.

We treat ourselves to dessert because we know that dinner will be followed by

exercise: a night game of golf on the Pebble Beach Golf Links course in Hotel 1000's Golf Club simulator, which offers a choice of 50 of the world's top layouts. “No swimming or ball hunting in the water hazards,” a sign reminds us.

Concierge Miles shows us how to run the golf program—including the all-important mulligan function—and notes, “We have a pro give lessons here once a week; he says it's pretty true to playing the actual courses, except for the putting.”

We like Pebble Beach's ocean views and the fact that those are virtual balls we lose to the sea on No. 8. And we blame the short game when the best we do on any hole is a double bogey.

The next morning, we burn additional calories with a stroll to nearby attractions such as the waterfront, Pioneer Square, the Seattle Art Museum and Pike Place Market, where our purchases include

several varieties of pears. Then it's back to the hotel for a leisurely game of virtual checkers on the Microsoft Surface table next to the oval gas firepit in the Studio 1000 lounge. On select evenings, hotel guests and members of the general public can enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres such as steak kabobs and truffle fries in the Studio as Seattle Art Museum curators share insights on current exhibits. On June 22, Patricia Junker, SAM's Curator of American Art, will preview "Beauty and Bounty: American Art in an Age of Exploration" (late 19th to early 20th centuries), which will be on view June 30–September 11.

Michael and I culminate our visit with a couples massage in the hotel's Spaahh, which is next to a well-appointed fitness room and his/her locker rooms with dry saunas. Pretreatment, in the Relaxation Room, we savor luscious chocolate-covered strawberries, which the spa provides for couples celebrating special occasions, and nonalcoholic Aahh...Spaahh drinks. The spa provides cocktails for everyone receiving couples treatments.

In the candlelit treatment room, massage therapist Lisa does deep-tissue work on Michael that's still so lulling, he falls asleep. My massage therapist, Brenda, combines the long, soothing strokes of a lomilomi massage with some stretching and reflexology because, she says, "You need it."

As promised, the lomilomi strokes evoke the sense of gentle waves. I feel like they're carrying my daily cares out to sea—part of the phenomenal overall escape from stress that guests experience at Hotel 1000. Room rates start at \$259.