

Newsletter

4/2006



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



Please distribute this newsletter to your colleagues,
and ask them to send us a mail if they want to sign up
for our quarterly Newsletters.

CALIFORNIA TOURISM CENTER

www.visitcalifornia.com



California State Parks

California State Parks has launched a new web-site: www.store.parks.ca.gov. Here you can buy maps, passes, books and guides to get your guest ready for vacation.

Digital California Drives Guide

Ready to start planning your next California vacation. Why wait?

The **2006 Official State Visitor's Guide and Travel Planner** is available online in a fantastic digital format. The new Visitor's Guide contains a number of special sections from outdoor recreation to food and wine as well as a State and regional maps. There are thousands of listing for attractions, lodging, public lands, and visitor information.

Find it on www.visitcalifornia.com

DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, www.yosemitepark.com

One Park, Four Seasons, Countless Adventures!
Open year round, Yosemite offers outdoor adventures through all four seasons, the various areas of the Park and for all levels of activity. From easy self-tour bike rides to strenuous multi-day guided backpacking trips, from a child's first ski lesson to a rock climber's ultimate challenge, Yosemite has it all. Explore this site as you plan your visit -and get the most out of Exploring Yosemite!



Los Angeles maps

Can be downloaded on www.seemyla.com/mapsandguides_maps.aspx

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SAN FRANCISCO

www.onlyinsanfrancisco.com

SanFRANCISCO[™]
Convention & Visitors Bureau



Is representing Team San Francisco in the Nordic countries – providing information about spectacular attractions, hotels, transportation and entertainment. We provide the travel industry with brochures, tourist guides, maps and general information. We organize fam and press tours as well as in house training seminars, workshops and support in planning of programs

Print you own map

It is now possible to print maps from the web-site www.onlyinsanfrancisco.com/maps

PARTNERS OF TEAM SFO SCANDINAVIA as pr. December 2006

- **City Pass San Francisco** www.citypass.com/city/sanfrancisco
- **Embassy Suites SFO Airport - On the Bay!**
www.embassysuites.com/en/es/hotels/index.jhtml?ctyhocn=SFOBGES
- **Extranomical Adventures Inc,** [http://www.extranomical.com/!](http://www.extranomical.com/)
- **Handlery Union Square** www.handlery.com
- **Hornblower Cruises & Event** www.hornblower.com
- **Joie de Vivre Hospitality** www.jdvhospitality.com
- **Pier 39** www.pier39.com
- **Renoir Hotel** www.renoirhotel.com
- **San Francisco International Airport** www.flysfo.com
- **Sheraton Fisherman's Wharf** www.sheratonatthewharf.com
- **The Wax Museum at Fisherman's Wharf** www.waxmuseum.com

THINGS GOING ON...

100 Restaurants Participate in Sixth Annual San Francisco Dine About Town Jan. 1-31, 2007

Foodies everywhere are already planning their pilgrimages to San Francisco for January 2007.. One hundred of San Francisco's finest restaurants will offer three-course prix-fixe menus at \$ 21.95 for lunch and/or \$ 31.95 for dinner. A la carte menus will be available as well. Available exclusively to Visa cardholders, "Dine About Town" gives diners the rare opportunity to try out hot new restaurants and revisit some favorites at tempting prices. The site www.onlyinsanfrancisco.com will list all of the participating "Dine About Town" restaurants, searchable by cuisine and location, and reservations can be made online through a partnership with OpenTable.com. The "Dine About Town" site will also include a link to a collection of "Dine-N-Stay" hotel packages, to make a dining experience into a full-fledged getaway.

Ferry Building Line

Three Audio Tours. Three Bridges. Three Islands. One Cruise.
The Ferry Building Line offers three different audio tours in one 90-minute cruise. Depart from the San Francisco Ferry Building cruise along the waterfront, past the San Francisco Giants ballpark, the Bay Bridge, Treasure Island, Alcatraz Island, Yerba Buena Island and the San Francisco skyline. Several daily departures Wednesday thru Sunday from Gate E at the San Francisco Ferry Building



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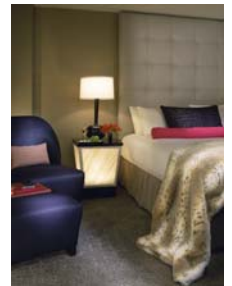


KIMPTON NEWS

www.kimptonhotels.com

NEW HOTELS:

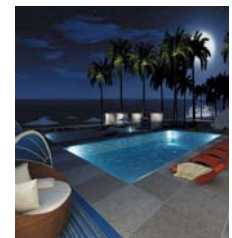
Our new **Hotel Palomar Washington DC** is now open and ready for your guests! Located in Dupont Circle, the hotels is alive with the vibrance and artistic passion many have come to expect from the Palomar name. While there, enjoy a well crafted meal at our partner restaurant, **Urban**. At the Hotel Palomar, life is "Art in Motion".



Hotel Monaco and **The Morrison House** both located in Old Town Alexandria, 15 minutes by train to Washington DC. A charming little town with warmly lit streets, inviting shops and tantalizing restaurants. Alexandria is the perfect place to slow down and enjoy time.



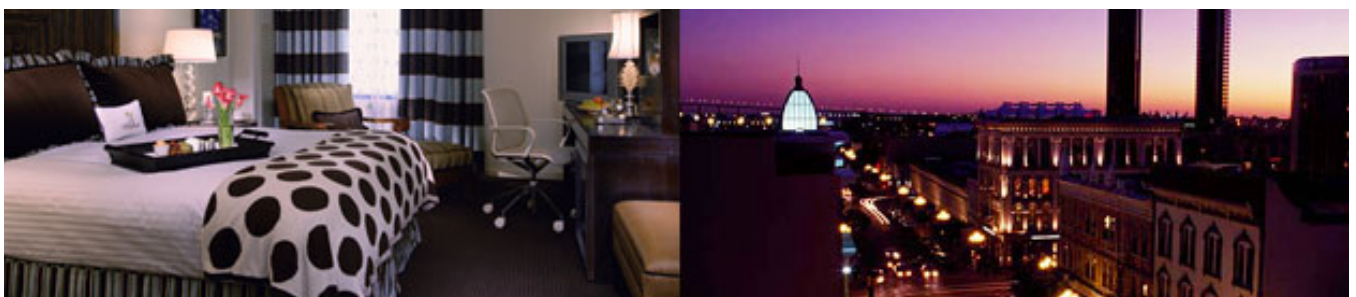
We are happy to announce that **Solé On the Ocean Resort & Spa, Florida** will open in spring 2007. Located in Sunny Island, just north of Miami Beach, the 250 room Solé On the Ocean will captivate your guests with its soaring desing and lush architectural elements, such as two-story lobby facing the ocean and magnificent balconies. The 23-story high-rise resort will feature rooms with floor-to-ceiling windows. Guests can enjoy the beautiful pool overlooking the ocean and enjoy massage in the luxe spa. Guests can also indulge in cocktails while viewing a magical Florida sunset right from the hotels beachfront snack bar.



MONTICELLO INN. The Monticello Inn is no longer a Kimpton Hotel

HOW DO I BOOK THE HOTELS?

The hotels can be booked via receptive/incoming operators, Allied TPro (Lifestyles program), Bonotel, EuroUSA, Hotelbeds, GTA/Gullivers, FM Tours, Mark Travel Corporation, New World Travel, BAH plus all GDS systems (code KC)



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WASHINGTON DC & THE CAPITAL REGION

www.capitalregionusa.org



VIRGINIA

For those who like to enjoy the good life when they travel, Virginia offers everything from pulse-quickenning boat races to palette-pleasing wine trails to luxurious spas and beaches that are even better at this time of year – all set against the backdrop of the upcoming **America's 400th Anniversary in 2007**. Come, sink your teeth in a freshly picked Virginia apple, watch the world inboard championships, hear fancy guitar pickin' and experience the heart of small-town America during the colorful parade of fall foliage.

100 Miles of Lights

What? It's called 100 Miles of Lights and follows I-64 from Virginia Beach to Richmond and is rated in the Top 100 Events in North America by the American Bus Association! When? Nov. 17 through Jan. 1, 2007. Why? To invite you to an enlightened Holiday Season in Virginia!



WASHINGTON DC

Whats going on:

Jan.-June 2007: Shakespeare in Washington

A six-month salute to all things Shakespeare, celebrated in theatre, art, music, opera and special events and activities. The groundbreaking celebration honors the 75th anniversary of the Folger Shakespeare Library and is chaired by Kennedy Center president Michael Kaiser and Shakespeare Theatre Company artistic director Michael Kahn.

www.Shakespeareinwashington.org

Mar. 31-Apr. 15: National Cherry Blossom Festival

Washington, DC's signature springtime event showcases the beautiful cherry trees that dot the Tidal Basin and celebrates cultural connections between the people of Japan and the people of the United States. This year's festival marks the 95th anniversary of Japan's gift of the cherry trees to the people of the United States. The parade of the National Cherry Blossom Festival will take place Saturday, April 14. www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org



Apr. 9: White House Easter Egg Roll

This annual tradition dates back to 1878 and President Rutherford B. Hayes. Children ages 3 to 6 frolic on the South Lawn searching for more than 24,000 wooden eggs that have been hidden throughout the grounds. There is also an Easter celebration at the Ellipse including entertainment, music, storytelling and food giveaways for the whole family to enjoy. Tickets are required for the event and are usually distributed the weekend prior, with some reserved for the morning of the event. www.Whitehouse.gov



What's New in Washington, D.C.

Updated information

US Capitol Tours Continue

Guided tours of the US Capitol Building are conducted from 9 am until 4:30 pm Monday through Saturday, including federal holidays and excluding Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Visitors must obtain free tickets for tours on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 9 am each morning at the West front of the Capitol facing the National Mall.

Pentagon Tour Update

Due to heightened security, the Pentagon is no longer offering public or walking tours. Currently, only groups associated with churches, schools, and military and government institutions are allowed to schedule tours.

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White House Tours Update

Tours of the White House have been expanded from school, youth, military and veterans' groups to include any groups of ten. Groups of ten should submit a request through their Embassy in Washington D.C. at least one month and up to six months in advance. The tours are self-guided and will run from 7:30 to 11:30 am Tuesday through Saturday.

MARYLAND

Maryland Is a Merry-land!

The State of Maryland is a fantastic place to spend the holidays. No matter how you prefer to celebrate the season, you'll find a fun and festive atmosphere throughout the state.

Activities in this document are listed in the following categories:

- Holiday Light Displays
- Lighted Boat Parades
- Holiday Celebrations at Museums, Attractions and Historic Sites
- Small-Town Charms
- New Year's Eve Festivities

Find more information on www.capitalregionusa.org



Arundel Mills Voucher

You can now print your own voucher for your guests. The voucher will give them a free coupon book, with valuable savings at many of the top shops. Contact us for more information.



Arundel to get two Hotel Indigos

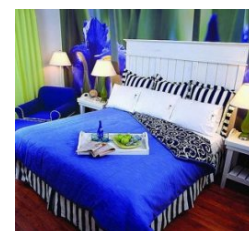
Executives at InterContinental Hotels Group PLC have targeted Anne Arundel County for its upstart boutique concept and have plans to open two Hotel Indigos there by early 2008.

A **150-room Hotel Indigo is slated to open in Linthicum**, just south of Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport. Another **Hotel Indigo, with 140 rooms, will open in Hanover, facing Arundel Mills mall.**

The news follows InterContinental's announcement earlier this year that it will open a **130-room Hotel Indigo in downtown Baltimore**, at the corner of Redwood and Calvert streets, by September 2007.

InterContinental bills Hotel Indigo as "hip, cool, lifestyle hotels." To date, there are just six Hotel Indigos in the U.S., in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Houston and Sarasota, Fla. Boutique hotels tend to be smaller, offer more personalized service and emphasize design as a way to distinguish themselves from, say, a 500-room hotel that is outfitted in neutral colors. Room rates for the hotels will average between \$140 to \$170 per night, though that rate might be higher in downtown Baltimore.

www.hotelindigo.com



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BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA: Hip, Cool and Retro!

www.bloomingtonmn.org

Bloomington is a convenient city for anyone wanting to explore the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Fly into the MSP Airport and stay at one of the 34 hotels Bloomington has to offer. Almost every Bloomington hotel features free parking and shuttle service to the International Airport and Mall of America.

Take the **Light Rail Transit** downtown Minneapolis to First Avenue or as the locals call it "first ave." (There is a Light Rail stop three blocks away.) **Prince**, a Minneapolis native has played here in the past along with many more famous musicians. For more information on First Avenue and Prince visit www.first-avenue.com

The new place in town to socialize would be the **Chambers Hotel Bar**, located in downtown Minneapolis. This sleek and modern establishment has art from the owner's personal collection hanging on the walls. Be prepared, only the best looking and best dressed can get in so wear your designer pumps. www.chambersminneapolis.com

The Chanhassen Dinner Theater is a place where you can enjoy fine dining while enjoying an amazing theatrical experience. Some of the shows that are featured are, "Singing in the Rain", "West Side Story", "Grease" and "The Musical of Musicals."



Mall of America offers several exclusive stores not replicated anywhere else within the regional market. These include: Paiva, a premium athletic specialty store offering an upscale shopping experience for active women, Local Charm, a boutique jewelry collection of local, national and international artisans, and Metropark, the shopping experience for today's trendsetting young adults, blending fashion, music and art.

Bloomington's new **The Big Ticket™** bundles admissions for popular attractions in a three day pass providing a memorable experience for visitors for less money (30% savings). Participating attractions include The Park at MOA®, Underwater Adventures® Aquarium, the Science Museum of Minnesota, Minnesota Zoo and Great Clips® IMAX® Theater, plus several value added offers including metroConnections Twin Cities Highlights Tour, Valleyfair, Water Park of America and Mall of America's Super Savings Coupon Book. The Big Ticket™ is available for purchase at www.bloomingtonmn.org. This is the only attractions pass of its kind in Minnesota.

What's going on:

[World's Largest Gingerbread House at Mall of America®](#)

Mall of America® kick's off the holiday season with the creation of the world's largest gingerbread house. The gingerbread house will stand more than 60 feet tall and consist of 14,250 pounds of gingerbread. Guests will be able to walk through the house and experience a magical gingerbread factory complete with animated elves.



Brochure download

Mall of America brochures can be downloaded from www.moainformation.com. Here is also a new "Group Travel Planner" which is specifically for Tour Operators, information on the Cupon Book, Meet & Greet Service ect.

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MEET US

City:	Date	Show:
Oslo	11 – 14 January 07	Reiseliv
Stockholm	16 th January 07	See America Event
Helsinki	17 th January 07	Longhaul Workshop
Helsinki	18 – 21 January 07	Matka
Copenhagen	26 – 28 January 07	Ferie07
Reykjavik	08 – 11 February 07	MidAtlantic
Herning	23 – 25 February 07	Ferie for alle
Berlin	07-10 March	ITB
Göteborg	22 – 25 March	TUR 2007



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