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OCTOBER 2012

NORTHWEST TRAVEL AWARDS!

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2012 Northwest

TRAVEL Awards!

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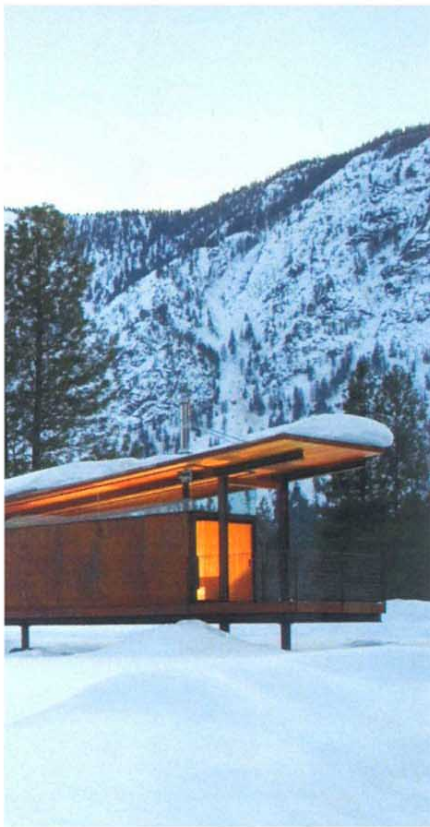
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\$4.99

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The Mobile Hotel (on Land)

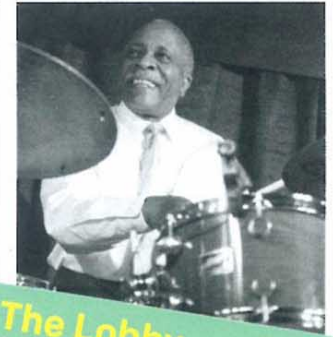
ROLLING HUTS HERD

WINTHROP, WA

Technically, you're spending the night in an RV park. This "herd" is six 200-square-foot structures balanced on wheels, per the local zoning laws. But the huts are hardly Winnebagos: These steel-and-wood contraptions were designed by Seattle architect Tom Kundig, winner of some 37 American Institute of Architects awards. And the Corten steel wheels haven't actually rolled since the 2008 opening.

The huts face the expansive Methow Valley, carefully positioned so each seems utterly isolated. Inside, morphing furniture units transform the narrow space from living room to bedroom. Wood for the sleek fireplace is sheltered under the unit, but Methow winters require additional electric heat—there's enough snow here to allow cross-country skiing right from the front porch. As remote as the site feels, meals at Kelly's restaurant are hardly provincial; the menu rotates Irish, Mexican, and Spanish specials. All the grub is organic, all the ice cream is housemade, and the bar mixes a mean cocktail. Not bad for an "RV park" on the North Cascades Highway.

18381 Highway 20, Winthrop, WA, 509-996-4442;
rollinghuts.com



The Lobby Soundtrack

THE OXFORD HOTEL
 BEND, OR

What's a former president of the Portland Trail Blazers to do in a town without arena sports? Start a jazz series, naturally, as Marshall Glickman did by bringing scatting to a new ubergreen hotel in Bend. The third annual season of concerts, which runs October to March, expects to match past sellouts. 10 NW Minnesota Ave, Bend, OR, 541-382-8436; oxfordhotelbend.com/jazz-at-the-oxford.htm

The Canadian Sophisticate

ROSEWOOD HOTEL GEORGIA AND
 HAWKSWORTH RESTAURANT

VANCOUVER, BC

Everything is shiny, because almost everything in the hotel and restaurant is new or renovated. In the lobby, it's a glistening stone floor; in the driveway, it's the reflections of the pool above (yep, you can see the water through geometric skylights). It took four years to restore the downtown Vancouver property to its 1920s glamour, but now it finally lives up to its neighbors, the castlelike Fairmont Hotel Vancouver and the neoclassical Vancouver Art Gallery. Katharine Hepburn once strode this dark-wood lobby, demanding room service—not available until the moment she asked for it.

Shiniest of all is Hawksworth Restaurant, where an oval art deco chandelier looks like a bathtub fashioned of crystal. The chatter of Vancouver's young and fashionable fills the dining room, and even the menu sparkles with stylish wit: The "KFC" in the scallops starter stands for Korean fried cauliflower. Chef David Hawksworth has enough humor to mount a line drawing of his own backside in one of the restaurant stairwells (but keeping with his standards, it's really an exceptionally drawn piece of art).

801 W Georgia St, Vancouver, BC, 604-682-5566;
rosewoodhotels.com



GREAT WATERFALLS

Multnomah Falls

Thirty minutes outside Portland and with a parking lot that sits between lanes of traffic—viewing this skinny 542-footer is easy peasy. Corbett, OR

Snoqualmie Falls

Our local waterworks are all pretty foam on top but hide underground power generators below. Snoqualmie, WA

Shoshone Falls

Frankly, we don't consider our roaring crescent the "Niagara of the West." Niagara is the Shoshone of the East. Twin Falls, ID

Della Falls

Canada's tallest falls, located in remote Vancouver Island, takes a lot of work, a boat ride and a hike, to see. Port Alberni, BC

Sol Duc Falls

The three-fingered wonder comes with a bonus, the mossy grandeur of the Olympic rain forest that surrounds it. Olympic National Park, WA