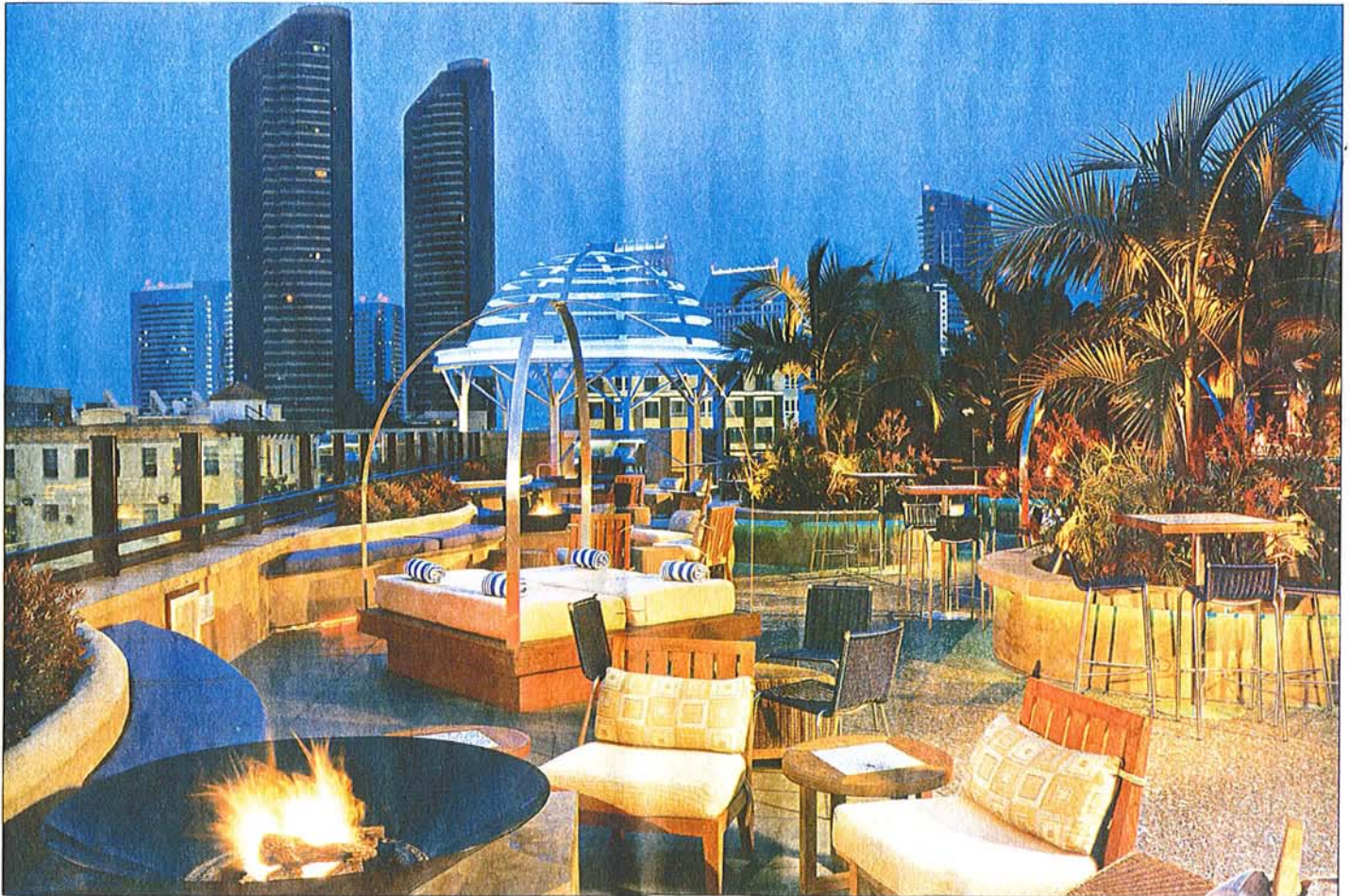


Bonus Section

Smart travel

Wednesday, September 28, 2005



Kimpton Hotel & Restaurant Group

Kick back and relax: The Hotel Solamar in San Diego has a rooftop bar and restaurant, Jbar, that serves as a tropical oasis and features city views. Other, similar boutique hotels are springing up in urban areas.

Hotels spend big to lure guests

By Roger Yu
USA TODAY

Upgrades range from high-tech gadgetry to in-room spa treatments

Cover story

Unique offerings keep guests happy, relaxed

From iPod docking stations to Wi-Fi, rooms brim with tech delights

Hotels get even high-techier to woo customers

More boutique hotels, such as the ones operated by Kimpton Hotel & Restaurant Group, market to travelers with refined tastes and are sprouting up in hip, urban areas. New brands, aiming to capture younger spenders, are also in the works.

Play time By Megg Mueller Schulte
USA TODAY

Kimpton Hotels has specialty suites built around technological themes. The Hotel Rouge in Washington offers the Chill room and the Chat room. The Chill has two Sony Wega TVs, a PlayStation 2 with access to a game library, a CD player, plus chairs or chaise to make game playing more comfortable. The Chat room has a flat-screen computer monitor and unlimited Wi-Fi, perfect for those long messaging sessions.

By Kelly DiNardo
Special for USA TODAY

► **Kimpton hotels.** During the complimentary morning "power hour" in the lobby of Washington, D.C.'s Topaz Hotel, shots of flavored potions infused with vitamin B or ginseng are served daily.

As part of 5th Avenue Suites' pet-friendly program, the Portland, Ore., hotel brings in a pet psychic on the last Friday of each month. Readings are complimentary, or owners can set up a private, 10-minute visit for \$30.

Guests at The Hotel Burnham in Chicago might want to check out the complimentary pillow library. Visitors can choose from a plethora of pillows, including one that reduces snoring or another filled with buckwheat to stimulate acupressure points.