BELLINGHAM ALIVE

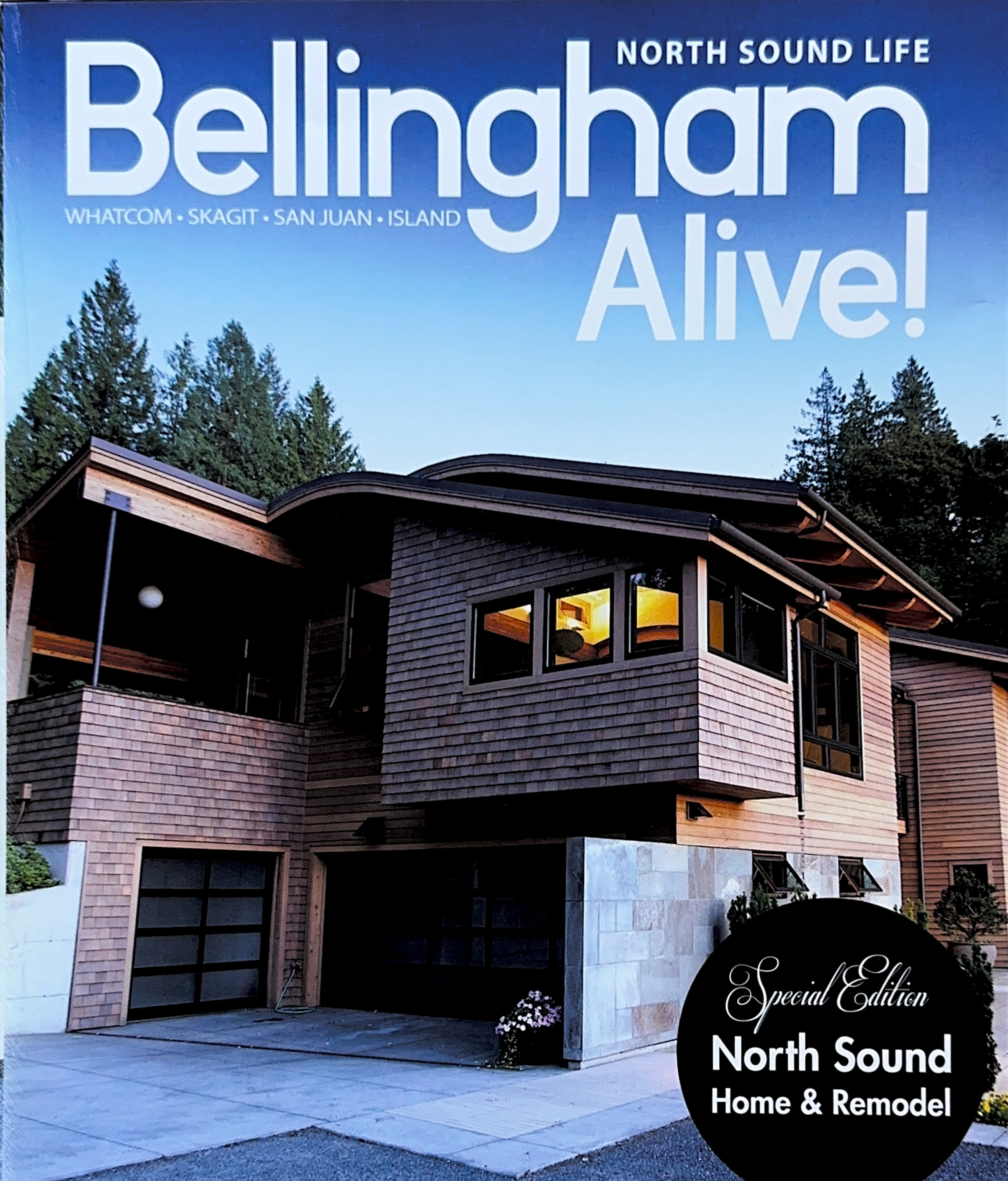
HOME & REMODEL | DREAM WEEKENDS

FEBRUARY | MARCH 2013

NORTH SOUND LIFE

Bellingham Alive!

WHATCOM • SKAGIT • SAN JUAN • ISLAND



Special Edition

North Sound Home & Remodel

Display until March 31, 2013

$3.99 US $4.99 CAN

0 2>

0 74470 25492 8

5 Fabulous Dream Weekends | Dining Hot Spot: Cassoulet Cafe | Cheeks: Getting to the Bottom of it

Northsoundlife
.com

North Puget Sound...
We have you covered!

Shop.
Savvy Shopper
Neccesities
Beauty Essentials



Dine.
Restaurant Reviews
Recipes
Entertaining



Live.
In The Know
5 Favorites
Home & Remodel
Home Search
On The Town
Wellbeing
Travel & Outdoors

Lisa Gresham



Lisa Gresham is the adult services coordinator for the Whatcom County Library System. She blogs about what's new in the world of books at www.wcls.org/book-buzz. The book titles reviewed are all available for reserve in the Whatcom County Library System/Bellingham Public Library shared catalog.



Diane Padys

Diane has spent a career making beautiful things more beautiful with her photography. She has lived in San Francisco, Milan, New York and Seattle, photographing food, fashion and other fabulous subjects. She now resides in Bellingham, doing commercial photography and environmental portraiture.

Tanna Barnecut



Tanna Barnecut, owner of TANNA BY DESIGN, specializes in residential and commercial remodels and new construction design. Born in Montana and raised in Yakima, Tanna has always had an affinity for elements of structural design and aesthetics. Her notable skill in conceptual design has earned her a reputation on both sides of the Cascade range (splitting her time between Snohomish and Yakima), and her work was recently awarded during the Central Washington Home Builders *Tour of Homes*.



Leah DeAngelis

Leah DeAngelis currently lives in the Pacific Northwest, which is likely to be permanent as she finds the community, availability of organic food and majestic natural beauty to be irresistible and well worth the rain. She is passionate about healthy and artful living. Travel has been a driving force in her life, leading her to Japan, Europe, Central and South America, North Africa and almost every state in the United States.

Dream Weekends

Who hasn't dreamed of getting away for a weekend to escape the everyday? We feature five getaways – from rustic chic to the ultimate in urban luxury – sure to lift you out of your rut. Put these dream weekends on your bucket list or simply kick back and daydream.





Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop

The Chrysalis Inn

Location: Bellingham
Website: www.thechrysalisinn.com
Rooms: 43
Rates: $229-$334
Best features: Spacious soaking tubs, fireplace, window seats showcasing magnificent views
Amenities: Full-service spa, Wi-Fi, continental breakfast, secure underground parking, iPod dock

The most luxurious hotel in the Bellingham area, The Chrysalis Inn steals your heart the moment you step into the lobby. A blend of warm honey-stained wood, exposed beams, natural slate tile and open-concept architecture capture the spirit of the Pacific Northwest perfectly. It only gets better when you open the door to your room.

Standard rooms are referred to as "deluxe" and they are deluxe indeed with the emphasis on luxe. Resembling suites, they come with soaking tubs and fireplaces and a large window with a phenomenal view of Bellingham Bay and the San Juan Islands as a focal point. The room has a modern earthy vibe and the decor is elegant. Granite counter tops, wood floors and down comforters all lull you into relaxation. Soaking in the tub while looking out this window and enjoying a fire all at once is divine. A separate slate shower feels simultaneously rustic and luxurious, contemporary fixtures are sleek; Japanese shoji doors close off the bathroom should you want privacy.

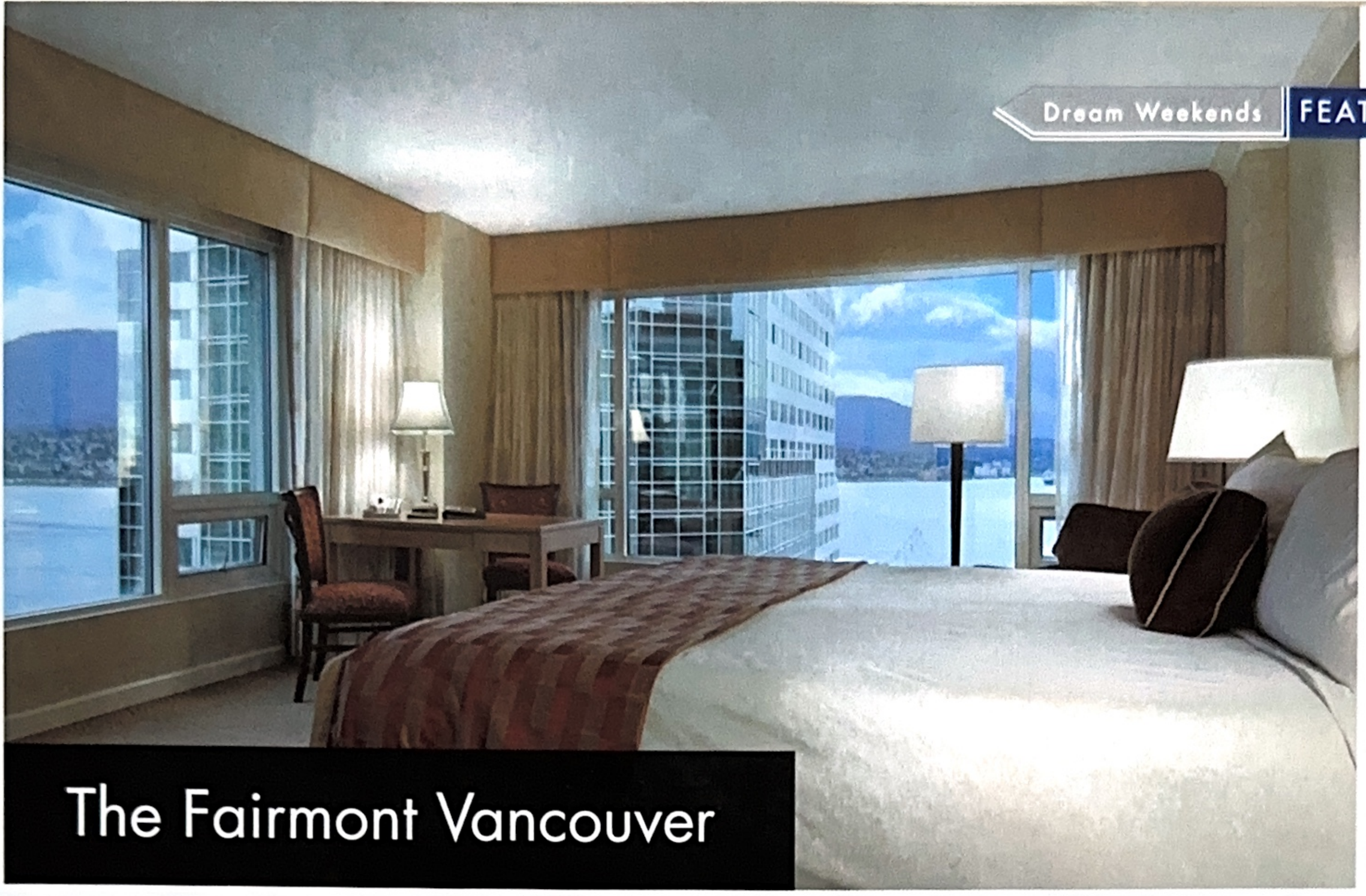


Slip on your robe and head downstairs to the spa for a massage or various spa treatments for some extra pampering. A eucalyptus steam room is available to all guests, as is a lovely waiting area to read and enjoy the fireplace and soothing waterfalls on the other side of the wall-sized window.

The onsite restaurant, Keenan's on the Bay, is newly acquired by the hotel and has undergone a menu, bar and staff change. Look for more local and organic fare in 2013 as the new chef plans to incorporate these concepts throughout the menu. In warmer weather, outside dining is available on the veranda. Binoculars line the windowsills for spotting wildlife or getting a closer look at boats and distant islands.

The Chrysalis is in an ideal location for shopping in the historic Fairhaven district or heading into downtown Bellingham. Many restaurants and coffee shops are within walking distance as are trails for hiking and biking. A fabulous boardwalk runs right in front of the hotel which you can follow to Boulevard Park or all the way downtown.

– Leah DeAngelis



The Fairmont Vancouver

Location: Vancouver
Website: fairmont.com/waterfront-vancouver
Rooms: 489 rooms, 29 suites
Rates: $229-$334
Best features: Spectacular views, eco-friendly hotel, rooftop pool and gardens
Amenities: 24-hour gym, free Wi-Fi for President's Club members (free sign up), valet parking, pet friendly, complimentary bicycles

For a delicious blend of nature and city, visit The Fairmont Waterfront, where you are surrounded by stunning views of tall skyscrapers, water and mountains in equal parts. A wonderful choice for the eco-minded with award-winning environmental policies and programs, this hotel offers free parking and charging for electric vehicles.

Several factors make this hotel a real charmer. The staff is incredibly accommodating and friendly and the amenities are excellent. The most charming thing about the Fairmont Waterfront is the rooftop garden consisting of fruit trees, vegetables, salad greens, herbs and a thriving bee colony. This takes the concept of the urban garden to an exciting level and is a brilliant green initiative.

Apparently, there are rooftop gardens all over Vancouver. The bee colony needs a good four acres to forage, and they have no problem getting what they need to thrive up there. The Fairmont has about 700 pounds of honey on hand at the moment. Cute little jars of honey are available for guests to enjoy with their morning toast and tea, as well as yummy homemade chocolates with honey and lavender and rosemary grown on the roof, and a signature cocktail, the Honey Basil Collins.

Rooms are modern and spacious, views are spectacular and the decor is contemporary. A 47-inch flat screen television (though not as interesting as looking out the window) is there for entertainment, and an extra large dark wood credenza, beautiful amber mercury glass lamps and totem inspired artwork make the place feel cozy. Tea kettles in addition to coffeemakers are in the room, along with a minibar.

The Fairmont promotes and supports a healthy lifestyle. Hotel Manager Ian Pullan gives guided three-mile runs every morning. The gym is open 24 hours a day, and President Club members (free sign-up) have fitness clothing available so you don't even have to worry about packing workout clothes. The hotel's restaurant, Herons West Coast Kitchen + Bar, serves up healthy fare, and in the summer, 25 percent to 30 percent of the food on the menu is organic.

After a cozy night's sleep in their cushy cloud-like beds, you can start your day with a bike ride around the seawall. President's Club members can get complimentary bikes and helmets for the whole family, and they even give you water bottles. You pick them up right at the hotel, along with homemade granola bars if you like, and head off for a bike ride you will never forget. The views are magnificent. Away from traffic the six-mile loop feels very safe for young children. All along the way you'll take in sights such as the beautiful totem poles at Brockton Point, Lion's Gate Bridge, sea planes taking off and landing. If a break is in order, concession stands along the way provide food and drink. When you're done, you can head back to the Fairmont for a dip in the pool or a soothing soak in the hot tub.

– *Leah DeAngelis*

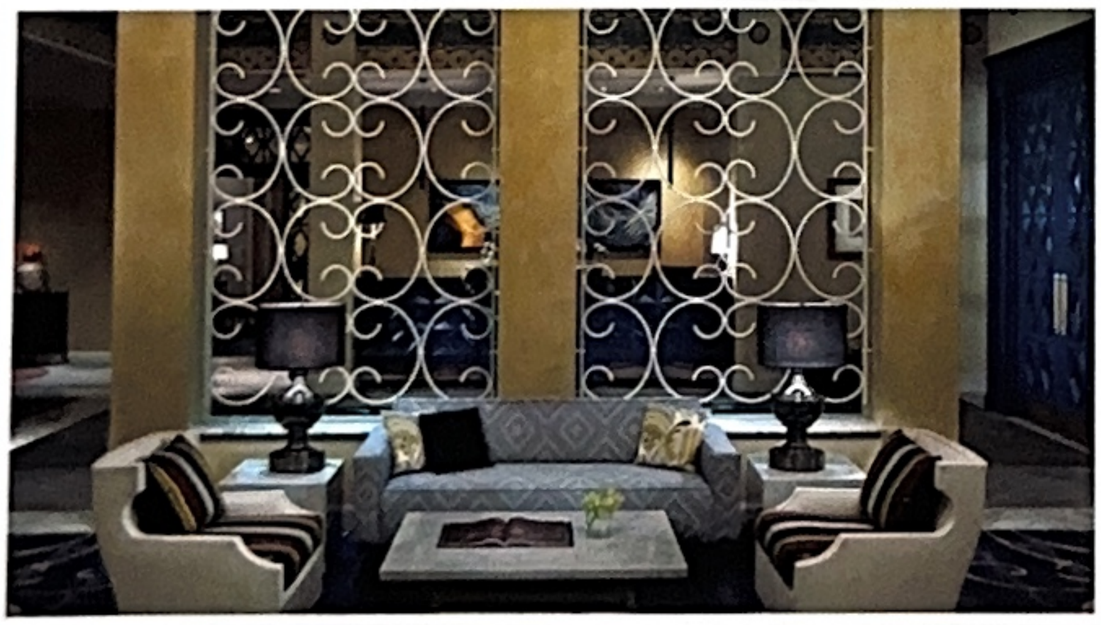


Hotel Monaco

Location: Seattle
Website: monaco-seattle.com
Rooms: 152 rooms, 37 suites
Rates: $169-$479
Best features: Vibrant atmosphere, character.
Amenities: Pet friendly, complimentary bicycles, gym, valet parking, free Wi-Fi for In Touch members (free sign-up), Japanese soaking tubs in some rooms

While Seattle is only a short drive from most points in Snohomish County, the opportunity to experience the city from a central downtown location turns the trip into a true getaway. Hotel Monaco is an eco-friendly, four-star boutique hotel brimming with individuality and charm. Showcasing works from local artists and featuring Friday night magic shows are examples of how this hotel creates a memorable atmosphere that is both relaxing and festive.

You can have an exciting weekend in the city with easy access to the theater, museums and fabulous dining. The hotel is in a great location for Seattle attractions like Pike Place Market, Pioneer Square and the waterfront. Just a few blocks away, you can hop on the Monorail and head for the Pacific Science Center, Experience Music Project and the Space Needle.



Children and pets are more than welcome and the Monaco goes out of its way to make every family member feel special. Gold fish are available upon request at check in to keep you company in your room and fun animal-print robes are in all rooms and are available for purchase should you get too attached. Rooms are spacious and colorful, and some have jetted Japanese soaking tubs. With the dimmable bathroom lights, you get a soothing spa vibe after a bustling city day in Seattle.

At 5 p.m. there is a complimentary wine hour in the lobby, featuring local wines and beverages to unwind from your day and get you energized for the evening. Sazerac, the Monaco's restaurant, utilizes local, seasonal and organic foods. If you are visiting with children, sitting at the Chef's counter where you can get in on the action is great fun, the chefs are super friendly and eager to please. It can get busy, so be sure to make reservations. Other fabulous dining options are within walking distance, like The Pink Door in Post Alley, which is excellent and unusual, and a stop at Macrina Bakery on First Avenue for some artisan delicacies is always in order.

Not many hotels have this much personality; the Monaco is a destination in and of itself. If you like some character along with your luxury, check it out. They offer discounts for those who take the train, special packages, and are very fond of their Washington guests with promotions just for locals.

– Leah DeAngelis



West Beach Resort

Location: Orcas Island
Website: westbeachresort.com
Cottages: 21
Yurts: 5
Rates: $95-$320
Best features: Bonfires on the beach, private fire pit at cabin, breathtaking sunsets.
Amenities: Fireplace, full kitchen, kayak and canoe rentals, on-site store, hot tub, free Wi-Fi in office only, playground, laundromat

Do you have a fond childhood memory of that special place the family went every summer? West Beach Resort is just that kind of place, one that sticks in your mind and heart as one of life's highlights. The vibe is old school rustic – not opulent in the same way a four-star hotel is, but every bit as memorable. For starters, the sunsets that make you stop in your tracks.

Nightly communal bonfires on the beach at sunset make this place magical during the summer, and available any time of year by request. The sunsets here are off-the-charts gorgeous, with a bold vibrant haze of purples, pinks and reds. Just a few steps from your cabin is your very own fire pit, so you can have an outdoor fire any time you like. Indoors, you will find a wood fire stove for cozy nights.

The resort rents out a variety of equipment from kayaks and canoes to crab pots so you can catch crabs right off the dock and cook them up on your fire pit. The cabin kitchen is fully stocked with cookware, so you can make your own meals, however if you need snacks, or forget something, there is a little shop on site that has the basics. Eastsound Village is just five minutes away if you prefer to head into town for dinner or shopping.

Two- to eight-person cabins are available as well as yurts. During peak season (the last week of June through the last week of August), the resort requires a one-week minimum stay so it's best to book as far in advance as possible to ensure accommodations. People love to come during off-season to enjoy the quiet. The beachfront cabins have the most amazing view, and since they have no TV, no phone and no Internet, this makes for a quiet respite from modern life. Simple time with family and friends to play board games, talk and enjoy each others' company without distraction in a beautiful setting is what makes West Beach Resort such a special place.

– Leah DeAngelis

