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Surf Report

Wind: West 10-15 kts.
Swell: W — 2-4 ft.
Period: 14 sec. Temp: 56°F
Tide: High: 6:25 a.m. Low: 2:03 p.m.
High: 8:45 p.m. Low: 12:50 a.m.

DAILY SOUND



THURSDAY,
JANUARY 8, 2009

TODAY'S WEATHER



Pt. Cloudy,
Breezy
High 63°

Sunrise: 7:05 a.m.
Sunset: 5:05 p.m.

NASDAQ: 1,599.06 -53.32

DOW: 8,769.70 -245.40

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VOLUME 9 ISSUE 245

INSIDE



Hawk spends night away

For the first time since he arrived at the Santa Barbara Zoo nine years ago, Charlie the red-tailed hawk spent the night away from home.

FBI seeks bank robber

Investigators with the FBI are seeking the public's help in tracking down a bank robber who has hit six banks

Film Fest unveils '09 lineup

BY ERIC LINDBERG
DAILY SOUND STAFF WRITER

With dozens of world premieres and appearances by a collection of renowned celebs lined up, Roger Durling is promising that the 24th annual Santa Barbara International Film Festival will live up to its slogan of "Discover by Day, Dazzle by Night."

During a gathering at Hotel Santa Barbara yesterday morning, the director of the fest unveiled the film lineup — outlin-

ing the opening and closing night ceremonies, as well as a series of actor tributes, as highlights of the 11-day event.

With the inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama taking place two days before the festival opens on Jan. 22, Durling said the selection of Rod Lurie's political thriller "Nothing But the Truth" is a great fit for the opening film.

"It's a very timely film and very appropriate."
See SBIFF, page 4



Local artist Barbara Boros unveils the poster she designed for the 24th Santa Barbara Film Festival. A ceremony was held Wednesday at the Hotel Santa Barbara. Daily Sound photo by Victor Maccharoll.



TRAVEL

The modern Romeo... Bond-like security...

LUXURY TRAVEL: For those looking to experience modern luxury in Naples, Italy, there is a new offering available...the Romeo Hotel, which officially opened just this past week.



MICHELLE STRASHOON

Conceived by the famed Japanese architect Kenzo Tange, and completed by his son Paul...the Romeo looks like it will be the place for modern art loving jet set. The hotel is adorned with both rare and commissioned works from contemporary artists: Francesco Clementa, Segio Fermiello, and Lello Esposito, and permanent installations by

top Neapolitan photographers: Monica Biancardi, Antonio Biasucci and Mimmo Jodice ... which accent Tange's overall design.

What looks particularly interesting is the spa's design, which is said to pay homage to two of the city's defining natural features: the Gulf of Naples and Mt. Vesuvius ... juxtaposing the themes of water and fire, the relaxation steam room and Jacuzzi feature soft, red lighting, while the outdoor terrace and pool seamlessly blend into the blue sea on the horizon.



Courtesy photos

Room at the Romeo Hotel in Naples start at \$450 a night and the hotel is adorned with both rare and commissioned works from contemporary artists

Although I have not had the pleasure of jetting over to Naples in the last week to fully inspect it, I thought I would point this boutique hotel out as one to watch. Rooms start at \$450. For more information visit www.RomeoHotel.it

TECH ON THE GO: For travelers that want to stay connected (a.k.a. laptop junkies ... me), security should be a big concern.

Why? Because you never know who is looking over your shoulder trying to steal your passwords ... and a stolen password can

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 Travel Guide

result in a hacked computer system or even a stolen identity.

What better way to protect that information than with something that is easy and small enough to fit right into your pocket and only requires your finger! UPEK's Eikon To Go, a portable USB-sized fingerprint reader, is the solution to forgotten passwords and low-level security on the road.

I found the device extremely easy to set up and use ... and felt very much like James Bond using my finger to unlock my computer. My only concern is ... if you are not Bond-like and tend to lose things, you could be locked out of your laptop if you misplace it ... and although the Eikon works with both Mac and PC, it is much more customizable on a PC. With a Mac the device can only be used for the login password, but with a PC you can use it to unlock individual website passwords as well.

The Eikon To Go costs under \$50 and is available on Amazon.com.

TRAVEL WEB: Although guidebooks are extremely helpful, they can be heavy to lug
 See **TRAVEL**, next page



"TALK TO YOUR KID"

Apple to sell copy protection-free songs

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Apple Inc has reached a deal with major record labels to sell digital songs without the copy protection software that had prevented fans from sharing music bought from its iTunes store.

The company also said it would start selling over-the-air download songs for its popular iPhone 3G and introduce variable pricing at

the iTunes Music Store, with songs priced at 69 cents, 99 cents and \$1.29 starting in April.

Phil Schiller, Apple's senior vice president of marketing, announced the long-expected changes at the Macworld Expo trade show in San Francisco. Copy protection software, also known as digital rights management, has proved a controversial topic with music fans and record

labels alike. DRM was designed to prevent fans from illegally sharing digital downloads on file-sharing services. But it also prevented many fans from moving their own songs between devices and became increasingly unpopular.

Apple founder Steve Jobs publicly called on major record labels to drop DRM in February 2007. But the labels had resisted his call even

though iTunes is the world's biggest digital music retailer, with more than 6 billion songs sold since 2003. The labels had agreed to allow other retailers, including Amazon.com and Napster, to sell DRM-free songs in a bid to help increase competition in the digital music market. iTunes has more than 70 percent market share in the United States.

TRAVEL

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

around on a trip. Part of that added weight is the "accommodations" section of the book ... which is mostly used in the planning phase of a trip; by the time you arrive at your hotel you have no use for info on others.

NileGuide.com provides a solution to the "guidebook weigh-down" with their "build your own guidebook" service ... and the best part (drum roll please) ... it's free!

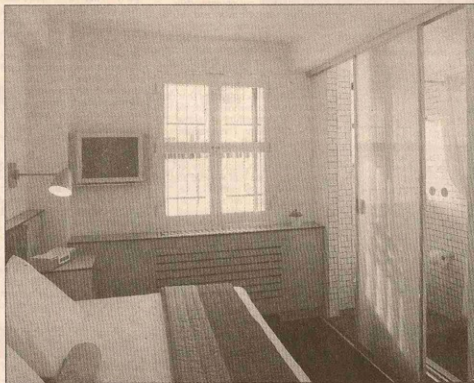
After logging in, all you do is choose your destination and check off the activities, restaurants, hotels, etc. you want your guide to include and... voila! A printable PDF copy of your guide is emailed to you as well as the other travelers on the trip. If starting with a clean slate is daunting, NileGuide has pre-planned trips that you can add and subtract parts from. All the information on NileGuide is written by local experts, as are the pre-planned trips ... so you have the added advantage of getting the local inside scoop.

Another great feature offered is that you can book your hotel directly through the system ... and the prices offered are on par with most travel search engines.

So go ahead and pretend you are the next Hemingway and "write" your own guidebook today at NileGuide.com.

BUDGET TRAVEL: Some cities lend themselves to spending little time in your room and more time on the streets. A perfect example is New York. So, when I discovered The Pod Hotel, I knew it was the perfect budget abode for the Big Apple.

First, let's get something straight, this place is about budget not space. With rooms starting at \$79, it is quite a deal for this often



Courtesy

The Pod Hotel in New York City is about as budget conscious as this pricey city gets. But if it's space you're looking for, you're in the wrong place.

expensive city. I have come across several travelers who complained about lack of space ... but at a hotel called The Pod, what do you expect? That said, with what little space they offer, The Pod Hotel has made the best possible use of it.

Designer Vanessa Guilford drew inspiration from mass transit's clever use of space and intuitive design features. The space-sav-

ing solutions aboard trains, planes and even boats provided an automatic bank of ideas. Likewise, the hotel's lighting and furnishings were influenced by mass transit's streamlined design approach and fuss-free functionality.

Centrally located in Manhattan's midtown eastside neighborhood, the hotel has 347 rooms ranging from singles, doubles, to bunk bedrooms and even more spacious townhouse

suites that sleep up to four. It's 152 guestrooms have shared baths and feature an in-room display, similar to the illuminating panel found on an airplane, which allows guests to easily distinguish if the shared bath is occupied ... and avoiding National Lampoon-like disasters.

The Pod Café, the Hotel's outdoor garden café, serves breakfast daily and offers a variety of light fare menu items in addition to fresh pastries from NYC's renowned Balthazar's Bakery, plus espressos that are Rainforest Alliance certified. Additionally, The Pod Café is also open for "Happy Hour," which features a menu of small bites, tasting plates and innovative sandwiches and salads as well as beer, wine and signature drinks, such as the "Pod Fizz."

If budget is your top priority and space is on the bottom of the list ... you'll find a perfect match at ThePodHotel.com.

TIP OF THE WEEK: Although many people consider the ritual of shopping for vacation clothes necessary ... you might want to focus on new clothes and not shoes ... a vacation is not the place to break in new footwear.

I must admit I have not followed my own advice in the past and my poor feet paid the price dearly, and my travel plans needed to be altered once I became chair-bound due to bad blisters.

Do yourself a favor and travel with old shoes!

Michelle Strashoon's column appears every Thursday in the Daily Sound. E-mail your travel tips and feedback to comments@hipcompass.com