

Portland

monthly

WEEKEND GETAWAYS

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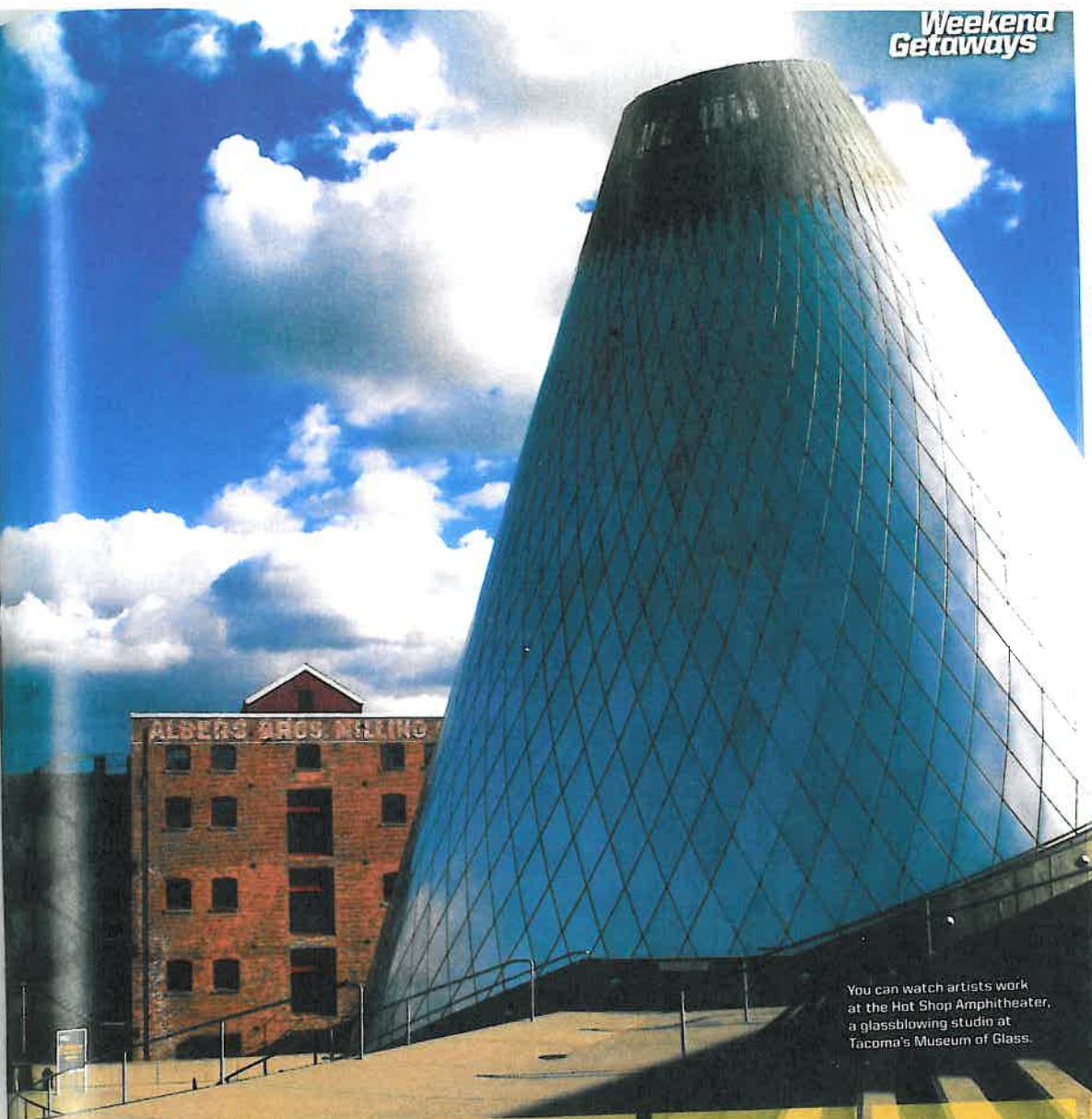
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So long, SUV: Time to
downsize your ride

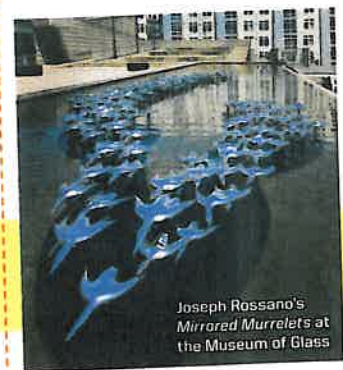
13 cutting-edge artists
you need to watch

New pinots from the
valley's best wineries



You can watch artists work at the Hot Shop Amphitheater, a glassblowing studio at Tacoma's Museum of Glass.

resemble the tentacles of a giant octopus. But that glinting marvel is just the beginning: Each floor in this boutique hotel (created by the same people who brought the Hotel Lucia and Hotel deLuxe to Portland) features sculptures by a different glass artist, like the pieces by Australia's Cobi Cockburn on the 12th floor and those by Tacoma's own Dante Marioni on the 14th. Pony up for one of the rooms on the 24th or 25th floors (dedicated to the works of Peter Bremers and William Morris, respectively), and you can compare notes with other guests during the free wine hour held each evening for those who bunk on the very top. \$169-\$469; 877-986-8083; www.hotelmuranotacoma.com



Joseph Rossano's Mirrored Murrelets at the Museum of Glass

Tacoma, Washington



DRIVE TIME: 2.5 HOURS

With a growing glass-arts scene and a thriving waterfront, Tacoma adds a bit of glam to its gritty reputation.

WHEN THE NORTHERN Pacific Railway selected Tacoma as the site of its western terminus in 1873, the metropolis acquired the nickname "The City of Destiny." The destiny it embraced, however, was of the industrial variety. Today the city's waterfront, once lined with pulp mills and copper-smelting plants, is being transformed into a bohemian district dotted with art galleries, boutiques, museums, and marinas. Not to be missed is the city's Museum of Glass, one of only three of its kind in the country. Here you'll find glass installations by native Tacoman Dale Chihuly, arguably the country's most famous glass artist, among other works. All of this makes Tacoma more than just a place that's fulfilling its destiny; it's now a destination itself. —AH



A suite at Hotel Murano

FRIDAY, 5 P.M.
Check-In: Hotel Murano

You've only got to step into the ultra-mod lobby of Hotel Murano (named after the tiny island near Venice where glassblowing has been a tradition for more than 800 years) to see evidence that Tacoma is home to a burgeoning glass scene. The spindly arms of the Massimo Micheluzzi chandelier that's suspended from the ceiling

SATURDAY, 10 A.M.
Museum of Glass

Linked with the downtown arts district via the Chihuly Bridge of Glass (a 500-foot-long, rainbow-colored pedestrian tunnel of glass and light) this 13,000-square-foot museum features exhibits like a 40-year retrospective of works by the Italian maestro Lino Tagliapietra. After exploring the museum's galleries, you can watch world-renowned artists work at the Hot Shop Amphitheater, an in-house glassblowing studio. 253-284-4750; www.museumofglass.org

PHOTOGRAPH TOP BY RANDY KOSEK; MIGHT COURTESY PROVENANCE HOTELS; FAR RIGHT COURTESY THE MUSEUM OF GLASS