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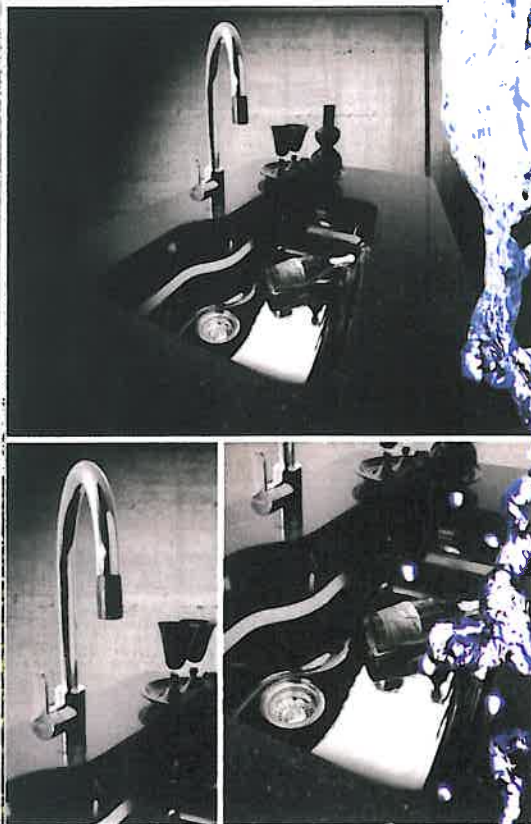
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THE GOODS

Muddler Nature

DRINKS Whether he's shaking or muddling, when award-winning mixologist Shawn Soole is behind the bar we're always stirred. Between writing and lecturing about cocktail culture, creating new masterpieces, managing the bar at Victoria's Moxie's and mentoring future mix masters, Soole found time to reinvent the muddler. His sleek-looking Viva stick (\$9.95) is now found in bars from Vancouver's George to Victoria's Empress. It's made from hygienic Thermosafe plastic, with a two-inch waffle base that's built to last. It's easy to use and highly efficient: it can rip through any mojito or caipirinha in three muddles. —Shelora Sheldon

available at theliquidrevolution.com

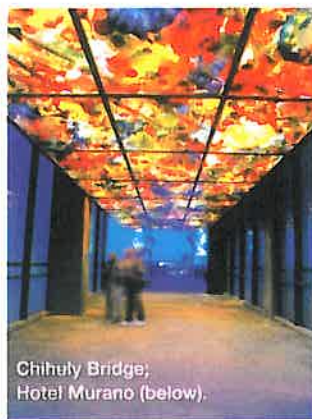


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Chihuly Bridge;
Hotel Murano (below).



Heart of Glass

ESCAPE Tacoma has long played Robin to Seattle's Batman: a little smaller, with fewer obvious attractions. Case in point: a serious lack of luxury accommodation. Now, with the opening of the **Hotel Murano** (1320 Broadway Plaza, Tacoma, Wash., 888-862-3255, hotelmuranotacoma.com), that's no longer the case. With mood-lit interiors, clean, modern lines, and 320 rooms dedicated to world-class art, this is not only the nicest hotel in Tacoma, but one that may challenge the lodgings of the Emerald City itself for 'supremacy. Best of all, it's just a few blocks from the other main reason to stop in Tacoma: the **Museum of Glass** (1801 Dock St., 866-4MUSEUM, museumofglass.org). Designed by Vancouver architect Arthur Erickson and linked to downtown Tacoma by the breathtaking, 500-foot Chihuly Bridge of Glass (designed by Dale Chihuly, the Tacoma resident who is both the Norman Rockwell and the Andy Warhol of glass as fine art), the museum is that rare sort of collection—it focuses on one area and does it better than anyone else in the world. Trust us: you love glass, even if you don't know it yet. —Shannon Smart