



Susie Wall
 inside Pigeon

West Coast 411 with Susie Wall

■ Blame it on Barry White. It was a giant vinyl painting of the late crooner in this shop's window that caught our eye. Inside? An impossibly hip urban boutique called **Pigeon** for full-grown boys and girls. Browse rare labels such as Unis and Wolves as well as cut-and-sew separates (and the latest jet-set faves) from French artist Frederique Daubal. Love the two-way change rooms (you see out, they can't see in) and the AstroTurf-perched jewel box stashed with guitar-pick earrings from Priss. The verdict? Can't get enough of this place, babe. 227 Carrall St., Vancouver, (604) 899-6020. ■ The new **Salty Tongue Urban Deli** is a stark contrast to the dime-a-dozen souvenir shops along Gastown's Gassy Jack steam-clock corridor. Named for Bono and his admitted love for a good cuss, the 16-seat Salty Tongue stocks the fare of a chic convenience store with mustards, oils, chips, cheeses, chocolate and, to both our horror and delight, Spam. But it delivers an edgy Dean & DeLuca vibe absent in these parts (the steak and Guinness potpie and vanilla pound cake are not to be missed). 217 Carrall St., Vancouver, (604) 915-SALT. ■ **Celebrity Rx** is just what the doctor ordered. A mobile concierge and lifestyle facilitator, Michele Thistle's specialty is being the guru of the welcome gift. And we're not talking baskets of the murky-cellophane, wilting-fruit variety. Think Liberty vases, coastal pottery by Sid Dickens, Kim Allan silk loungewear, Debbie Burgin handbags, personalized charm bracelets by Sonja Picard, Wolfe jewelry totes and Lois Kelly glamour journals. Not famous? No worries.

Handbag
 (above) and
 journal from
 Celebrity Rx



The Standard, Downtown LA

Eyebrows were raised when hotelier André Balazs announced plans to turn a dive of a retirement home into a boutique hotel in La-La Land five years ago. With two Standard operations now in full swinger mode, Balazs gets the last laugh. The Standard Hollywood, situated smack on the Sunset Strip, and The Standard, Downtown LA are hipper-than-thou with locals and wanna-be locals. On any given night, the pool area and the lobby at both locales are chock-full of artistic types sipping a cold one while posing with scripts, laptops and groupies. They both boast a 24-hour diner with enough flavour and invention to cure even the worst hangover. The Hollywood spot has a bar open to guests, which throbs with pretty young things and the men who love them. What gets most, though, are the positively gorgeous staff on hand to make sure your needs are met. The rates are low enough that even the struggling scribes, thespians and filmmakers can afford to sleep here. 550 South Flower St., (213) 892-8080. —KIM IZZO



Thistle's client list may include Halle Berry, Ashton Kutcher, Queen Latifah and Pamela Anderson, but we regular folk can order, too. Sweet relief. 2256 Inglewood Ave., West Vancouver, (604) 922-3240.

Potato crisps from Salty
 Tongue Urban Deli