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**Hotel Central: Back in New Orleans**  
**Daisann McLane: Traveling with Mom**

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# Hotel CENTRAL

» WHERE TO STAY NEXT

## Checking In the Big Easy

**I**t's been more than a year since Katrina roared into New Orleans and damaged hotels both large and small. This summer some 10,427 rooms out of a total of 38,388 were still out of commission, reports Dr. Harsha Chacko of the University of New Orleans' hospitality school. Examples include the wedding-cake-ornate Ritz-Carlton on Canal Street, reopening this December; the 1893-era Fairmont, closed for restoration until 2007; and the art deco jewel Hotel Monaco remains shuttered, though there are reports it will reopen as a Hilton. » (open foldout to continue)

### hotel confidential

**California Casual** Auberge Resorts, creators of luxury properties such as Esperanza in Cabo San Lucas, is launching **Solage Hotels & Resorts** ([www.solagehotels.com](http://www.solagehotels.com)), a new offshoot that promises stylish, affordable hotels. Solage Calistoga, scheduled to open next spring in Napa Valley, will feature 89 cottages; outdoor terraces with fire pits for lounging; complimentary "cruiser" bikes; and soaking pools tapping the Calistoga hot springs.

**Now Playing** Guests staying at **Las Ventanas al Paraiso** ([www.lasventanas.com](http://www.lasventanas.com)) in Los Cabos, Mexico, can view movies from a 50-inch plasma TV set up on the beach under the stars. Cinema butlers will deliver cocktails and Mexican appetizers.

**Kentucky Chic** The new boutique **21c Museum Hotel** (below, [www.21cmuseumhotel.com](http://www.21cmuseumhotel.com)) tucked into four historic warehouses and a former bank in Louisville, Kentucky, houses a museum with a permanent collection of artwork by 80 living American and international artists. The hotel's 91 tasteful guest rooms boast original and poster art (for sale) and iPods with customized music.



Guests at the historic Columns Hotel meet and greet on the inviting front porch.

