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The Latest Hotel & Airport News

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If you're a biker with an affinity for "hogs," steer yourself to Milwaukee's Iron Horse Hotel, just three blocks from the Harley-Davidson Museum.

MILWAUKEE'S IRON HORSE HOTEL

Welcomes Business Bikers

■ If you're a business traveler who is also a motorcycle enthusiast, point your Fat Boy toward Milwaukee's Iron Horse Hotel. Just three blocks from the new \$75 million Harley-Davidson Museum, the Iron Horse features a "mingling of business suits and biker leathers for the best people watching," plus a "lobby appropriately designed for guests arriving in high heels or riding boots." The 102-room hotel, built in a 101-year-old former warehouse, offers in-room dual-line speaker phones; scaled desks; swivel chairs; wired/wireless Internet connections; and a 42-inch LCD TV with cell phone, PDA, notebook, and iPod connections. Other amenities include 24-hour business kiosks with printers, dry cleaning and laundry services, and 3,500

square feet of meeting space in a lower-level Milwaukee Room. A fifth floor, 425-square-foot War Room, meanwhile, is equipped with an 18-seat conference table and audio-visual and Internet-ready equipment. The adjacent, 425-square-foot Sand Box offers dining, socializing, brainstorming, and breakout-session space, plus a Business Center. Bikers will find shelves for their helmets, heavy-duty hooks for leather jackets, an on-site bike wash, and covered parking for bikes. For both sets there's the Smyth restaurant, Branded lounge, The Yard outdoor eating space (4,600 square feet), and an adults-only Boiler Room spa coming in 2009. Owner Tim Dixon told OnMilwaukee.com, "Everyone wants to call it a biker hotel. It's not; it's a boutique hotel."

HARD ROCK HOTEL To Speed Into Kansas City Area?

■ Get ready to make a perpetual left turn if a \$705.6 million joint proposal from the Kansas Speedway and Cordish Company to build a Hard Rock Hotel & Casino meets the approval of the Kansas Lottery Gaming Facility Review Board. The proposal is one of four the board is considering to privately manage a new state-owned casino in the Kansas City area. Other proposals include those from RED

Development and Mohegan Sun (\$767 million), Golden Gaming (\$687 million), and Pinnacle Entertainment (\$648.6 million). (The Las Vegas Sands pulled its previous \$777 million bid already.) The Kansas Speedway-Cordish plan would include 1.5 million square feet of space with 300 rooms; 3,000 slot machines; 140 gaming tables; 275,000 square feet of retail, dining, and entertainment space; and meeting

and convention space. Hotel construction would take place along the speedway's Turn 2 and back straightaway. The International Speedway, which owns the race track, plans to petition NASCAR for a second Sprint Cup Series race at the speedway if the proposal passes. By the time you read this, the gaming review board is expected to have selected a winning proposal.