



## Victorian Elegance

The 1883 Steinway beneath the staircase and the red-globed lamp in the parlor bespeak a Victorian heritage. But the free wireless Internet access and flat-screen LCD TVs in the guest rooms reveal 21st-century efficiency. Since the Britt Scripps Inn opened in February in a restored 1887 mansion within walking distance of San Diego's Balboa Park, it has attracted romantics and techies alike. General manager Randy Gantenbein operates the nine-room inn with the professionalism of a great hotelier. Breakfast might be a wild-mushroom omelette with fresh herbs from the cottage-style garden. Jane Seymour would feel right at home. Rates begin at \$299 per room, including breakfast and early evening wine and hors d'oeuvres. (888) 881-1991; [www.brittscripps.com](http://www.brittscripps.com).

—Elizabeth Harryman



## Travel Well

### Don't Bug Me

Now sportswear can repel the insects that can often plague hikers and mountain bikers. Mosquitoes, ticks, and flies eschew fabric imbued with permethrin, a manmade synthetic form of a natural insecticide found in chrysanthemums, according to Ex Officio.

The company's Buzz Off line of clothing protects against bites through 25 launderings. (800) 644-7303; [www.exofficio.com](http://www.exofficio.com).



—Brenda Tabor

## It's a Snap

**A photo tip from Westways photographer Todd Masinter:**

You might not think you need your camera's flash setting when taking pictures outside, but try using it, especially when you're photographing people. The flash can help to even out the exposure in high-contrast situations, such as when your subjects are backlit. Even when your subject is lit from the front, a flash can introduce a catch light in the eyes, making the person look more vibrant.