and Europe, as well as mainstream,

considered difficult. In Vancouver, the goofy

SIDE TRIPS

Art and Elegance

No matter how many days you spend at the jazz festival, you'll still need to sleep. Vancouver has many fine hotels, but perhaps none in the city is a better complement to the festival's aural arts than is the Listel Vancouver (1300 Robson St., Vancouver; 604-684-8461 or 800-663-5491; www.listel-vancouver.com), where it is the *visual* arts that are highlighted.

Rooms on the hotel's Gallery Floors (almost half of the Listel's 129 rooms) feature original and limited-edition artworks from the Buschlen Mowatt Gallery. More than 30 artists, including Pierce Milholland, Carmelo Sortino and Z.Z. Wei, are represented in the rooms and suites on the fourth and fifth floors. Works are chosen to complement, not coordinate, the rooms' decor. Each room has information on the artist (or artists) and specific paintings on display.

Though the rooms are individual galleries, they are also very comfortable. Chaise lounges are tucked beside windows overlooking busy Robson Street; work areas in each room feature custom cherrywood desks, voice mail and data port capabilities. Also standard are fluffy goosedown duvets, fully stocked minibars, in-room movies, hairdryers and irons. Rates range from $140 to $400.

And if you haven't had enough jazz, head down to O'Doul's Restaurant and Bar, on the first floor of the hotel, on Thursday, Friday or Saturday night, where live jazz is played between 8 and 11 p.m. —G. SMITH

CHRIS CAMERON