

HAUNT A HOTEL | CHASE FALL COLOR | RENT A LIFE

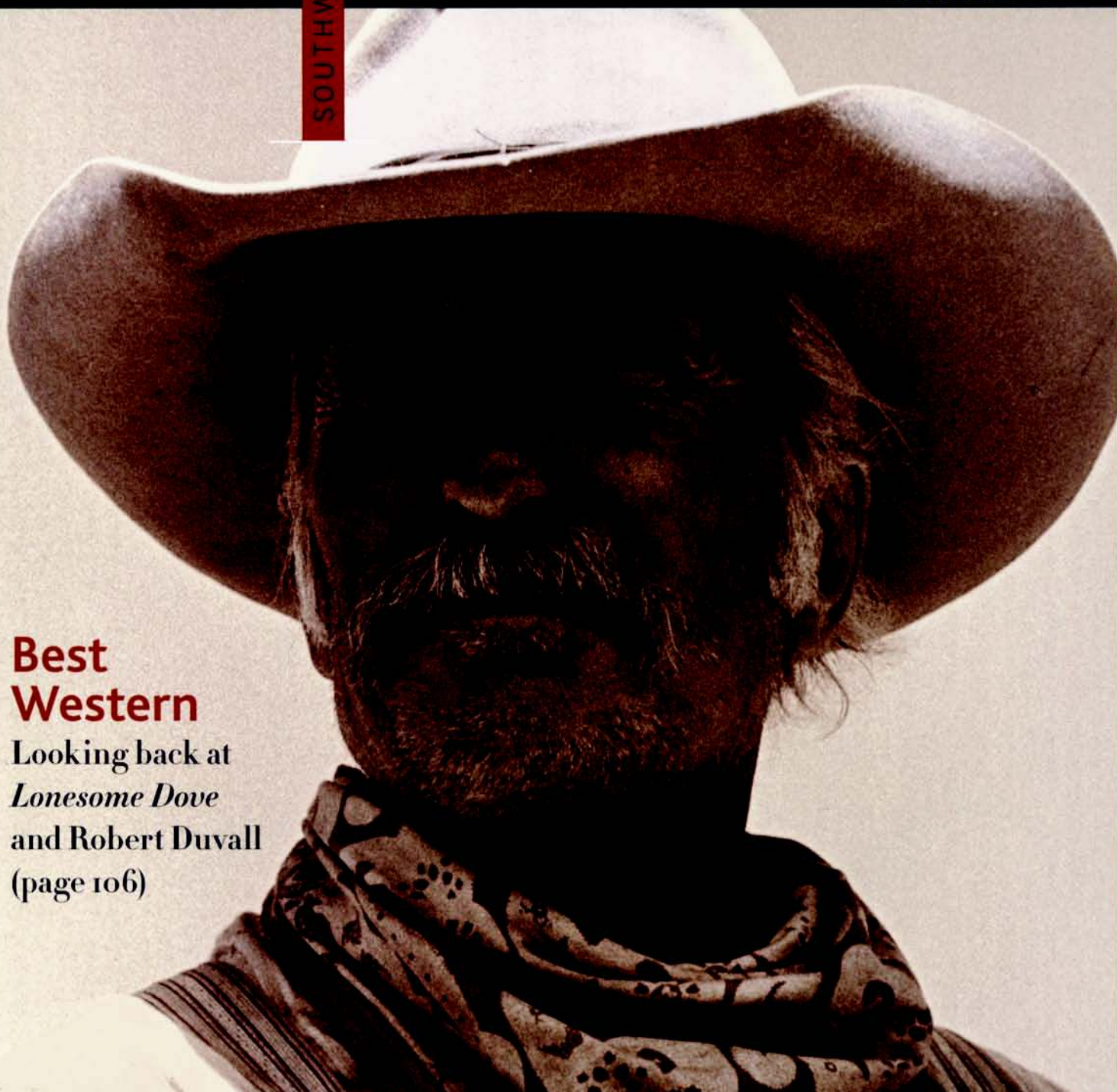
Spirit

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES

OCTOBER 2007

Best Western

Looking back at
Lonesome Dove
and Robert Duvall
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Roller Rinks



JOE CHAMPA picks three skating centers to do the Hustle.

October is national roller skating month, so join the nearly 12 million Americans who lace up a pair every year. One of them, no doubt, will be Roller Skating Association president Joe Champa. Here, the lord of the rinks shares three spots worthy of your next couples' skate.

Oaks Park

PORTLAND, OREGON

Opened in 1905, Oaks Park's 100- by 200-foot maple floor offers the largest skating surface on the West Coast. The floor curves up at the edges, something you won't find at modern rinks because it would cost too much to replicate. More interesting, however, is what lies beneath. Because the park sits on the banks of the Willamette River, it occasionally floods. After the disastrous Vanport, Oregon, flood of 1948, rink workers came up with an ingenious solution: Attach steel drums underneath the floor. When the area flooded again in 1964 and 1996, they just cut the perimeter of the floor with a chainsaw and let the whole thing safely float on the water. oakspark.com

Skateland

NORTHRIDGE, CALIFORNIA

Celeb-spotters should check out Skateland, where everyone from Tom Cruise, Katie Holmes, and Heather Locklear to Barbra Streisand, Valerie Bertinelli, and Magic Johnson have strapped on their roller skates. Just 25 miles north of Los Angeles, the rink—turning 50 years old this January—also made small-screen cameos on television shows like *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, *Six Million Dollar Man*, and *Wild World of Spike*. Backlit walls and a flashing ceiling illuminate the blonde maple floor, drawing somewhere between 100 to 500 skaters each night. skateland.net

Skate Daze

OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Kids need more than a few leisurely laps around the rink to stay entertained. Measuring at 45,000 square feet—nearly twice as large as the average rink—the activity-stuffed Skate Daze does the job. Families have flocked to the rink's huge maple wood floor for more than 50 years. Mom and Dad come to the '70s-themed adult skate night on Tuesdays, while the kids try out the multi-level laser tag facility, rock-climbing wall, roller coaster, and bumper cars. But even those don't stack up to the Playdazium, a 2,600-square-foot, three-story play area with swings, slides, and plenty of things to climb. skatedaze.com

On a Roll
Put yourself
on hot wheels.

'Skating centers allow kids to have a place to meet and have a blast. They're all about entertainment.'