

OSCAR SUITES WEEK 2007 [View video](#)

I couldn't have had more fun during Oscar Week if I had won an award myself! Being invited to several Oscar Suites is one of the most fun parts of the year for me. The only change I'll make next time around is that I'll physically train for it. The four days of suites are actually more endurance-challenging than a triathlon, and you really need to be in shape.

For the uninitiated, here's a crash course in Oscar Suites 101. When this trend started several years ago, they were held in hotels, in actual suites, hence the name. Each suite would have a different service (hair, manicures, facials, etc.), and the celebrities involved in the Academy Awards were invited to partake of those services for the days leading up to the ceremony. More celebs started being invited, product "gifting" took over many of the rooms, and the Oscar Suite was born.

The phenomenon has since expanded to many different types of edifices around town, which may or may not be in the form of suites, but the moniker has stuck, no matter where the action takes place. And the invitation lists have expanded to include stylists, very select members of the media, and the many working actors who are not really celebrities per se, but I'm sure are very happy to be included, none more than yours truly (no matter which category I'm invited in.)

This season, I was fortunate enough to attend five (yes, FIVE!!!) of the most popular suites around, over four days. I really did cancel all my other activities for the week, except the taping of my show, "Karen's Restaurant Revue," because I wanted to give my full time and attention to the sponsors, and not just "trick or treat" for swag.

The main thing that struck me is that at least 90% of the people I came into contact with were genuinely lovely. Of course, the sponsors wanted to get their company's message out to everyone, but most really did seem to treat the attendees at least close to equally and not just gush over the big stars. Their good attitudes made the week fly by, and renewed my faith in the humanity of Hollywood, which I really did think was long gone.

So, here are some of the highlights of the week. I hope you can all benefit from this pared-down info. (I realize this article is an epic, but I promise that all the goods and services I'm talking about are worth your time.) The suites are in the order I attended them, as I had a great time in every one, and truly can't pick a favorite. Now I see what mothers of multiple children feel like. Please try read the whole summary, because great finds are scattered throughout. (I'll include the websites that I know.)

LIBERACE OSCAR SUITE

Although, as I mentioned above, I really can't pick a favorite venue, I can tell you that I experienced my favorite day at the Liberace Suite. It was raining and dreary out, but totally warm and cozy inside the Penthouse where the colorful Liberace used to reside. Maybe his radiant spirit was there with us. Or perhaps it was the roaring fireplace or the tented pool area, which allowed us a view of the outside world to juxtapose with how lucky we were to be in such a giving environment.



The number one non-cosmetic items were the delicious-smelling Dirt Candles, made of soy products. I told them that I'll put one or two in my earthquake preparedness kit because they can double as a light source AND a quick healthful snack! And I think I may not even be kidding! Each candle features many accents of aroma, and I had fun sniffing each one. It reminded me of a test I did with my friends when I was little; making them smell all the spices in my still-favorite jars in my mother's kitchen. I swear, I always got such a kick out of it, and I thank Dirt Candles for bringing back that happy memory. www.dirtcandles.com

KIM AND KIM OF DIRT CANDLES AT THE LIBERACE SUITE