



GARY FRIEDMAN
Los Angeles Times

The gift: "36 Hours: 150 Weekends in the USA & Canada" (Taschen), repackaged from the Travel pages of the New York Times, edited by Barbara Ireland.

The reason: This clothbound doorstep volume (700 pages, 3.4 pounds) is dense

with data and handsome color photography. The format means much of the prose is formulaic — but that's the point. Every time, you get eating, sleeping and goofing-around ideas for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, a map, a bushel of service information and a batch of photos.

The price: \$39.99, but Amazon has been discounting it to \$23.99.

The details: www.taschen.com.

— CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS