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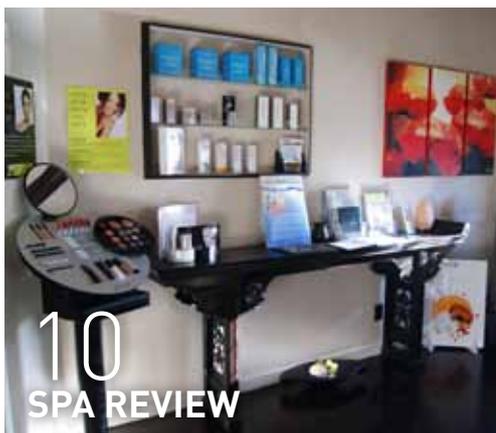
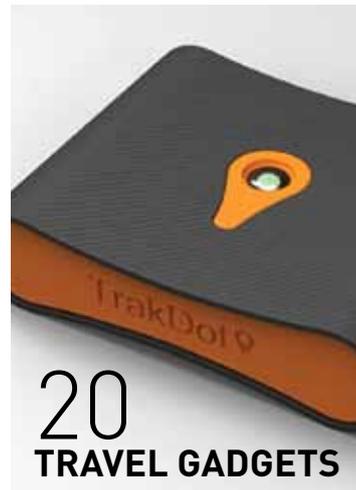
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SPECIAL FEATURES

12 Airport Lounges

Five of the world's sexiest airport business class lounges.

From exotic Turkey to Sydney, these exclusive airport havens are a place to relax and get ready for your flight. Gone are the days of a rundown lounge with a few old sandwiches on offer.

These new generation spaces are more like five star hotels than a lounge with some including full size bars, spas and areas to freshen up. The only way to travel.

24 Luxury in Queensland

There is an increasing number of high end hotels in Queensland that are just amazing, the new Sea Temple resort on the Gold Coast is truly spectacular with sea views for miles and miles.

The recently refurbished Sofitel in Brisbane is a great hotel that's just got even better, as has the stunning Marriott hotel at Surfers Paradise, a true resort just minutes from the beach that has just had 40 million dollars spent on it. And of course you can't go past the wonderful Versace Hotel which improves with age.

34 Destination Northland

Why bother going overseas when we have it all in our backyard, with the incredible Bay Of Islands.

Five star resort's that cater to the rich and famous from around the world - check, world class golf courses, beautiful spa's, amazing restaurants and breathtaking scenery - check. What more could you want?

Deep sea fishing, no problem. We check out the Duke of Malborough, Eagles Nest and a mini cruise ship that takes you to uninhabited bays rarely seen. All without the jetlag.

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Global Traveller Ltd

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Global Traveller Ltd

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Distribution:
Sunday Star Times

EMIRATES A380 AUCKLAND TO PARIS. NOW ALL THE WAY THERE AND BACK!

Travellers departing Auckland on an Emirates A380 will now be able to fly all the way to Paris and return seamlessly on the double-decker aircraft.

Emirates has doubled its A380 capacity to New York's John F. Kennedy and Paris' Charles De Gaulle airports with a twice daily A380 service from Dubai now operating into both cities. The increase in A380 service will mean direct connections to Paris A380 flights at Dubai in each direction.

Emirates flies A380s twice daily from Auckland to Dubai – one via Sydney, the other via Melbourne.



Malaysia Airlines announces daily flights to Auckland

Strong demand for Malaysia Airlines' services sees the airline confirm seasonal service daily flights on the Kuala Lumpur – Auckland route in the upcoming peak season. The airline is increasing the number of flights from six to seven per week during the peak period of 24 November 2013 to 27 January 2014.



London set to build new airport.

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson has appointed a world class team of experts including world famous architect Zaha Hadid to help develop plans for a multi runway hub airport in the southeast of London.

The total cost of building the new hub airport – including terminals, runways, ancillary facilities and rail and road access links – is estimated to be around £75-80bn.

The complex which will handle 180 million passenger's per year could be open by 2030.



New SkyTeam Lounge

SkyTeam has opened a new lounge at Istanbul-Atatürk international airport. Used by the ten member airlines serving Istanbul, this lounge will welcome AIR FRANCE KLM Elite Plus customers travelling in La Première and Business. SkyTeam expects to welcome more than 70,000 visitors per year.

The new SkyTeam lounge in Istanbul embodies the spirit of the alliance "Caring more about you." Covering an area of 350sqm it can accommodate up to 90 passengers who can enjoy top-of-the-range amenities: a full business centre with printer and free Wi-Fi, a relaxation area with an oxygen bar and massage chairs, a bar and buffet offering several types of cuisine, more than 70 electric sockets and a reading area.



Route upgrade for Auckland to Guangzhou

China Southern Airlines will deploy one of its new Boeing 787 Dreamliners on its Guangzhou-Auckland route this summer as part of a major route upgrade in the region.

"We think the 228-seat Dreamliner is ideal for the Auckland route and have decided to bring it on line on December 4 to see how it goes," said China Southern Regional General Manager Australia New Zealand Henry He.

The new flights, which are on sale now for the summer season, will lift our direct NZ services from daily to 10 a week.



Brisbane International Convention Centre

Just a 15 minute drive from Brisbane international airport, the Royal International Convention Centre (RICC) has opened it's doors, offering multi-functional and flexible event spaces which can accommodate up to 3,000 delegates. The 10,000 square metre two-level building features three halls, seven meeting rooms, two boardrooms, an open foyer space and a landscaped plaza suitable for outdoor events.

Unlike any other convention centre in Australia, RICC facilities are complemented by a range of indoor and outdoor venues including a 20,000 seat arena and large scale festival and amusement areas.

Visit: ricc.com.au



Benefit Cosmetics now available at Auckland Airport. Visit: benefitcosmetics.com

With a loyal following of fashionista's around the world, this adored makeup brand is now available to travellers at Auckland Airport. Benefit Cosmetics was born in 1976, when model twin sisters Jean and Jane Ford created a unique San Francisco beauty boutique with a whimsical candy store atmosphere. The shop grew famous for delivering quick fixes for every gal's peskiest beauty dilemmas, and with a "double" dose of wackiness mixed with know-how. The twins successfully built Benefit Cosmetics into a global beauty brand. The "friskiest" beauty brand now has over 3,000 counters, 40 boutiques, in 38 countries and growing. Unique, quirky and 100% gorgeous. Benefit believes brows are the frame to the face and was the first beauty brand to incorporate brows and brow services into beauty.



Qualified aestheticians are waxing "wonders" and lash "legends" and from tip to toe keep customer service fast, flawless and fun...with or without an appointment!

Return to Paradise Resort Open's November 1st, 2013.

Opening 1st of November 2013, this exclusive resort and spa is located on Return to Paradise Beach, Lefaga,

Samoa. Featuring 60 beach front rooms, there is a wide range of accommodation choice from the Royal Sunset Suite to the Beach Club 2-3 bedroom villa's.



Best of all during your stay at the resort, you can experience world class cuisine designed by MasterChef Simon Gault.

Simon has produced an unforgettable dining experience for Paradise Kitchen.

Mingling the best of his experience with fresh and exciting ingredients available in Samoa, Simon has produced the "Must Dine" experience of the South Pacific.

Visit: returntoparadiseresort.com



Jetstar Japan partners with Japanese retail giant Lawson for ticket sales.

Customers now can pay for Jetstar Japan domestic flights at over 10,000 Lawson stores nationwide, this arrangement enables customers to book Jetstar Japan seats using the multi-media terminals (known as Lawson Loppi) and pay for them in cash at cash registers in the stores. Booking tickets through Lawson Loppi can be made easily with via a touch-screen.

The service provides the convenience of cash settlement for customers who do not have credit cards, so they can book and pay for tickets anytime during Lawson's business hours. Launched on July 3,



2012, Jetstar Japan recently celebrated its first anniversary. In its first year of operation it carried more than 1.6 million passengers.



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Air New Zealand enhances the customer experience for travel to North America.

Air New Zealand passengers can look forward to a better ground experience at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), including a much improved transit process.

After a successful trial, U.S. Customs has approved a new transit system for Air New Zealand passengers arriving from Auckland or from London. On completion of US visa requirements, transiting passengers now receive a token which allows them access to the general terminal area, including Air New Zealand's Los Angeles International Lounge for those who are eligible, without the need to clear security.

Air New Zealand customers can look forward to further enhancements to their travel experience when the airline

relocates from Terminal 2 to the Tom Bradley International Terminal at LAX mid next year. The terminal is in the midst of a US\$1.7 billion make-over which will culminate in an impressive 180,000 square foot food and retail experience as well as faster boarding and disembarking systems.

Eligible passengers will also be able to relax in a brand new Star Alliance Lounge at the Tom Bradley terminal which Air New Zealand manages. The stunning new lounge is three times larger than the current Los Angeles Koru Lounge and will feature a unique open air terrace overlooking the runway.

Visit: airnewzealand.co.nz



Air New Zealand Premium Economy cabin wins big at Skytrax Awards.

Air New Zealand's Premium Economy Class has taken top honours at the prestigious 2013 Skytrax World Airline Awards, sweeping the board in all three Premium Economy categories.

The airline took home the awards for 'Best Premium Economy Class', 'Best Premium Economy Class Seat' and 'Best Premium Economy Class Onboard Catering' for its Premium Economy cabin on board its Boeing 777-300 fleet.



Hertz and BMW sign exclusive partnership deal for Australia.

Hertz has become the first Australian car rental company to offer vehicles from German car manufacturer BMW. Through its exclusive deal with BMW Australia, Hertz now offers four of its most popular premium lifestyle models as part of the Hertz Prestige Collection.

When visiting Australia you can now choose from the following models: **The BMW 1 Series 5-door hatch, The BMW 3 Series sedan, BMW X3, BMW X5.**



Visit: hertz.com

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Seasonal delights in Air France's La Première cabin: New features for summer.

Air France's La Première is unveiling its new summer menu with a host of fresh flavours. Seasonal salads with ingredients that passengers can choose themselves

Air France's La Première customers travelling from Paris this summer will be able to make up their own salad on board by choosing from a selection of quality seasonal ingredients and vinaigrettes. Poached eggs, artichoke hearts or dried Grisons beef, passengers can choose from a generous and tempting range, which meets the needs of today's travellers.

Till the 15th of September 2013, Air France is offering flights from Paris-Charles de Gaulle to a new destination in Iraq, thanks to a codeshare agreement with Middle East Airlines (MEA), a member of the SkyTeam alliance.

Air France customers traveling to Lebanon may, on arrival in Beirut, take a connection on the daily flight by A320 operated by Middle East Airlines to Erbil, capital of Iraqi Kurdistan. A stable region rich in natural resources, Iraqi Kurdistan has attracted investment from major Western companies in recent years.

Visit: airfrance.com



Air France's La Première cabin, available to 25 destinations in summer 2013.



Air Tahiti Nui, the international airline of Tahiti, has announced a new agreement with Air France to develop a joint codeshare agreement to better service the popular Paris to Los Angeles route.

Air France and Air Tahiti Nui have sought approval for antitrust immunity for alliance agreements, including a bilateral joint-venture agreement that would allow the airlines to coordinate services between Paris and Los Angeles international airports.

Air Tahiti Nui presently flies four to eight times a week from Paris to Papeete via Los Angeles, including one codeshare flight with Air France.

Garuda Indonesia Celebrates Brisbane-Bali Relaunch.

Garuda Indonesia, is set to relaunch from Brisbane to Bali with flights beginning on 1 August 2013.

Visit: garuda-indonesia.net.au

Garuda Indonesia has also partnered with a range of Bali's top attractions to offer exclusive benefits for passengers, including discounted admission and tours at Benoa Marine Recreation Park, Bali Safari & Marine Park, Waterbom Bali and Bali Sobek.

Travellers returning from their Bali trip can also extend their holiday by taking advantage of discounted admission and tours at some of Australia's biggest attractions. Exclusively for those arriving into Brisbane, passengers can visit attractions including Dreamworld, SkyPoint, White Water World and Captain Cook Cruises for up to 30% off.

Executive Class travellers can also enjoy a complimentary chauffeur service to and from Brisbane airport. Flights will depart daily from Brisbane to Denpasar on Garuda Indonesia's B737-800 Next Generation aircraft with a seating capacity of 162 passengers, comprising 12 in Executive and 150 in Economy Class.



Garuda Indonesia named "the world's best economy class" by Skytrax.



Garuda Indonesia, the airline of Indonesia, was named "The World's Best Economy Class" at the SkyTrax 2013 World Airline Awards.

Garuda was also named "The World's Best Economy Class Seats" by SkyTrax – a result of Garuda Indonesia's continuous service improvement and on-going business transformation through its "Quantum Leap 2011-2015" program.

The survey asked 18 million passengers from 100 different countries, to compare over 200 airlines in 38 aspects including service, on-time performance, food, safety and convenience.

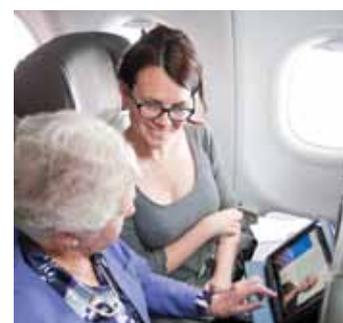
Now you can watch the end of the movie on Jetstar.

Jetstar customers will get a little longer to use electronic devices on their flights. Jetstar customers were previously asked to turn off electronic devices such as laptops and iPads when the aircraft started its descent to land. They will now be asked only when the cabin is prepared for landing.

The new procedure means that Jetstar customers will now have extra time to listen to music, watch movies or finish off that last minute presentation on board – from an extra five minutes up to an extra 25 minutes, depending on where they are travelling to.

Jetstar is always looking for ways to improve the inflight experience and we believe this change will be warmly welcomed by customers on our domestic and international flights.

Visit: jetstar.com





Tranquility Spa

Tranquility Spa is a hidden gem located just off the motorway at Ellerslie, so you are not sure what to expect when you turn down a little side street, but when you pull up into the driveway, the building looks very Balinese. A tropical island paradise theme runs throughout the property.

Once inside the Spa, you really do get a sense of 'Tranquility. From the green tea in the reception area to the sound of trickling water to gentle music, to lowered lights, there is great attention to detail.

This is an elegant spa and the nice thing is there was only a short spa form to fill out, (a long list of questions are one of my pet peeves).

The spa therapist simply asked me how I preferred the pressure of my massage. I was guided to my private room, already prepared with candles and the sounds of soft soothing music in the background.

My treatment of choice was the Polynesia Spa Ritual by Thalgo. What a great choice,

firm but not too hard. First, it's a full body sea salt scrub down, which is very refreshing as your skin starts to tingle when the salt is rubbed all over. The Polynesians have long practiced a massage called the "Lomi-Lomi". This traditional massage is powerful, slow, rhythmic, and penetrated deep into my muscles and was very relaxing.

Tranquility Spa is the perfect place to unwind. Book yourself in, you'll leave revitalised. **By Karl Schutt.**



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World's *Sexiest* Airport Lounges



LUFTHANSA FIRST CLASS TERMINAL, Frankfurt Airport

You can relax in a spacious private bathroom with an oversize tub (and your own rubber ducky) or doze on a comfortable leather lounger in a personal napping room. There's also a cigar lounge with a well-stocked humidor and 80-plus whiskeys. But nothing beats the way you exit: When it's time to board, you're driven directly to your plane in a Mercedes S-Class or Viano or a Porsche Cayenne.

Visit: lufthansa.com

QANTAS FIRST LOUNGE, Sydney Airport

A 98-foot-long vertical garden with 8,400 plants marks the entryway of the lounge—the ubiquitous greenery even covers the walls of its tranquil Payot Paris day spa (treatments, including facials and massages, are complimentary). The Aussie design guru Marc Newson furnished the place, filling his signature curvy environs with luxe Italian Poltrona Frau leather recliners.

Visit: qantas.com.au



AIR FRANCE BUSINESS CLASS LOUNGE, Charles De Gaulle Airport, Paris

This brand-new, sprawling 32,000-square-foot lounge features a veritable forest of trees, undulating walkways, and simulated sunlight, all of which say urban park a lot more than airport waiting area. Of course, there are the requisite Gallic delicacies (bread, cheese, and pastries) and unlimited champagne and wine. If that's somehow not relaxing enough, the Clarins spa offers free massages and facial treatments.

Visit: airfrance.com



SINGAPORE AIRLINES SILVERKRIS LOUNGE, Changi Airport, Singapore

There's no need to venture to the city's famous genre-bending street-food stalls when the airport lounge has a buffet of delectable authentic laksa, curry, flat-noodle, and rice dishes. And the spacious leather sleeping chairs are perfect for riding out a food coma. Outside the lounge, the airport's butterfly garden, four-story slide, and rainforest nature trail are worth exploring.

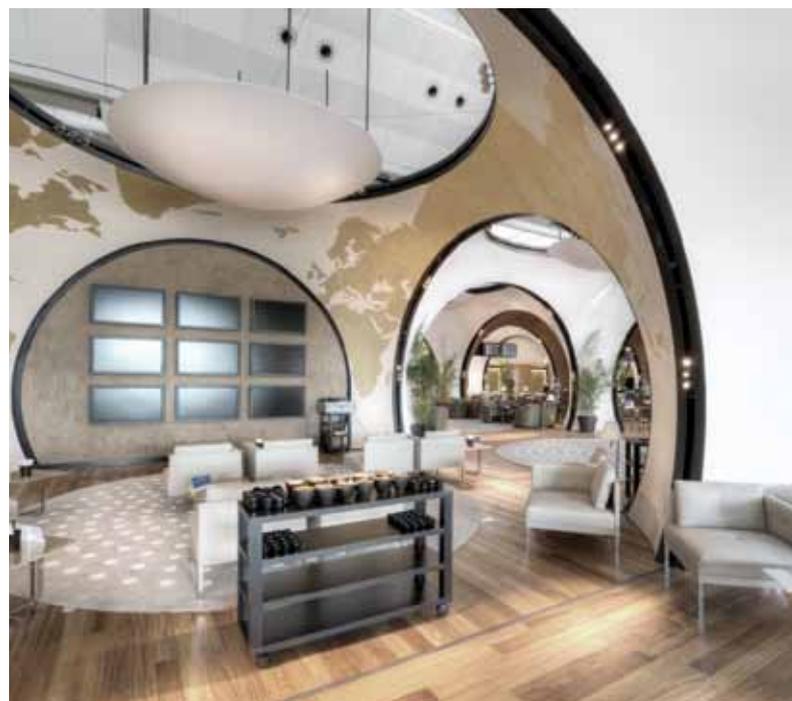
Visit: singaporeair.com



TURKISH AIRLINES INTERNATIONAL CIP LOUNGE, Atatürk Airport, Istanbul

A classical domed sitting area leads to a library, where you can order a single-malt and shoot some pool. If that's not your game, there's a movie theatre and a restaurant serving Turkish dishes like köfte and local Kavaklıdere wine. The posh showers have Wi-Fi speakers that sync with your smartphone.

Visit: turkishairlines.com



Source: details.com



Rimba Jimbaran Bali to Open in September

The award-winning AYANA Resort and Spa Bali is preparing for the next phase of its evolution with the upcoming opening of sister hotel RIMBA Jimbaran Bali, offering another unique guest experience within the world-class cliff-top property.

RIMBA Jimbaran Bali will open in September 2013 with 297 rooms and suites to expand on AYANA's 368 rooms and villas. The 8 hectare resort is located within AYANA's 77-hectare grounds

overlooking Jimbaran Bay, just 12 kilometers from Bali's airport, making it the perfect sanctuary for a relaxing break and a base from which to explore Bali and nearby attractions.

RIMBA's name, which is Indonesian for 'forest', reflects its setting and sustainable design. A central feature of the innovative design is the one hectare of multi-tiered swimming pools and expansive tree plantations, tropical



flowers and organic fruit and vegetable gardens.

The resort's elevated hill-side location affords both sunrise and sunset views, looking out over the Uluwatu Hills to the south-east, and to the Indian Ocean fronting AYANA's 1.3 kilometer coastline to the south-west.

Visit: capellahotelgroup.com

Tune Hotel Melbourne: Opening November with A\$49* Launch Rate.



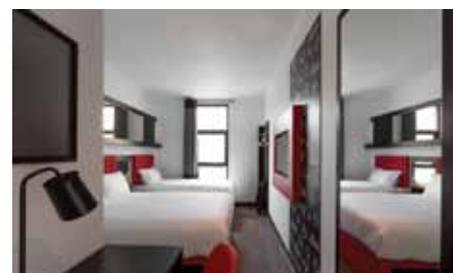
International hotel group Tune Hotels

has announced the pre-opening sale of its first Australian property in Melbourne.

Tune Hotel Melbourne in Swanston Street, Carlton is conveniently located next to the University of Melbourne, just two streets away from popular Lygon Street and minutes to Melbourne's Central Business District (CBD). The 225-room property will open for customers on the 1st November 2013.

To celebrate its arrival, Tune Hotel Melbourne is offering an attractive room rate from just **A\$49**.

Visit: tunehotels.com



88 Xintiandi Boutique Hotel has partnered with Shanghai Insiders Tours to offer guests a unique way to explore Shanghai's quaint back alleys and laneways with a new Xintiandi Insiders accommodation package that also includes a one-hour tour in a vintage motorbike with sidecar and a tour of the historical Shikumen Museum. Until 31st December, 2013, just book their Best Available Rate for a Tiandi One-Bedroom Suite to enjoy this special offer.

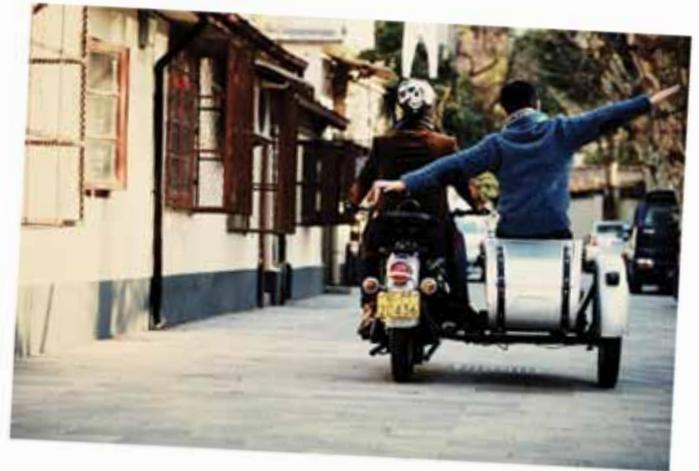
Perfectly positioned in Shanghai's Xintiandi entertainment district, 88 Xintiandi is at the centre of style. Surrounded by exclusive boutiques, chic restaurants and historic buildings.

88 Xintiandi offers a boutique hotel experience for guests looking for an intimate yet comfortable stay.

Guests can choose to stay in one of the hotel's 53 spacious studios or suites and enjoy understated luxury and engaging pleasures, including the full-service Club Lounge and state-of-art gym.

Visit: shanghai.88xintiandi.com

Stay at 88 Xintiandi Boutique Hotel and experience a side of Xintiandi like never before.



'SO GOURMET' STAY AND DINE PACKAGES WITH SOFITEL LUXURY HOTELS.

Great cuisine is part of any great escape, and not least of all when staying with French hoteliers Sofitel.

To celebrate travelling in good taste, Sofitel Luxury Hotels has created a new 'So Gourmet' package, a true epicurean adventure that includes overnight accommodation, breakfast each day and a daily \$60 credit to be used on drinks and dining in each Sofitel hotel's range of hotel bars, restaurants and cafes.

The 'So Gourmet' offer is available at Sofitel's range of exclusive addresses across Australia, New Zealand and Fiji.

The deal is valid for bookings and stays from now until 30 December 2013, and the price is inclusive of two people staying.



Visit: sofitel.com



Hotel Indigo Hong Kong Island Opens

Opened in May 2013, Hotel Indigo Hong Kong Island is set over 29 floors, with 138 individually styled rooms that capture the truly intriguing and dynamic environment in which it resides.

Wrapping the building is a striking gold dragon, functioning as an "eco-screen" to counteract hot spots and solar gain, representing the future of environmental design in Hong Kong.

The future of environmental design melds with the historically rich architecture and cultural history of the dynamic Hong Kong neighbourhood of Wan Chai

The impressive rooftop features Skybar and a dramatic infinity glass bottomed pool from which can be seen the hustle and bustle of Wan Chai neighbourhood below. State-of-the-art business facilities

make Hotel Indigo Hong Kong Island the perfect venue for business meetings. The 8 seat Boardroom has cable modem for high speed internet, LED TV, Blu-Ray, Stationery, tea, coffee and refreshments with Digital Projector, White Board, LCD Projector and more available upon request.

Visit: hotelindigo.com

New Langham Place Hotel to Open in Haining, China in 2014



The Langham Group will manage the first new luxury city centre hotel under the Langham Place brand in Haining, a bustling metropolis in the Zhejiang coastal province. The property, is scheduled to open in 2014.

Featuring 266 spacious guest rooms and suites, Langham Place, Haining will be part of an integrated complex comprising

a retail shopping centre, commercial offices and residential apartments. Langham Place, Haining will offer guests a wide variety of innovative dining and entertainment options including an all-day dining restaurant, a casual signature lounge and bar, and for the first time in Haining, the fine-dining Chinese restaurant that is inspired by

the renowned Michelin-starred Ming Court at Langham Place, Hong Kong. The hotel's highest floor will be the penultimate setting for special occasions, complemented by the panoramic vistas of the sparkling city below.

Visit: haikou.langhamhotels.com

Historic Hotel Carlton Lyon relaunches as chic MGallery Hotel.



One of the city's grandest and most historic hotels,

the Hotel Carlton Lyon– now part of Accor's distinctive MGallery Collection has just reopened in Lyon, France.

The Carlton is just a 5-minute walk from the Bellecour metro stop and is the ideal base for exploring Lyon, with its opera house, museums, the St. Jean Cathedral and the Musée des Beaux Arts. The hotel has grown into a legend. Built in 1894, the

majestic stone façade is quintessentially Haussmann and bears witness to this building's rich history.

Internally, the majestic staircase envelops the mythical 1930 Roux-Combaluzier elevator, which is made entirely of wood and wrought iron.

The retro décor in the lobby, bar, corridors and rooms intertwines distinctly classical atmospheres and an up-to-the minute feel.

The most coveted of the 80 rooms are the 4 Rotonde junior suites, featuring round sitting rooms and splendid views over the well-known Place de la République.

Visit: mgallery.com



Sudima Hotels New Zealand & Australia, A family affair!

The family affair that is Sudima hotels New Zealand | Australia starts with the name. It's an acronym of the initial letters of the six Jhunjhunwala siblings' first names, each of whom has a part in an enterprise that spans both hemispheres.

The 'S' is for Sudesh, now resident in Auckland and responsible for running the four Sudima hotels in the country and one in Brisbane Australia.

The four hotels in New Zealand include: Sudima Christchurch Airport (unscathed by the earthquake, but about to undergo a 25 Million redevelopment from September 2013), Sudima Lake Rotorua, the largest hotel there ideally located on Rotorua's lake front, Sudima Hamilton which is the first managed property for the group, the company's flagship purposely built hotel, Sudima Auckland Airport which opened in 2011 and last but not least, Sudima Brisbane which is a newly developed apartment style hotel in Brisbane Southbank precinct.

The Jhunjhunwala family, under their company Hind Properties, has had a presence in New Zealand since 1991.

Early assets included the Wiri Wool Stores in Auckland, the Masport Industrial Estate on the Mt Wellington Highway in Panmure and Central Park in Penrose.

In 2003, Hind sold Central Park at Penrose to Australia's Macquarie Goodman for more than \$52 million. That same year, Hind bought the Lake Plaza Rotorua.

Hind Properties owned between \$90 million and \$100 million of real estate in New Zealand in 2005. At that point, Mr Jhunjhunwala spoke of wanting to double that. He and his wife Laxmi are now settled in New Zealand.

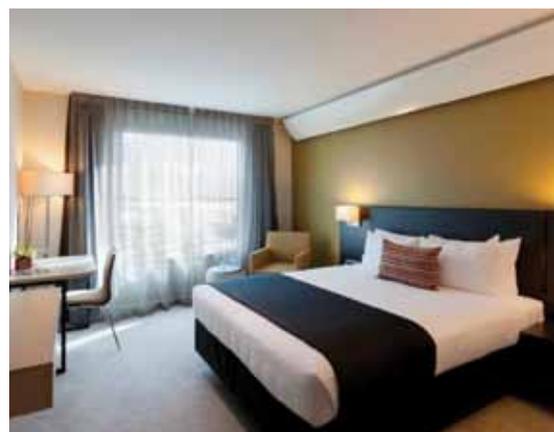
Mrs Jhunjhunwala is an artist and has taken part in many art exhibitions including a solo exhibition at the Mairangi Arts Centre. Examples of her work adorn every room at Sudima Auckland Airport.

The Hind group – now a third generation family company – has offices in India, Singapore, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos, as well as its Hong Kong headquarters. It owns substantial hotel and office properties, as well as having a

large investment portfolio. Sudesh Jhunjhunwala's brother Manoj runs the Hong Kong operation; another brother, Anil, is responsible for the Singapore branch.



Visit: sudima.co.nz



Crown Metropole

Melbourne
Australia



Sky view from Crown Metropol

It was a cold and wet night Tuesday

night in June, when I arrived in Melbourne, and the taxi driver dropped me off at Crown Towers instead of the Crown Metropole, however it wasn't all bad.

Once inside the 'Crown' complex everything became bright and shiny. It was wondrous to see almost every restaurant packed, so early. Nobu, Rockpool were all almost full of people enjoying pre dinner drinks, did I mention it was only Tuesday?

After a short walk through the first class, shopping precinct, I found the very impressive Crown Metropole lobby, after a short wait I was checked in and on my way up to a 'Loft' suite.

What a first impression, I was greeted by the night skyline of Melbourne which could be seen in almost every direction, thanks to the floor to ceiling glass walls on both sides of my suite.

As tempting as it was to just sit down and stare at the vista for the night, I decided to race up to 'Club 28' the hotel's corporate lounge before they stopped serving canapés and drinks for the evening.

As I arrived in the lounge just after seven, they were clearing up. Once I informed them that I had just flown in, they bent over backwards to arrange some snacks and some Pinot Noir just for me at no charge. The views of Melbourne were even better from the top floor.

After unwinding, I decided to go and explore my new Loft Suite. There was a great lounge area separate from the bedroom, which featured a huge screen TV, with loads of channels from all over the world that you don't usually see in hotel's. They must be for the foreign high rollers I decided.

The floor space was vast and the whole suite was beautifully appointed, the bathroom for example was spacious with exclusive custom made Crown amenities. You could relax in the oversized bath,

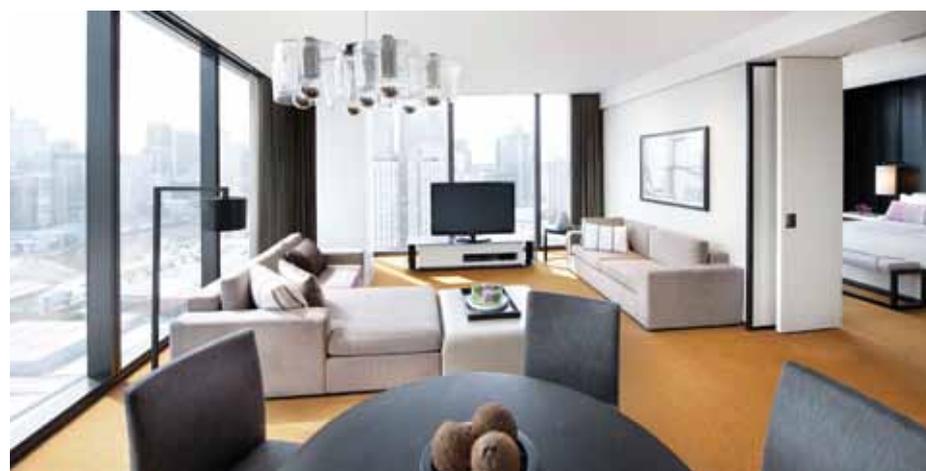
while over looking Melbourne's CBD. The bedroom is also spectacular, with its own entertainment centre, huge wardrobes and of course the jaw dropping views.

One of the joys of staying in the Metropole is the endless things to do. If you ever decide to leave your sumptuous Loft suite. In my case we decided to dine at the world famous Rockpool by celebrity chef Neil Perry. It was packed to the rafters. One of the best meals in ages, it was well worth the small wait.

Next it was back to the Loft, to watch a movie and enjoy some of the famous Mr Hive's truffle popcorn. In the morning it was time for a dip in the a pool, which had one of the best views ever seen from the infinity pool.

The Club lounge had been converted into a fantastic breakfast buffet, again the views are even better in the daytime.

You couldn't ask for a better corporate hotel, great service, views, food. 9/10
By Karl Schutt.



Samsung GALAXY S4

The GALAXY S4 takes the smartphone experience to the next level, the device features the world's first Full HD Super AMOLED display and 5-inch large screen for stunning viewing quality. In the past if you wanted to pause a video you had to press the button; the S4 simply pauses as soon as it detects your eyes have moved away from the screen. When you look back, it resumes playing. The eye detection functionality is also present when browsing the web or emails - you simply scroll up and down pages by looking rather than using your finger to swipe the screen.

The powerful 13 megapixel camera provides the highest clarity of any smartphone but it doesn't just stop there. Twelve built in modes enable you to do all sorts of tricks. Dual Shot mode for example not only takes a photo of what you want but at the same time also takes a photo of you taking the photo. It then displays it in a little thumbnail in the shot.

Visit: samsung.co.nz



Trakdot Luggage tracker



The Trakdot Luggage tracker fits into your luggage and reports it's location in real time to any mobile, Apple, Android, or SMS capable devices. Able to be tracked via a free app, the Trakdot also send's you a text or email when you land telling you that your checked in luggage arrived with you. The app also alerts passengers as their baggage approaches on the carousel, making it easier than ever for them to find their bag. So if your bag does get lost, you can at least find out what country it is in.

Visit: trakdot.com

SpareOne Emergency Phone

The new SpareOne Emergency Phone runs off only a AA battery and has a shelf life up to 15 years. The talk time is an incredible 10 hours, just plug in your sim card and your good to go. Even if you lost your Sim, you can still call emergency services without a local provider from any GSM network.

Visit: spareone.com



WheeMe Massage Robot

WheeMe by DreamBots is a palm size robot that gently massages and caresses as it moves slowly across your body. Embodying unique sensor technology, WheeMe automatically steers itself over your body without falling off or losing its grip in most cases. As it moves, WheeMe's four small wheels and the rotor finger gently press and caress providing a way to relieve those aches and pains from the long flight.

Visit: wheeme.com



Samsung Note 8.0

The GALAXY Note 8.0 brings together the best of both worlds - portability and productivity. Even with the compact 8 inch screen the Note 8.0 still packs the technology and features needed to make it your perfect multi-media tool. The S Pen helps you manage your calendar, to-do lists, meeting notes and even your personal diary entries. Multi-tasking is easy with the innovative Multi Window feature which enables you to use two of the many apps at once on the screen. The Note 8.0 even supports your everyday needs; Smart Remote means you can seamlessly manage TVs, DVD & Blu-ray players and Reading Mode transforms your Note 8.0 into an e-Book reader so you can enjoy a good book in any environment.

Visit: samsung.co.nz



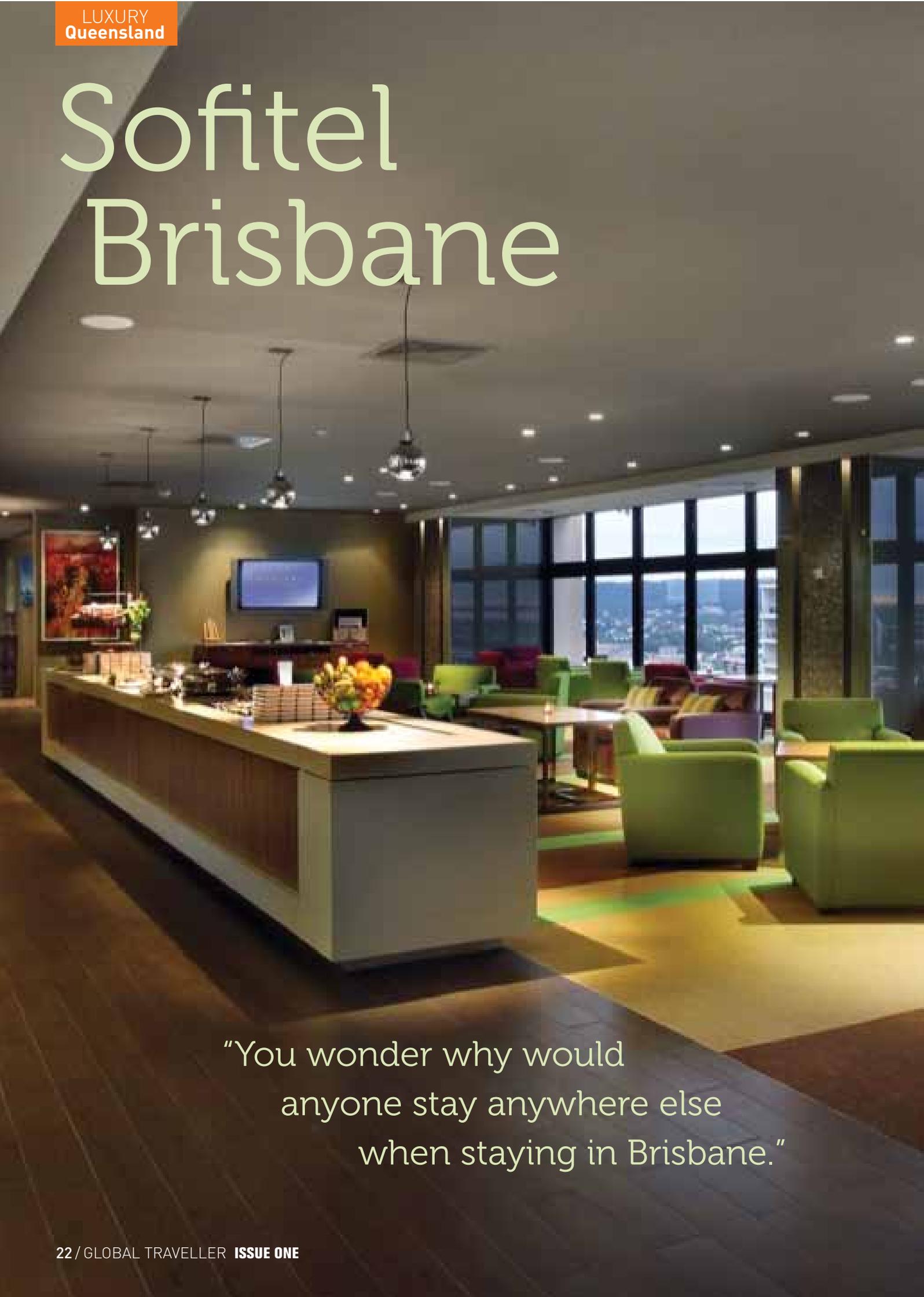
Martian Smart Watch

Designed for travellers, this new voice activated Bluetooth watch contains a microphone, a speaker, an OLED display and a micro-USB port. Keeping with the typical analog display, these watches connect to Android smartphones, iPhones, iPod touches, and iPads. With top of the line voice recognition and a speaker, the watch can display texts and email, read them out loud, then allow you to speak directly to Siri or other voice recognition programs to reply. You can also use it as a remote shutter control for your phones camera and it alerts you if you leave your phone behind. Of course you can also make and take phone calls just by talking into your watch.

Visit: martianwatches.com



Sofitel Brisbane



"You wonder why would
anyone stay anywhere else
when staying in Brisbane."



Sitting in the luxurious So Club lounge at the Sofitel in Brisbane, sipping a NZ Pinot Noir, dining on beautiful canapés, listening to French music on a wet winter Sunday night, you wonder why would anyone stay anywhere else when staying in Brisbane. Having spent millions upgrading their rooms, the hotel is looking even better than when I first stayed five years ago.

My room was very stylish, with dark hues and a convenient workstation, great art works throughout, not to mention my MyBed' complete with a pillow menu (Tip: don't sleep with the default pillows they are huge)

They say you can always tell the age of a place by the light fittings and switches, I have rarely seen more modern fittings, all push button including the power points.

Stay on the Sofitel Club levels, a little bit more but worth every cent even if just for the breakfast with one of the best views ever over Brisbane. I was there during Mothers Day, the lounge served free French Champagne till midday. A very classy touch.



Sofitel Brisbane even has it's own entrance at the Brisbane central train station, which means that you can simply catch the Airtrain from the airport and walk a few steps to the hotel escalators up to reception.

But don't take my word for it, check out our photo's. The new refurbishment brings the Sofitel Brisbane to new level. But the staff are what really makes this place special.

**Accommodation, food, service:
8 out of 10. By Karl Schutt.**





Sea Temple Gold Coast



If you are heading to **Surfers** and are looking for something new, something beyond the average, then the recently opened Sea Temple located in the iconic Soul building is the place for you. From the moment you pull up and see the three story, lobby complete with the sweeping marble grand staircase and giant chairs and lamps straight from Alice in Wonderland, you know you are in for a treat.

At a cost of NZ\$1 billion for the tower, the attention to detail is what sets this hotel apart. After a quick check in it's off to my suite on the 59th floor which is located on the levels called Skyview. Simply touch the door with the card and you enter another world. Walk along the marble hallway into the lounge and prepared to be stunned. Floor to ceiling windows, two massive balconies provide a 180 degree view, which just takes your breath away.

It's not very often you get to sit outside on the deck of your suite and watch helicopters fly below you. My bedroom had double ranchsliders that could be opened up on both sides, allowing for unrestricted views of the beach front for miles and miles (and miles)

The corner of my room had a giant HD TV, which was suspended at eye level, which meant that when turned on it gave the effect that it was floating in the sky.

With free Wi-Fi, a great mini bar, a Bosch fridge complete with



ice maker, room service you really never have to leave your palace in the sky.

But I strongly recommend that you venture back down and try out the in-house eatery 'Seaduction' on the third level. With the former chef from Versace, you are in for a culinary delight, perched just over the ocean again the attention to detail is outrageous. There is a stunning private dining room and a world class wine cellar. Everything is custom built including the cowhide chairs.

After dinner, retreat to the library for an after dinner drink or head back up into the sky, grab your swimming gear and make for the pool, it's quite surreal sitting in the massive spa pool, overlooking the huge infinity pool, which sits above the crashing waves of the beach front below. Three levels of water blend into one, yet it's only meters above the craziness of Cavall Ave in the heart of Surfers Paradise.

And there is so much more left to discover, the secret outside gardens, the incredible indoor pool complex, with

indoor lap pool overlooking the ocean, sauna, steam room and plunge pools.

Once you do head back up stairs, the night time views are unparalleled, lights as far as you can see in every direction. Maybe they should change the name of the hotel to Skytemple. Leaving this super stylish suite was very difficult indeed.

**10/10 Just amazing.
By Simon Cameron.**



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Bistro & Wine Bar



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Valued at \$180.00



Dinner at the Stunning & Stylish Elephant Hill

This Winery restaurant is the perfect place to unwind and enjoy delicious food and stunning wines while taking in the breath-taking views over the Pacific Ocean and vines.

You will receive a beautiful 3 course dinner for 2 with a bottle of Elephant Hill wine to enhance your experience.

Valued at \$150.00



The Art Deco & Vintage Car Experience with Packard Promenades

Experience for yourself what makes Napier the Art Deco capital of the world. Gain an insight into both the destruction wrought by the earthquake, as well as the gift of land it bestowed as it reshaped the City of Napier forever. Marvel at the elegance of the buildings of the "Newest City in the World", and enjoy the detail and style of some of the private gardens in Marewa all from the comfort of a refurbished 1939 Packard Six Automobile.

Tour Duration 1 hour 15min

Valued at \$140.00

Surfers Paradise Marriott Resort & Spa

The perfect venue for your next conference.

The great thing about having a conference or corporate event at the five star Marriott Resort & Spa is that you feel like you are on holiday from the moment, you walk into the grand lobby.

Yet, there's many little areas where you can mix business with pleasure, like the Connect lounge overlooking the main lagoon or the meeting rooms that face the ocean. What better way get through that boring presentation than watching the palms sway in the wind.

Once your meeting is finished you can even, go snorkelling in the enormous tropical fish filled lagoon or catch the afternoon sun on the hotel's own white sandy beach.

After freshening up in your executive suite (or better yet Marriott's Presidential suite) it's time to join your colleagues for pre dinner drinks under a canopy, complete with tiki torches.

But don't make the mistake of assuming that this is a resort with small meeting rooms thrown in for the corporate market. No, the Marriott Surfers Paradise can handle huge conferences and events. In fact the hotel has just undergone a \$40 million renovation.

There is a huge ballroom that can be converted to theatre style seating, the conferences venues at the Marriott offers sophisticated event space for up to 800 guests. There are 9 meeting rooms with ,160 sqm of total meeting space available.

And for any partners attending, the Resort is located just moments from pristine beaches, fashionable shopping precincts or there is the award winning Lattouf Hair & Day Spa on site to occupy the day. You won't be missed.....

Business dinners are a delight at the Marriott and include Japanese cuisine prepared by entertaining Teppanyaki chefs at Benihana to fresh, local seafood at the famous buffet restaurant, Citrique.

In short your whole team will be well looked after from the big boss through to his wife. There really is something for everybody at this resort from serious business to a serious holiday, the Marriott Resort & Spa has it all.

Visit: marriott.com



Versace

The Gold Coast's
Ageless Grand Hotel.

From the moment your car tyres hit the handmade cobblestone palazzo and your door is opened by a Versace clad doorman, you know you are in for something special.

The distinctive vision of Gianni Versace, his audacious commitment to luxury and beauty, influenced the design of this iconic Gold Coast landmark.

The world's first fashion-branded hotel set in a spectacular waterfront setting, every aspect of the architecture, ambience, furnishings and ornamentation reflects a level of opulence once confined to the grand hotels of Europe.

Richly decorated spaces proclaim the transcendence of Italian design. Singular touches include peerless marbles and mosaics, vaulted ceilings hand-detailed in gold, an antique chandelier that once shed its lustre on the grand State Library of Milan.

But there is still that old fashioned high level of service, even down to being greeted by name, even though it's been a year since my last visit. The grand lobby is getting better looking as it matures, and it has taken on a glow that can only come from the very best marble.

Interestingly there is always something going on, people fine dining, local socialites having high tea by the lagoon pool.

I can fully recommend a room overlooking the white beach of the swimming pool. With the blue water and ivy growing up the side of the stone washed hotel facade, you could be mistaken for thinking you were staying in a private villa on Lake Como, but I think that was the intention. Visit: palazzoversace.com.au

By Karl Schutt





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LUXURY

The brand new business class lounge Frankfurt's new A-Plus terminal features, workstations, relaxation areas, a full sized bar and many dining options.



Relaxing or working?

Five centrally-located new lounges enhance the A-Plus pier.

It is the view of the big, wide world of travel, a view that passengers can enjoy in one of the five new Lufthansa Lounges in the A-Plus pier through the extensive glass facades. The Lufthansa Lounges are to be found at a central location; in the stunning atrium area.

The new lounges are located close together and are to be found on the different levels of the four-storey building, so that they can be reached quickly and easily by passengers on both Schengen and Non-Schengen flights.

In the First Class and two Senator or Business Lounges, passengers can experience exclusive service offerings in a charmingly designed ambiance. The new lounges have space of over 7,600 square meters, with the start of operations of the A-Plus pier. Lufthansa has almost 50 percent more lounge space than previously at Frankfurt Airport. The Senator Lounge in the Non-Schengen

area, which alone has 2,100 square metres, can even rightly claim to be the largest Lufthansa lounge worldwide.

The passengers can refresh themselves in one of the new bathroom areas with up to twelve showers. The First Class Lounge with over 1,000 square metres on level 3 of the pier offers service of an extra class. Lufthansa has assembled a library with high-quality illustrated books on various topics like cars, architecture or travel. In the bathroom areas, besides showers there are also two bathtubs.

As usual, all Lufthansa Lounges offer the right surroundings for every occasion: a transit passenger who is longing for relaxation is sure to be happy in special quiet rooms. For business travellers offices with the latest technology, free WLAN access, photocopiers and fax machines are available. A special area for smokers has also been created.

In the bistro areas passengers can satisfy their appetites with small snacks and have a wide selection of drinks. Televisions and an extensive selection of national and international magazines and daily newspapers offer entertainment and information.

The design is elegant and timeless. Large, partly illuminated motifs in the walls create a cosy atmosphere, comfortable, spacious armchairs as well as high-quality materials and coordinated colours round off the furnishing concept. Frankfurt is Germany's first airport with the new look Lufthansa lounges.





Lufthansa's latest Business Class seat is being rolled out across the whole long-haul fleet.

"The outcome is a seat that meets the most discerning demands as regards seating & sleeping comfort."

The new Lufthansa Business Class seat boasts a horizontal sleeping surface measuring 1.98 metres in length. At the press of a button, it converts into a comfortable bed. The seat impresses with the exceptional comfort it offers as a flat bed or as an upright or reclining seat, with its intuitive adjustments, additional storage space and enhanced entertainment system.



Back in 2007 Lufthansa conducted a survey of more than 500 frequent flyers in order to find out their preferences and their requirements of a Business Class seat. With that as the starting point, the airline moved on to the next phase and developed various concepts with the aid of well-known ergonomics experts, designers and seat manufacturers. In 2010 an eight-week trial was conducted on the Frankfurt-New York-Frankfurt route. The outcome is a seat that meets the most discerning demands as regards seating and sleeping comfort.



Another novel feature is the innovative seating arrangement in the form of a "V". Two neighbouring seats are angled towards one another along a central axis. This solution enabled Lufthansa to fulfil one of the main wishes expressed by customers – to sit or lie facing the direction of travel. This seating arrangement also enabled Lufthansa to virtually double the distance between two neighbouring seats at shoulder level, which in future will give Business Class passengers greater privacy. Furthermore, the newly developed concept allows Lufthansa to make optimum use of the space on board.

Visit: lufthansa.com

Lufthansa First Class

Lufthansa has been awarded a 5-Star ranking for its First Class Cabin.

On board Lufthansa aircraft, the Skytrax rating system singled out the superb comfort of the First-Class cabin with ergonomically contoured seats, which convert into a fully flat, two-metre long bed. Top marks also went to Lufthansa in-flight entertainment, which offers movies in up to eight languages, a variety of TV and radio channels as well as a selection of CDs and audio books. Additionally, Skytrax awarded outstanding marks to Lufthansa's First-Class cabin staff for their onboard service quality, which had lent an added note to the 5-Star rating and which had shown marked improvement over the past twelve months.

On the ground, the First-Class Terminal in Frankfurt scored 5-Star ratings across many of the assessment categories. Aside from exclusive service from personal assistants for HONs and First-Class passengers from a greeting on arrival at the airport through to check-in for their flight, the dedicated Terminal won acclaim for its comfortable armchairs and sofas as well as other amenities including quiet rooms with daybeds. A separate cigar lounge, spacious bathrooms offering high-quality toiletries as well as an extensive choice of hot or cold meals, cocktails and fine wines contributed to Skytrax top-tier ranking.



A paradise called *Bay*

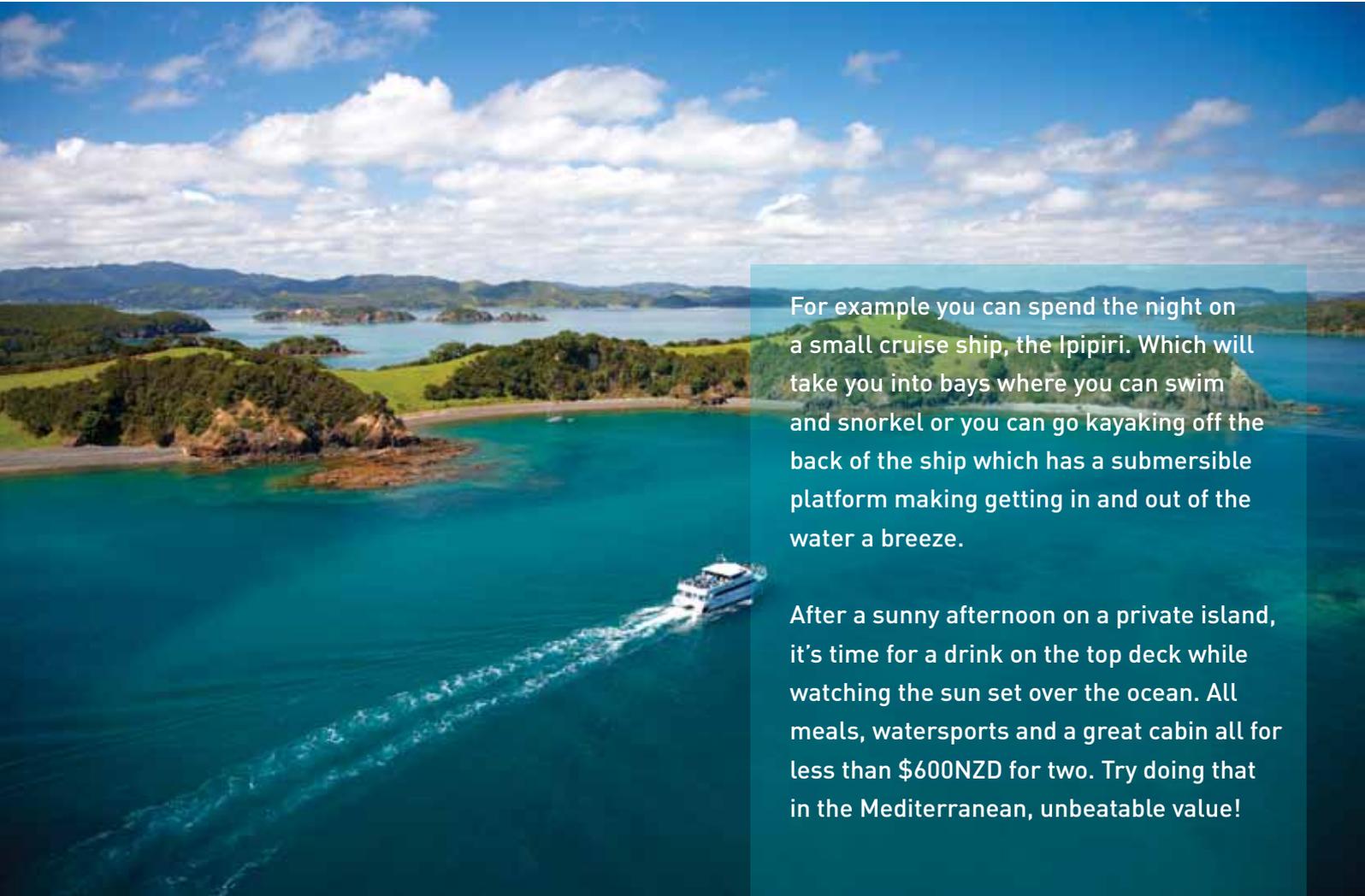


the of Islands.

Just a few hours north of Auckland is a paradise called the Bay Of Islands.

Once the domain of the caravans and camping grounds, things have changed. Although you can still find a stunning campsite for next to nothing, there are lots of accommodation options that have sprung up in the last few years, which are on an international level. Eagles Nest, Kauri Cliffs, the new look Duke Of Marlborough Hotel to name a few.

These are the type of places where guests fly in by helicopter, with personal assistants and chefs in tow. But the great news is that you can experience the winterless north for a fraction of the cost while still enjoying one of the most beautiful places on earth.



For example you can spend the night on a small cruise ship, the Ipipiri. Which will take you into bays where you can swim and snorkel or you can go kayaking off the back of the ship which has a submersible platform making getting in and out of the water a breeze.

After a sunny afternoon on a private island, it's time for a drink on the top deck while watching the sun set over the ocean. All meals, watersports and a great cabin all for less than \$600NZD for two. Try doing that in the Mediterranean, unbeatable value!



If being on land is your thing, then look no further than Heritage Boutique Hotel, The Waterfront Suites in beautiful Paihia. This modern property has a great pool overlooking the ocean, massive suites with huge kitchens through to studio apartments. This is an ideal place to base yourself while indulging in the areas multiple attractions.

Still awesome is the Fullers Great Sights trip out to the Hole In The Rock. With lots of international tourists on board, you really do get into the overwhelming beauty of it all. It's hard not to get excited with pods of dolphins swimming around the catamaran on the way out to the rock.



The commentary on board is excellent and you get a real sense of connection with the incredible history of the Bay of Islands. You can almost sense what the early settlers went through as the story of different bays unfolds before you.

Again there is a great stop for lunch on yet another private island, where you can swim or have a glass of wine in the sun.

Want to be here for a weekend break? Take a Bay of Islands Freedom Friday.

A recent survey found that:

83%

of Kiwi workers believe that finishing work early on a Friday would decrease stress levels and increase workplace morale.

70%

admit to being most easily distracted on a Friday afternoon.

Over Half

owned up to giving priority to their social arrangements over work tasks on a Friday afternoon.

**SO, YOU MAY AS WELL HAVE A FREEDOM
FRIDAY & HEAD TO THE BAY OF ISLANDS
FOR A WEEKEND BREAK.**

Discover more at:

f [facebook.com/fullersgreatsights](https://www.facebook.com/fullersgreatsights)
dolphincruises.co.nz/freedomfridays



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If you decide that Russell is for you then head to Eagles Nest, the ultra exclusive property. It's so special it doesn't even have a sign on the gate, you are supplied a map to get there.

The private road has seen movie stars, tycoons and billionaires all heading to their private villas and the good news is the new winter rates makes Eagles Nest amazingly affordable for groups or that special occasion.

Also there is a wide range of villas to choose from, that have different features but all offer breathtaking sea views and privacy.

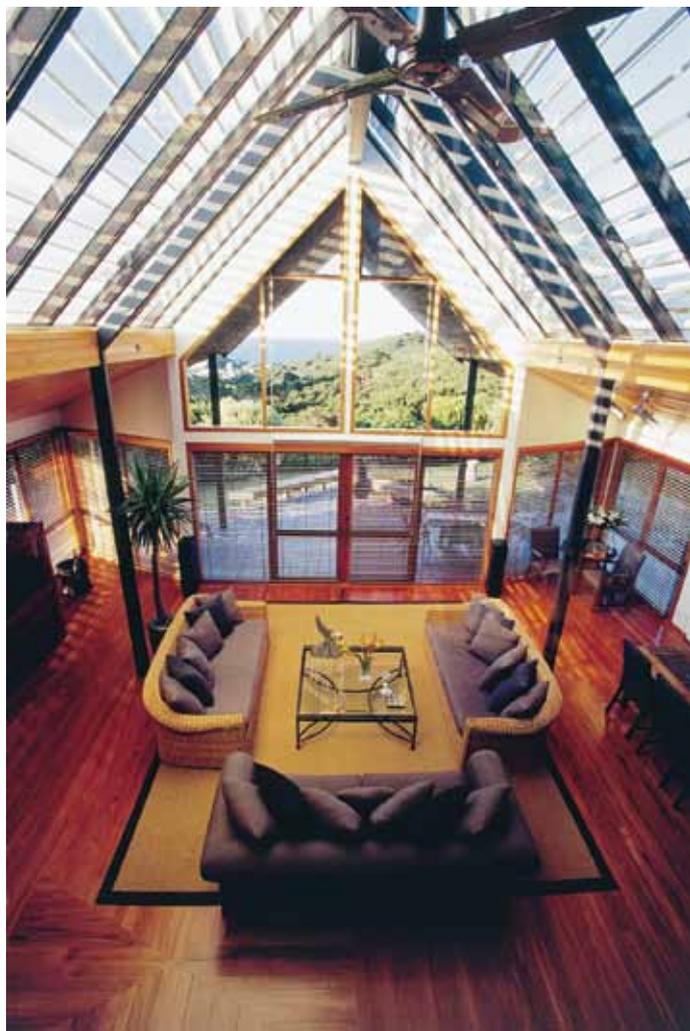
The top lodge has even been voted 'Best Lodge' in the world. Each villa is filled with objets d'art from all around the world, which means that each residence has its own ambiance.

There is even a private gated beach just for guests to enjoy. Another bonus is that you can have the chefs at the Duke of Marlborough to cater to corporate groups or dinner for two on your private ocean facing deck. The perfect partnership.

Eagles Nest is one of the most private, world class resorts in not only the Bay of Islands but in the entire country, you really feel special just being on the property.

All the movies stars and moguls that have stayed at Eagles Nest in total privacy are onto something.

Visit: eaglesnest.co.nz



The Duke of Marlborough, Russell

After another fantastic day on the water, it's time to freshen up and hop on the quaint Russell ferry for a quick trip to NZ's first capital for dinner at the very first licensed hotel in the country, the Duke of Marlborough.

The Duke of Marlborough began its life in 1827 as "Johnny Johnston's Grog Shop". The owner Johnny Johnston was an ex convict come good, he became fluent in Te Reo and was very well regarded with the local Maori. This relationship led to Johnny being able to purchase the freehold site of the Duke – which was one of the first

Waking up looking at the beautiful Russell bay, should be on everybody's bucket list.

land sales to a European in New Zealand. After changing hands many times over the years, the current owner Anton Haagh and partners have brought the Duke back to life. After spending years working for Simon Gault's Nourish Group, Anton has brought the restaurant up to an international standard.

Sitting on the outdoor deck on the waterfront as the sun is setting, while drinking a wine over dinner is simply one of this country's true delights. Once the sun sets, lanterns are hung from the trees, candles are lit and the deck turns into a magical scene.

Luckily the food and wine are more than equal to the stunning vistas. As you can almost touch the waves lapping the shore from your seat, there is an emphasis on the freshest seafood available.

Best of all, you can now stay the night at the Duke in one of their beautiful waterfront suites. Waking up looking at the beautiful Russell Bay, should be on everybody's bucket list.

Visit: theduke.co.nz

40 / GLOBAL TRAVELLER ISSUE ONE



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✈ WIN A WEEKEND FOR TWO IN BRISBANE

Stay with us and enjoy our great winter deals – You’ll go into the draw to win a weekend for TWO at the new Sudima Suites in Brisbane (airfares and accommodation). Every time you stay with us gives you another chance to win. Two separate prize draws will be made in June and September.

*Conditions apply. Listed prices apply to single occupancy bookings and include GST.



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DiscoverAmerica.com