

AUCKLAND CAFE CULTURE
The World Cup brew

MAGNIFICENT MALDIVES
Luxury with a conscience

BIG & BIGGER IN ALBERTA
In search of dinosaur fossils

QANTAS

FEBRUARY 2011

THE AUSTRALIAN WAY

ENVIRONMENT REPORT CARD

Greening THE ARTS

Cate Blanchett & Andrew Upton

Inside their theatre of inspiration

★ **FLANNERY ON
THE BOUNTY**

Notes on WA's
extraordinary
flora & fauna

★ **THE GREAT
BARRIER REEF**

And the future
of marine
conservation

★ **WHAT'S LEFT
TO EXPLORE?**

From biospheres
and forest floors
to sunken cities

PLUS

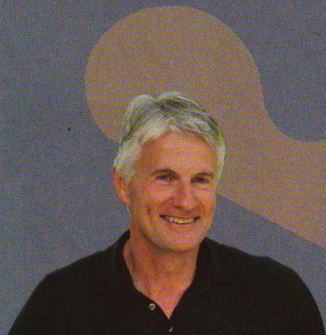
» LONDON PLANS AN ECO OLYMPICS » UPCYCLING UPDATE
» LUXURY CARS DRIVE THE GREEN AGENDA » TALL SHIPS AHOY

ONLINE: QANTAS.COM/TRAVELINSIDER



Eco indulgence

In choosing luxury hotels, eco credentials are now proving as important as the pillow menu.



↓ Where I stay

Christoph Ingenhoven

Ingenhoven Architects, designer of 1 Bligh Street, Sydney's greenest building (rated six Green Stars)

SUVRETTA HOUSE

"I enjoy Switzerland for its beautiful landscapes: snowy winter mountains that become green and flowery in summer. There is also a good mixture of old and contemporary architecture. In St Moritz, one of my favourite hotels is Suvretta House. Situated in a well-kept nature-protection area, it offers beautiful views, but also great opportunities for sports and leisure."

Suvretta House, St Moritz, Switzerland.
www.suvrettahouse.ch/en/

THE SCARLET

Tredragon Road, Mawgan Porth, Cornwall, United Kingdom.
+44 (1637) 861 800. www.scarlethotel.co.uk

Cornwall, stony-beached summer destination for generations of English holidaymakers, has never been part of the Brit-cool pack. But the tide is turning with the introduction of stylish boutique accommodation such as the hip, yet eco-friendly The Scarlet. Thirty seven rooms sprawl across the cliff top, with driftwood-inspired designs encouraging an almost seamless integration from rock face to bedroom. A natural ventilation system and bio-mass boiler reduce the hotel's carbon footprint, while hot tub "pods", settled on the sheer precipices overlooking the coastline, are heated by sustainable wood-chip fires below. From \$299.

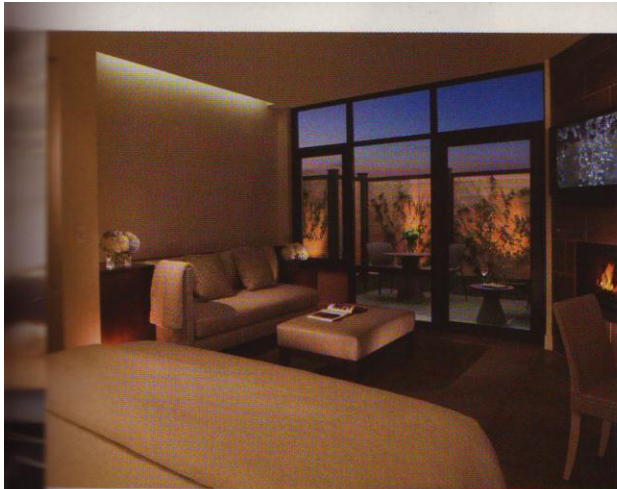


← FOUR SEASONS TENTED CAMP GOLDEN TRIANGLE

Ruak River, Chiang Rai, Thailand.
+66 (0) 53 910 200.

www.fourseasons.com/goldentriangle

Looking for something a little more adventurous? Four Seasons' Golden Triangle will help aspiring Tarzans and Janes get back to nature, with luxury tents providing a comfortably "wild" experience. Survey the jungle, mountains and thundering Ruak River from your own outdoor deck. Each of the 15 elevated tents is styled after the fashion of 19th-century explorers. Enjoy a guided tour with local hill tribespeople or explore by river boat or atop an elephant. From \$2514 per twin tent, all-inclusive.



↑ BARDESSONO

6526 Yount Street, Yountville, California, USA.
+1 (877) 932 5333. www.bardessono.com

Putting other luxury eco hotels to shame is Bardessono, California's first LEED- (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified Platinum hotel, complete with 62 suites. Salvaged wood and non-toxic recycled materials were used in construction, while on-site solar panels and geothermal wells provide energy straight from nature. Despite its commitment to clean, green living this Napa Valley retreat is no hippie commune. The steam spa-suites feature a private spa fitted out with massage table, soaking tub, outside shower, and double vanity. There are carbon-fibre bicycles to pedal around on. From \$405.



↑ PLAYA VIVA

Carretera Zihuatanejo-Acapulco, Playa Icacos, Julichuca, Guerrero, Mexico. +52 (74) 4109 2016. www.playaviva.com
Down Mexico way is a resort with a heart of green. From their dedication to solar energy and renewable bamboo to the planting of more than 10,000 indigenous trees, Playa Viva works hard at keeping in touch with its roots. Guests are equally well-nourished. Morning yoga classes and the hands-on experience of releasing turtle hatchlings nurture body and soul, while organic basil margaritas take care of everything else. With only five rooms available, it's an intimate stay; the open-air rooms only adding to the natural vibe. From \$190.

CHECK-IN

COMPILED BY **MICHAELA WILLIAMS**

ASK THE CONCIERGE



Carl-Peter Echtermeijer

The Ring, Vienna

❖ **When friends are in town I take them for a drink at...**

Drings at The Ring. This is Vienna's latest vodka bar, offering more than 50 vodka variations.

❖ **The restaurant that best shows off Vienna is...**

CapaTosta. It's typical Italian, but with great live music, huge pizzas – a gem.

❖ **For designer fashion I steer guests towards...**

the 7th district. Here you can find some great boutiques and shops owned by individual designers or people covering several labels.

❖ **For fine wines...** head to the 19th district. There you will find many restaurants – we call these Heuriger or Buschenschank – where you can enjoy some great food and some of the best wines.

❖ **If it's raining...** a visit to one of Vienna's museums makes sense. I personally prefer the MUMOK (Museum of Modern Art).

❖ **Overrated sights include...** the Prater amusement park, where expensive attractions can easily encourage you to overshoot your budget.

“ I'd go to Figlmüller to eat the largest Wiener schnitzel in Vienna

❖ **For the perfect gift or memento I'd shop at...** the new Swarovski store in town, a huge shop where you can find shoppers from all around the globe.

❖ **Couples wanting a romantic dinner for two should consider...** dinner at the Wiener Riesenrad [Vienna's giant antique Ferris wheel]. This is a fabulous experience.

❖ **If I wanted to see great art I'd go to...** the Kubik installation, with its colourfully-lit water tanks and electronic beats.

❖ **The best markets can be found at...** Naschmarkt. It has existed since the 16th century and is about 1.5km long. It's a great place for globetrotters and it's next to the city centre.

❖ **Vienna's best-kept secret is...** fishing at the famous Viennese Kanalforelle. You can see many fisherman at the Donaukanal [the Danube canal] fishing here every day, right in the city.

❖ **If I were a visitor with a free day I would...** visit the city centre's main sights, including the Vienna State Opera House and St Stephen's Church. I'd go to Figlmüller to eat the largest Wiener schnitzel Vienna has to offer and then head to the Palais Schönbrunn. After, I'd go into the city for coffee and pastries at one of the typical Viennese coffee houses. Later, dinner at CapaTosta, a vodka cocktail at Drings, followed by a party at either SASS Music Club, the Scotch Club or Oil.