COMPILED BY BRENDA CHRISTIAN

The way to stay

There's an art to luxury accommodation. as these new hotels clearly demonstrate.



THE BLACKMAN

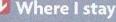
452 St Kilda Road, Melbourne, Victoria, 1800 278 468, www.artserieshotels.com.au

Snug in the hub of Melbourne's CBD is The Blackman, a new addition to the Art Series Hotel Group, Inspired by the spirit of Australian painter Charles Blackman, it features his art throughout the hotel. A mixture of king and queen suites with kitchen facilities, every room has either a large terrace or balcony with sweeping views overlooking Melbourne. From \$169.



Where I stay

It's the laid-back, largely self-sufficient Ca' Di Gosto, Cortona, Umbria, Italy.



Publisher Luxe City Guides

lowcooking.homestead.com



MATAKAURI LODGE

Matakauri Lod

888 Glenorchy Queenstown Road, Queenstown, New Zealand. +64 (3) 441 1008. www.matakauri.co.nz

Owners of New Zealand's North Island luxury lodges Kauri Cliffs and The Farm at Cape Kidnappers, Julian and Josie Robertson purchased this, their third property, last year and immediately embarked on an extensive refurbishment. The alpine lakeside retreat, close to all the attractions of Queenstown, opened in August and has 11 luxurious suites with eight outlying cottages and three suites located in the main lodge. Every suite offers its own private terrace with an open fireplace overlooking Lake Wakatipu and the breathtaking peaks of The Remarkables mountains. From SNZ595 (\$480).



THE REDBURY @ HOLLYWOOD & VINE

1717 Vine Street, Los Angeles, California, USA, +1 (323) 962 1717. www.theredbury.com

The Redbury is a contemporary suite experience that provides guests with all the comforts of home - European-style kitchens, washer/ dryer units, spacious bathrooms with walk-in rain showers, high-speed wi-fi - and quirky interior design reminiscent of a domestic address. All 57 guest suites have an eclectic mix of traditional English antiques, Persian rugs and vintage rock'n'roll posters that the doyens of the music, fashion and entertainment industries will love. Executive chef Danny Elmaleh is behind the stoves at the hotel's Cleo restaurant, which offers 24-hour in-suite dining, From SUS299 (\$326).

ASK THE CONCIERGE



- When friends are in town I take them for a drink at... the Opera Bar, with its wonderful
- views and live music. · The restaurant that best shows off Sydney is... Agua Dining at Milsons Point, The menu is contemporary and
- the view is incredible. · For designer fashion I steer guests towards... Paddington, where many of Australia's top designers have boutique stores -Collette Dinnigan, Sass & Bide, Alannah Hill, to name a few.
- The best markets can be found at... Paddington on Saturdays, Markets at The Rocks and Manly are also amazing. For vintage finds go to ... Glebe Markets on a Saturday, a short walk from the University of Sydney and a great place to find vintage clothes and accessories. A walk down King Street in Newtown is also rewarding. fit's raining... head to the Powerhouse Museum, the Australian Museum, the Australian National Maritime



The views offer a perspective you don't see in tourist guides

* For the perfect gift or memento I'd shop at... the Strand Arcade, one of Sydney's oldest and most beautiful shopping destinations, offering edgy homewares (Funkis and Dinosaur Designs), amazing jewellery (Rox, Venerari, Love & Hatred) and key Australian fashion designers (Akira, Zimmermann, Alex Perry).

- Couples wanting a romantic dinner for two should consider... Buon Ricordo, Boundary Street, Paddington. Chef Armando Percuoco is at the forefront of Italian cuisine. Ask for a table upstairs.
- * To see great art go to... the Art Gallery of NSW. Current exhibitions include drawings by 19th-century French masters.

Museum or Sydney Museum; with children in tow - Sydney Aquarium and Wildlife World. Overrated sights include... Bondi Beach is always a bit of a let-down for many of our guests. Sydney's best-kept secret is... walking trails with real wow factor. The Spit to Manly coastal walk (three hours and 45 minutes) has just that. The views offer a perspective of Sydney you don't see in tourist guides; it is ideal for people who are willing to explore. f I were a visitor with a free day I would... jump on a Manly ferry. It is a great way to see the harbour and Manly Beach gives a taste of our surf culture. There is something for everyone: surfing lessons, beautiful walks, restaurants and great shopping.

48 QANTAS OCTOBER 2010

The Sheraton Waikiki

2255 Kalakaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.

This Oahu hotel is the ultimate beach address. The resort has a prime position along the

edge of Waikiki Beach with panoramic ocean views from most rooms. After a \$187 million

renovation, the hotel is as sparkling as the water it overlooks with refreshed guestrooms,

redesigned public areas, new landscaping and infinity pool. It also has some of the best

dining options along the strip, including Twist at Hanohano and the oceanfront RumFire

bar, with the largest selection of vintage rum in the US. From \$US665 (\$726), ocean view.

+1 (808) 922 4422, www.sheraton-waikiki.com