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GOURMET TRAVELLER

THE HOT 100
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YOUR GO-TO GUIDE

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Perfect harvest picnic & cool pickles
The Apollo: Sydney's chic Greek
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tarte Tatin with
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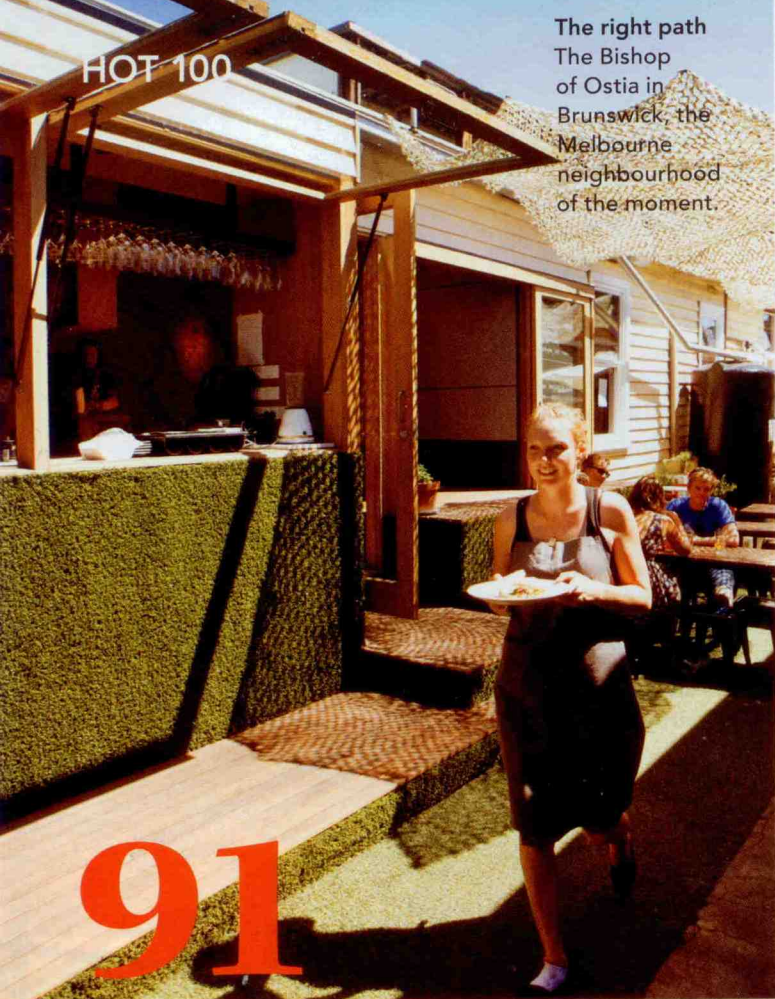
THE HOT 100

What do ice-cream sandwiches, amphora-fermented wines, hip London hoteliers and cashmere eye-masks have in common? They're among the new stars in this year's *Gourmet Traveller* Hot 100. Consider this (in no particular order) your global hit list, from the latest in travel tips to emerging food and drinks trends.

GOURMET
TRAVELLER

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The right path
The Bishop of Ostia in Brunswick, the Melbourne neighbourhood of the moment.



91

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD MOST LIKELY

Brunswick, in Melbourne's inner north, has been giving off Next Big Thing rumbles for a while now, mostly from Lygon Street where the likes of Rumi, Hellenic Republic, Kumo Izakaya, Bar Idda and L'atelier de Monsieur Truffe have been nudging the strip towards precinct status. Then there was Pope Joan and The Bishop of Ostia, and now with Albert St Food & Wine opening on Sydney Road, raising the bar and packing 'em in ever since, it seems as if Brunswick is truly ready for its close-up.

92 BANGKOK BOUNCES BACK

The Thai capital's recent history of riots, floods and a general run of bad luck has done nothing to deter hoteliers from staking their reputations (and cash) on the enduring appeal of exotic Bangkok. New to the City of Angels are the 227-room St Regis with its panoramic pool views and Elemis spa, the Sofitel So with interiors "art-directed" by couturier Christian Lacroix, and the 400-plus-room W Hotel, which is opening on Embassy Row in October. There's also the brand-new eight-room boutique gem Cabochon Hotel & Residence, in the Walpole building on Sukhumvit Road. Leading the pack, however, is The Siam, a collaboration between Thai pop sensation

Krissada Sukosol Clapp and resort king Bill Bensley, the design brain behind Anantara's tropical retreats. The Siam is finally set to open next month, and sells itself as an urban resort of art deco-accented suites and pool villas, occupying more than a hectare of prized Chao Phraya river frontage. It even has its own Muay Thai boxing ring. starwoodhotels.com; sofitel.com; cabochonhotel.com; thesiamhotel.com

93 MELBOURNE'S LATEST SLICED-WHITE OBSESSION

First there was the pork belly number at Earl Canteen. Then came the mighty lobster roll at Golden Fields. Now it's the Bishop of Ostia, the after-dark offshoot of Brunswick brunch favourite Pope Joan, with its deep-fried pig's ear, a silk purse of sauce gribiche, chilli and rocket. Boo-ya.

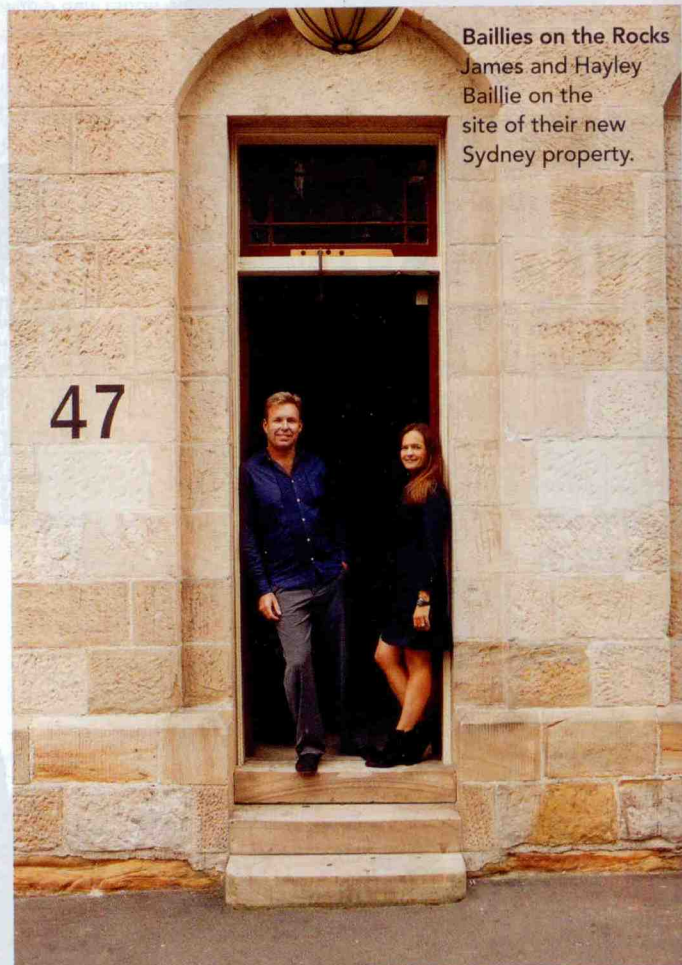
94 FOOD-FRIENDLIEST SOCIAL MEDIUM

Somewhere between Twitter ubiquity and Pinterest early adoption, you'll find Instagram, an app-based service built on the public sharing of smart-phone photos. "Like Twitter, but for pictures" is just the tip of the iceberg, and IG culture has been embraced by eager diners, home cooks and chefs alike.

95 DOMESTIC BLITZERS

Its code name at head office is Baillies on the Rocks, the latest, top-secret project by lodge supremos James and Hayley Baillie. Details remain scarce but we do know that Baillies, Sydney's keenly awaited new hotel, will occupy a row of four heritage terraces in The Rocks and offer 10 suites and a fleet of chauffeured

town cars. Tonkin Zulaikha Greer architects have been engaged to transform 19th-century interiors into 21st-century bespoke. "We see this property as unique, secret Sydney, like staying in our wonderful city with wealthy friends," says James. "It is the antithesis of a major chain hotel." It's a bold ambition but if anyone can realise it, it's the Baillies. The exquisite beauty of Southern Ocean Lodge on Kangaroo Island and Capella on Lord Howe are testament to the couple's game-changing approach to Australian hospitality. The Sydney property, says James, will be a similarly opulent lodge experience but in a vibrant urban setting. Once they've conquered Sydney, the Baillies will transfer their energies to Tasmania – the forecast "six-star" Remarkable Lodge on the



Baillies on the Rocks
James and Hayley Baillie on the site of their new Sydney property.



99 PLEASE DO TOUCH THE MERCHANDISE We've all seen displays of cookbooks for sale in restaurants, and branded sauces aren't news, but now chefs step that one bit closer to rock-star trappings (or fast food) with more inventive brand-extensions. T-shirts are no longer the sole preserve of the big chains, and this badge, \$5 from Brisbane's Harajuku Gyoza, is a must for any dumpling groupie. harajukugyoza.com

Tasman Peninsula – and Victoria, where they're planning a destination lodge for the Great Ocean Road. baillielodges.com.au

96 BEST USE OF A FORMER FACTORY

A one-time factory in sparse Patagonia seems an unlikely place for a bold new boutique hotel, but The Singular's clever fusion of past and present dispenses doubts in an instant. The hotel was nearly 10 years in the making and lives inside a heritage-listed former cold storage plant in Puerto Bories, close to the fjords and fields of Torres del Paine National Park. Public areas are in the restored Victorian-era building, while accommodation is in the newly added glass cube, providing uninterrupted views of the Antonio Varas Peninsula. thesingular.com

97 MEXICO'S MOMENT Finally, there's a reason to linger in Mexico City's Centro Historico rather than beating it

back uptown to Polanco or Condesa after a quick zip around the Zócalo. Downtown is the latest addition to Grupo Habita's boutique hotel collection; behind the imposing brick walls of a restored 17th-century palace, this 17-suite property preserves classic elements of Spanish baroque architecture (handmade tiles, iron balustrades, wooden beams) while introducing a muted Nuevo Latino aesthetic to streamlined bedrooms. One of the interior courtyards features a rare mid-century mural by Manuel Rodríguez Lozano. As with all Habita hotels, the rooftop pool bar has some of the hottest views and coolest cocktails in town. grupohabita.mx

98 HOT WHEELS Ice-cream vans, the original food trucks, are about to get fancy. Alistair Wise and Teena Kearney have been working on a mobile version of Sweet Envy for Hobart, while Shaun Quade, the talented pastry chef late of Urbane, Biota and The Brix says his next step, Harvey Rabbit Ice-Cream, in Melbourne, will also involve wheels.



Neutral selection
The Ranch at Live Oak, California.

100

ALTERNATIVE HEALTH INSURANCE

Detox, wellness retreat, bootcamp... call it what you will, but our appetite for escapes that quell that very thing shows no sign of waning. Super-slick La Réserve at Ramatuelle, on the fringe of St-Tropez, has just added a new series of Rethinking Bootcamp retreats to its summer roster. Walk the French Riviera coastline in the morning; in the afternoon, it's balneotherapy, jet showers and body wraps in the spa. It's a similar philosophy at The Ranch at Live Oak, in the hills above Malibu, California: a set six-night program of yoga, resistance work, long hikes through the local canyons, and minimal outside contact. The rustic-luxe rooms are a beautiful place to crash after The Ranch's challenging days. Closer to home, Mesastila is a newly re-branded wellness retreat (formerly Losari Spa Retreat) set on a Javanese coffee plantation, the charm of its central Dutch colonial homestead setting the tone for its restorative programs. lareserve-ramatuelle.com; theranchmalibu.com; losaricoffeeplantation.com*



Open plan
The restaurant at
The Singular hotel
in Patagonia.