

THE INSIDERS | KANGAROO ISLAND

**JAMES BAILLIE**  
CO-FOUNDER, BAILLIE LODGES

**DRINK:** Kangaroo Island Spirits  
Jon and Sarah Lark's cellar door at Cygnet River is a must-visit. They serve an affogato with a generous amount of their Honey and Walnut Liqueur (made from freshly roasted walnuts and Kangaroo Island's famous Ligurian honey). And try the limoncello and zenzerino; kispirits.com.au.

**ESCAPE:** Cliff House, Lifetime Private Retreats  
This beachfront villa with a cushioned sunken pit and open fire is our home away from home when on the island with our young family. With luscious local produce prepared by chef Ange Foley, it's the bee's knees. There is also our own Southern Ocean Lodge, top-shelf digs in splendid isolation; life-time.com.au; southernoceanlodge.com.au.

**REFLECT:** Remarkable Rocks  
These granite "sculptures" were carved over time by the wind, rain and salt from the Southern Ocean. A visit to Flinders Chase National Park to see the Dali-esque landscape should be on every itinerary.

**SHOP:** KI Farmers Market  
Held on the beach at Penneshaw on the first Sunday of the month, it sells everything from lamb and olive oil to sticky figs and old-fashioned hand-made biscuits. There are wine and product tastings, and you can get a good hot breakfast; goodfoodkangarooisland.com.

**ART:** Janine Mackintosh  
One of many contemporary artists to emerge from Kangaroo Island, Janine's hilltop studio near D'Estrees Bay is filled with natural and abandoned items ready to be stitched on to canvas and transformed into art; janinemackintosh.com.au.

**HISTORY:** Old Wisanger School  
About 1km west of Gap Road along the island's North Coast Road is the Old Wisanger School, tucked under some mallee trees. Restored from a ruin to a community museum by volunteers, it's a window on to the island's strong community spirit and the rapid change in education and technology. The one-room building is furnished with old desks and features historical school books, maps and photos, plus items found under the floor during the restoration; tourkangarooisland.com.au/history.

**WALK:** Duck Lagoon  
This picnic spot in the middle reaches of Cygnet River is the setting for an abandoned farm and eucalyptus distillery, and a habitat for koalas, waterfowl and bush birds; Kookaburra Road, Cygnet River.



**BEST DEALS**  
LAGUNA Holiday Club in Phuket invites kids up to 12 years old to stay and dine free until October 31. A family package of four days and three nights starts at \$245, with spa discounts for adults and full breakfasts daily. More: lagunaholidayclub.com.



**GREEN PIECES**  
CAPTAIN Cook Cruises undertook the first of its planned bimonthly coral replanting programs last month, near tiny Tivua Island off Fiji's Viti Levu, and is also running a successful project to regenerate giant clams. More: captaincook.com.fj.



**APT APP**  
HONG Kong-based HotelQuickly has just launched in Australia. Its free app covers Asia, promising "deeply discounted room rates" on last-minute bookings at "exquisite hand-picked" properties. From Google Play and Apple Store.



**WEB WISE**  
THE London Bed + Breakfast Agency offers homely digs in areas as diverse as Putney Bridge, Parsons Green and Kilburn, all within 20 minutes by Tube from the city centre. From £55 (\$83) to £100 a night twin-share. More: londonbb.com.

HOME AND AWAY



RITZ-CARLTON Tokyo towers 53 storeys above Roppongi, a lively 24-hour entertainment district featuring sushi bars, tempura houses and Michelin-starred restaurants. But the cuisine at this chic hotel, which occupies the top nine floors of Midtown Tower, the city's tallest building, is more than a match for the competition. The world's most expensive martini (served with a one-carat diamond rather than the usual olive or twist of lemon) and a \$157 hamburger (made with wagyu beef and shaved truffle) attracted attention when put on the menu of its Lobby Lounge & Bar last year, as did the Towers Grill's twist on the traditional Japanese "bottle keep" system, in which guests can buy their own Laguiole steak knife, have it engraved and kept at the American-style grill for future use. But the best in-house dining is at the elegant Hinokizaka restaurant, which specialises in traditional kaiseki cuisine. A deft touch in the kitchen means the likes of grilled okra with salmon roe, soft boiled egg, semi-dried sweetfish, eggplant and dried bonito, and clear soup with duck, burdock and shiitake mushroom, are beautifully balanced and light as a feather. And the panoramic views from this 45th-floor perch are almost as pretty as what's on the plate. More: ritzcarlton.com/tokyo.

MICHELLE ROWE

T&I LOVES



AUSTRALIAN Brandenburg Orchestra is following up its successful *Mozart the Great* series (last performances this weekend at the Melbourne Recital Centre) with *Celebrazione!*, featuring guest director and baroque violinist Stefano Montanari from Italy and Australia's Melissa Farrow on baroque flute. The ABO concerts will be at its signature venues — City Recital Hall at Angel Place, Sydney, July 17-26, and Melbourne Recital Centre at Southbank, July 27-28 — under the artistic direction of Paul Dyer (pictured), founder, conductor and guiding spirit. ABO, which was started by Dyer in 1990, specialises in the music of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, using original-edition scores and instruments of the period. In the Mozart series, Dyer and Co have been joined by soprano Sara Macliver, mezzo-soprano Fiona Campbell, tenor Richard Butler and the full (almost) ceiling-lifting force of the Brandenburg Choir. Fabulous. More: brandenburg.com.au.

SUSAN KUROSAWA

ACCESSORY

**Design-Your-Own-Pentax Q10, \$499**

THE world's smallest and lightest interchangeable lens camera can now be personalised by choosing from a range of bright mix-and-match colours. There's exceptional image quality too, with a 12.4-megapixel back-illuminated CMOS sensor, fast autofocus, shake reduction and in-camera high dynamic range (HDR) capture. More: pentax.com.au.

SHARON FOWLER



ON THE BENCH

**Breville Original 74 Jaffle Maker, \$99.95**



REGRET consigning that jaffle maker to the bin in the late 1970s? This reinterpretation of an Aussie classic, featuring jumbo-sized cooking plates with a wide sealing edge for a variety of breads (Turkish, brioche, croissants, pita and even puff pastry), will turn out all manner of tricked-up toasties. Twenty recipe cards are included. More: 1300 139 798; breville.com.au.

MICHELLE ROWE

ON THE ROAD

**Bloom Organics All-Purpose Body Balm, 60g, \$28**



BILLED as an "all-purpose salve", Bloom Organics' new body balm comes in an ideal travel size and contains fragrant organic ingredients to soothe jetlagged skin. Shea and cocoa butters are richly hydrating while avocado and rosehip oils restore elasticity and smoothness. The balm is scented with mandarin, orange, lavender and ylang ylang essential oils, and the waxy texture means a little goes a long way. Most of this Melbourne-based company's well-priced range of lotions and oils is endorsed by Australian Certified Organic. More: bloomcosmetics.com.

SUSAN KUROSAWA

ACCESS ALL AREAS

The great Texan takeaway



LISA ALLEN

LAST week, a posse of travel executives arrived in Australia from Texas to showcase the Lone Star State's Tex-Mex cuisine, its wine-growing regions, cowboy culture and designer shopping malls.

Led by officials from Governor Rick Perry's office, the Texans hosted splashy trade and media lunches, cocktail parties and dinners at top-end Sydney and Melbourne venues.

The US tourism and hospitality industry has long ignored Aussie tourists as a source of income. But with our strong dollar and the downturn in Europe, it now sees the potential of our cashed-up market.

More than one million Australians landed in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco last year, which is 8 per cent up on 2011. And outside California and the Big Apple, other US destinations would like to see many more Australian visitors, most of whom are big shoppers and spenders.

Representatives from Georgia will arrive here in July to spruik the southern state's accommodation

and attractions, and scores of travel executives from Florida will make the journey to Sydney in February for the annual USA Roadshow, which usually draws about 1300 people.

Visit USA (Australia) president Geoffrey Hutton says we can expect more such travel delegations. Since Qantas started nonstop daily services from Sydney to Dallas-Fort Worth in May 2011, Australian arrivals have surged, Hutton says. Texas now hosts about 150,000 Australian tourists a year.

"[Tourism industry] representatives and Dallas-Fort Worth airport [management] have spent quite a few hundred thousand dollars developing traffic into the state," Hutton adds.

The direct service to Dallas-Fort Worth has proved to be one of Qantas's most lucrative routes. The flights have increased in frequency from four times a week to daily and are code-shared with One-world alliance partner American Airlines, which offers connections to its vast network across the US.

HOTEL OF THE WEEK



IN T&I's regular online feature and photo gallery, co-contributing editor Christine McCabe presents the new InterContinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort in Vietnam. More: theaustralian.com.au/travel.

BEST NEW BEDS

- Starwood has opened the 118-room Le Meridien Bali Jimbaran, a short drive from Denpasar airport.
- Mandarin Oriental Geneva has unveiled an exclusive sixth-storey Mandarin Floor with expansive views.