

THE BUSINESS BIVOUCAC

Whether on the job in Melbourne, Singapore or Abu Dhabi, modern style and thoughtful touches all come with the brief(case).

FRASER PLACE MELBOURNE

Within a short stroll of theatres and 90 or so alleyway cafes with unpronounceable coffee blends, these business-minded serviced apartments are also on the free City Circle tram line. The 112 rooms have an open studio layout. Indigenous art provides a style tweak, while the rooftop Sky Lounge works the CBD sunset. From \$136 (advance purchase). **19 Exploration Lane, Melbourne, Victoria. + 61 (3) 9669 6888. melbourne.frasershospitality.com**



WHERE I STAY

THOMAS HAMEL
INTERIOR DESIGNER/
DIRECTOR THOMAS
HAMEL & ASSOCIATES

AMANKORA PARO, BHUTAN

"For me, inspiration comes from very unexpected places. Who'd think a visit to Bhutan would lead to the concept for a new house we're building in Telluride, Colorado? International mountain design, with no animal antlers to be seen - the lodge in Paro is exceptional. With rammed-earth construction and beautifully sparse but detailed interiors, it's a dream to stay at. I was there for New Year's Eve; there was a local dance show in the chic courtyard. Special touches for the guests included hot waterbottles on our laps and cashmere throws." From \$US775 (\$753). **Thimphu, Bhutan. amanresorts.com/amankora/home.aspx**



RITZ-CARLTON ABU DHABI, GRAND CANAL

The luxury giant's first foray into the Middle Eastern hotspot has all the expected trademarks of an urban high-end stay transported to the grandiose setting of the imposing Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque nearby (among the largest mosques in the world). Playing by numbers, the crescent-shaped grounds count the 532 rooms, 1600sq m pool and 15th-century inspired design among its selling points. Activities range from the aristocratic sport of falconry at the Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital to athletic pursuits such as sand-skiing and mangrove kayaking. From AED850 (\$221). **Khor Al Maqta'a, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. +9712 818 8888. ritzcarlton.com**



PARKROYAL ON PICKERING

Greenery abounds in this hanging garden-bedecked hotel, with its planter walls, waterfalls and flowerbeds. At the gateway to the CBD, it won BCA Green Mark Platinum status for its eco savvy, which includes a smart solar energy system. Host a business lunch at the open kitchen-style Lime restaurant, or pop down to Chinatown or Bugis Village for hawker food. The business centre is well equipped; a fitness floor has a 300m jogging track. From SGD300 (\$235). **3 Upper Pickering Street, Singapore. +65 6809 8888. parkroyalhotels.com**

ASK THE CONCIERGE



SAMANTHA JARVIS,
LENNA OF HOBART

- ❖ **When friends are in town I take them for a drink in** Salamanca Place at one of the many bars and cafes. Some of my favourites: Cargo, Barcelona and Jack Greene. Pre-dinner, Point Restaurant provides magnificent revolving views.
- ❖ **The restaurant that best shows off Hobart is** The Mill On Morrison, a modern tapas-style bar with many vegetarian and gluten-free options and a great range of cocktails, beers and wines.
- ❖ **For designer fashion I steer guests towards** Maro in Salamanca Square; Belle & Paige and Yeltuor in the city cater to the younger fash pack.
- ❖ **For the perfect gift or memento,** shop at Norman and Dann for an extensive range of Tasmanian produce such as honey, jam and fudge. And what better way to remember Tassie than a cosy pair of uggs?
- ❖ **Couples wanting a romantic dinner for two should consider** Alexander's Restaurant, which radiates romance. It has a modern Australian menu and unobtrusive service.
- ❖ **To see great art go to** MONA, voted one of the Best

Attractions in the World by Australian Gourmet Traveller. It is by far the most popular place to visit in Hobart and holds a market every Saturday from December through March.

- ❖ **The best markets can be found at** Salamanca Place every Saturday, with more than 300 stalls selling everything from fudge to jewellery. A great place to buy a souvenir or sample some beautiful produce.
- ❖ **For vintage finds head to** Hello Gorgeous on Barrack Street - the best place for vintage one-of-a-kinds.
- ❖ **If it's raining,** Meadowbank Estate winery, 15 minutes from the CBD offers some of Tassie's best wines and local produce in their restaurant.
- ❖ **Sights that are overrated include** the Cadbury Factory, built in 1922. It's a shame the tour no longer includes access to the actual manufacturing area of the factory, but it does provide an opportunity to sample the goods and stock up for later.
- ❖ **If I were a visitor with a free day** I'd drive up Mount Wellington for the panoramic view of Hobart, then take the ferry to MONA and have a wine or two on their funky beanbags.

Hello Gorgeous on Barrack Street is the best place for vintage one-of-a-kinds