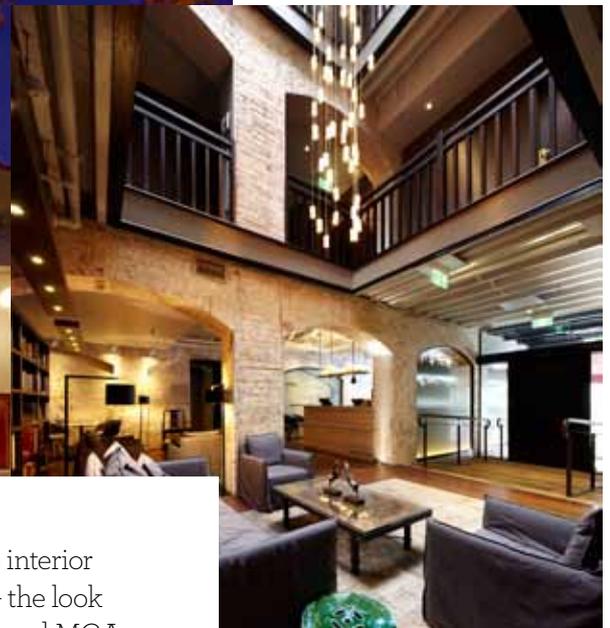


GUEST STARS

From Aspen to Bangkok, Mongolia to Massachusetts, a troupe of superior stays hits the stage.



HARBOUR ROCKS HOTEL

This 59-room boutique hotel, once a colonial bond store, has had a hip interior refit. Exposed sandstone walls, industrial winches, Parisian staircase – the look is stripped-back with touches of boho chic. Views of the Opera House and MCA and glimpses of the Harbour Bridge inspire foreshore ambling through cobblestoned streets. Afterwards, enjoy a well-deserved negroni at the HRH wine bar or curl up on the plush-pillowed library sofas before sophisticated, bistro-style dining at restaurant Scarlett. Don't be alarmed by things going bump in the night, it's probably just the resident ghost – the hotel is built on the site of Sydney's first hospital. From \$269.

34 Harrington Street, The Rocks, Sydney, New South Wales.
(02) 8220 9999.
harbourrocks.com.au



WHERE I STAY

SHELLEY BARRETT
CEO & FOUNDER MODELCO

THE LITTLE NELL, ASPEN

“Every time I visit Aspen I stay at The Little Nell. It's a beautiful, intimate hotel perfect for truly relaxing and enjoying your time away. It was redesigned, to mark its 20th anniversary, in 2009, by Texan designer Holly Hunt and she has done a superb job in creating a true home away from home. It's Aspen's only ski in/ski out hotel and after a day of skiing I always treat myself to a cocktail in the Living Room, a small and cosy bar with a fireplace and a great view of skiers making their way down Aspen Mountain.” From \$US406 (\$390).
 675E Durant Avenue, Aspen, Colorado, USA. +1 (970) 920 4600. thelittlenell.com >





< INN AT THE WHITE ELEPHANT VILLAGE

This New England favourite has added to its summer cool cred with a roomy new extension. Inn at the White Elephant Village has 20 suites and deluxe guestrooms, each possessing the boutique's namesake sun-bleached styling and driftwood-inspired design. Complimentary bicycles make commuting from green lawns to Brant Point Grill for their specialty lobster a cinch. From \$US325 (\$312). **19 South Beach Street, Nantucket, Massachusetts, USA.** +800 475 2637. whiteelephanthotelresidences.com

THE BLUE SKY HOTEL & TOWER >

Proving Mongolia is much more than steppes and yurts, the new sail-shaped Blue Sky, the nation's tallest building, towers over Sukhbaatar Square in Ulaanbaatar. Apart from great views, suites have an earthy vibe, favouring cool neutrals and polished floorboards. Strategically placed in the business district, guests have easy access to the peach-hued Opera House and the Winter Palace of the Bogd Khaan (Mongolia's last sovereign). From \$US176 (\$169). **17 Peace Avenue, Sukhbaatar District, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.** hotelbluesky.mn



ASK THE CONCIERGE

KHUN THUNWA KHAMPANG PULLMAN BANGKOK HOTEL G

❖ *When friends are in town*

I take them to... Oskar Bistro and then to nightclubs such as Bed or Levels. For a more chilled evening, the jazz club, Brown Sugar.

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

Baan Khanitha: high-quality Thai food in a traditional atmosphere.

❖ *For designer fashion*

I steer guests towards...

CDC (Crystal Design Centre) or Central World for original Thai designer clothing.

❖ *For the perfect memento, shop at...*

Asiatique at the Riverfront, an open-air night market that offers a cutting-edge "festival market and living museum" concept. Jim Thompson is also interesting for fabrics and high-quality silk.

❖ *For a romantic dinner for two, please consider...*

Scarlett Wine Bar & Restaurant.

❖ *To see great art, I'd visit...*

the Bangkok Art & Culture Centre and the Queen's Gallery.

❖ *The best markets can be found at...*

the Floating Markets, such an original and beautiful setting. And the Or Tor Kor (Fresh Goods Market), where the most famous chefs in town buy produce.

❖ *For vintage finds head to...*

Talat Rot Fai (the Train Market) for lovers of all things antique and retro. Papaya Vintage Shop for diverse vintage goods is more of a museum with rare items scattered around in an organised mess across four floors of crumbling shelves.

❖ *Sights that are overrated*

include... the many flower markets in Bangkok. The one I strongly recommend, however, is Pak Klong Talad on Chak Phet Road near the Memorial Bridge. It sells not only flowers, but vegetables and fruit as well. Although it is open 24 hours, the best time is before dawn, about 4am, when the boats and trucks arrive from nearby provinces with their goods, providing an explosion of bright colours.

❖ *Bangkok's best-kept secret*

is... Som Tam Nua restaurant in Siam Square. It has the best Isan

(north-east Thailand) food and the best *som tam* (the popular traditional papaya salad).

Be prepared to queue.

❖ *If I were a visitor with a free day I would...*

visit Wat Arun (Temple of Dawn) by the river, one of the city's most important religious sites. Then I would go to the Grand Palace, Jim Thompson House and a market. Finally, I would enjoy the experience of a Thai massage and a typical Thai dinner.



Boats and trucks arrive from nearby provinces with their goods, providing an explosion of bright colours