

A Sydney star.

In less than two years, the sophisticated 'new' Hilton Sydney has established itself as a firm favourite with the city's sexy set. Kate Carroll reports on the parties, trends and style that make it the place to be for guests and Sydneysiders alike.

After a dramatic rooftop to basement reconstruction in 2005, Hilton Sydney took out the Best New Hotel at the *HM Awards* last year. And with its 577 exquisite rooms and suites, two deliciously sexy bars and a sparkling new brasserie, it's not hard to see why.

Johnson Pilton Walker, the architects behind the Sydney Opera House makeover and reknowned interior designers Chhada Siembieda Australia took on the challenge – adding an abundance of space and natural light to the existing building. The original five-story building was removed to create a dramatic, sun-filled 20-metre lobby displaying a breathtaking Bronwyn Oliver aluminium sculpture. While all interiors from corridors to bars, function rooms and guestrooms were completely redesigned.

Guests can choose from a range of rooms. While Deluxe and Executive Rooms provide all the essentials, Relaxation Rooms, Relaxation Suites and King Suites excel, providing guests with three distinct zones for relaxation, work and pampering. Currently Hilton Sydney is also offering guests the chance to spice up their love life with the Hilton Provocateur package. This includes seduction tips and props from Madame Lash, an aphrodisiac tasting platter by Luke Mangan, champagne and accommodation in a Relaxation Suite.

Hilton Sydney has the largest hotel conference space in Australia, featuring 23 separate spaces including the Grand Ballroom, State Room and Exhibition space for over 100 booths. And for those who want to keep in shape, Hilton Sydney also boasts LivingWell, the biggest hotel-based health club in Australia. Here, guests can enjoy weight training, a range of fitness classes or just indulge in a Caviar and Pearl facial.

But it is Hilton Sydney's unique eating and drinking spots that have been the major drawcard, attracting celebrities, hip Sydneysiders and discerning travellers from all over the globe. The Glass Brasserie is the creative work of New York interior designer Tony Chi and chef Luke Mangan, and not surprisingly has been received with much critical acclaim. The 240-seat restaurant features a 13-metre floor to ceiling glass wall framing a view of the Queen Victoria Building, a selection of over 10,000 wines, and simple, elegant food using classic French techniques.



The lobby features a breathtaking Bronwyn Oliver aluminium sculpture.





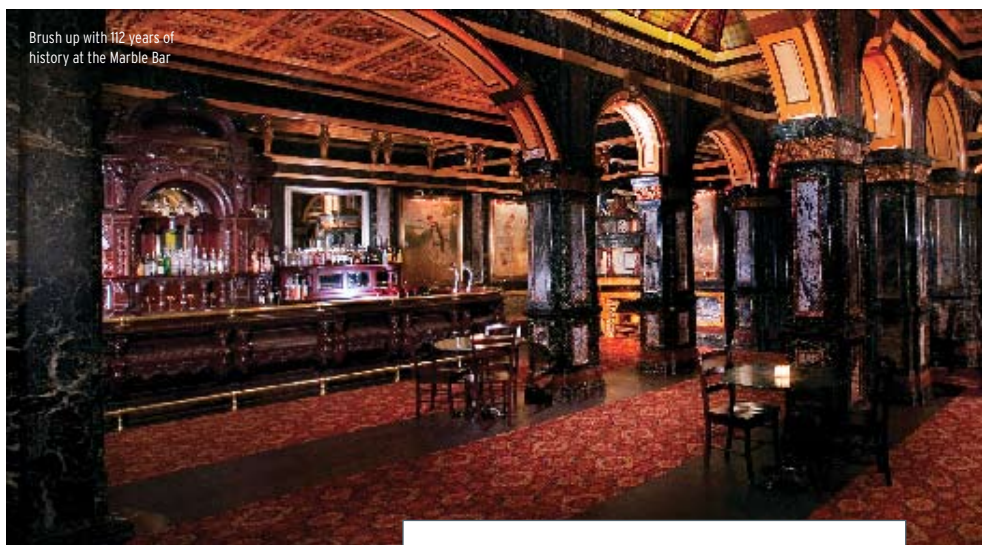
Hilton Sydney's exterior was developed in sympathy with the grain, texture, scale and materials of the Town Hall and QVB heritage precinct.



Sit back and relax in a Relaxation Room or Suite



Seriously sexy fashion at the Zeta Bar



Brush up with 112 years of history at the Marble Bar

Run by Grant Collins and Mike Enright, two of Sydney's foremost bartenders, the spunky Zeta Bar has quickly established itself as one of Sydney's sexiest venues. It features Moroccan-spiced curtained enclaves, a garden terrace overlooking the illuminated QVB cityscape and some of the city's best cocktails. Recently The Zeta Bar has hosted a string of celebrity parties including celebrity blogging king, Perez Hilton's bash and the MTV Awards after party.

It is also at the forefront of cutting edge drinking trends such as spritzing and misting, triple frozen ice and ice spheres. Spritzing

involves using a soda siphon filled with CO₂ gas to add a carbonated flavour to your drink while misting involves applying a mist of juniper, citrus or vanilla to the top of your drink with an atomiser.

For a more Victorian experience, guests can make their way down to the historical Marble Bar. Built in 1893, the 112-year-old Heritage-listed watering hole is now a designated national monument.

With its hot bars and restaurants, luxurious rooms, and desirable facilities for both working and working out, Hilton Sydney really is the place to sleep, eat and play.

Travel essentials.

Hotel details.

Hilton Sydney, 488 George Street, Sydney, tel: +61 (0)2 9266 2000 and visit www.sydney.hilton.com

Getting there.

Virgin Blue flies direct to Sydney from most capital cities and key regional towns, including frequent daily flights from Adelaide, Brisbane, Cairns, Gold Coast, Melbourne and Perth. Excellent connections and direct flights are also available from Fiji and New Zealand on sister carrier Pacific Blue. Visit www.virginblue.com.au for flights, pricing and details.