

local HEROES

TUCK AWAY YOUR
BUCKET LIST OF
FAR-FLUNG
OVERSEAS
HOLIDAYS (FOR
NOW) AND
INSTEAD BEELINE
FOR SOMEWHERE
A LITTLE CLOSER TO
HOME. HERE, SEVEN
OF THE MOST
INTERESTING STAYS
AROUND THE
COUNTRY, AS WELL
AS THE LOCAL
WONDERS
TO BE FOUND
AROUND THEM



Mount Mulligan looms over the lodge

MT Mulligan's infinity pool offers a chic oasis in the rugged surrounds

MT MULLIGAN LODGE FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

There's a distinct urge to mutter "Toto, we're not in Cairns anymore" as you make the 160km journey to Mt Mulligan Lodge. Arriving by helicopter (a 35-minute trip that encompasses views of the Daintree Rainforest) or four-wheel-drive (a near three-hour road trip), the all-inclusive retreat is situated on a working cattle station and sleeps just 16 guests. The property – part of the family-run Morris Group's Northern Escape Collection, which also includes Orpheus Island Lodge on the Great Barrier Reef and the Daintree Ecolodge – is named for the 18km sandstone conglomerate tabletop mountain that looms over the area, and is as luxe as they come, with an infinity pool, Sunset Bar and uninterrupted outback views.

The lodge is also extremely eco-friendly. It runs on solar power and recycled water, there's a focus on local and seasonal ingredients in the kitchen and guests get electric buggies to zip around in. For something (literally) more down to earth, go on a bushwalk, taking a supplied picnic hamper with you. mountmulligan.com

ELLE April 2020

queensland

TRAVEL



Vintage furniture and original artworks make Ovolo Nishi feel like home



wine and dine

Canberra is gaining a reputation for its food and wine scene. Here's how to get amongst it:

REBEL REBEL
Described by chef Sean McConnell as "modern Australian with a vague European lean", this new diner-style restaurant also has a takeaway wine shop attached. rebelrebel.dining.com.au

BAR ROCHFORD
This hatted wine and cocktail bar is housed inside one of the city's oldest buildings, and the food is some of the best in town, along with a killer wine list (or take home one of the specially bottled cocktails, such as a negroni or an old fashioned). barrochford.com

PILOT
Head chef Malcolm Hanslow, who has worked at famed Sydney eateries Automata and Ester, now heads up this beloved 30-seat dining room. pilotrestaurant.com

The Ovolo's Creative Sun room is chic and light-filled



australian capital territory

OVOLO NISHI CANBERRA

Ovolo Nishi is the coolest place to stay in our actually-very-cool capital, and a weekend visit will leave you wondering why you didn't get there sooner (no, school excursions don't count). Formerly Hotel Hotel, there are plenty of corners you'll want to hang out in, including the impressively stocked library, the lobby and the seasonal Monster Kitchen & Bar.

But you've come to Canberra for the culture cred, so while the National Gallery Of Australia is the city's drawcard, don't miss smaller spaces such as Beaver Galleries and Nishi's own space, which has hosted artists Bec Parsons, Bart Celestino and Luke Chiswell. Then, make use of a car subscription (such as Carly or Carbar) to get out of the city and head for smaller towns such as Bungendore, Gundaroo and Braidwood. ovolohotel.com/ovolonishi

The Ovolo's Creative Sun room is chic and light-filled