

THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN

MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 11 - 12, 2021

HOT ISSUE 2021

DESTINATION
DINING
PLACES
TO STAY
MUST-HAVE
TICKETS
GETAWAY
CARS
HOLIDAY
FASHION
SUMMER
COOKING



SHANNON MARTINEZ **QUEEN OF THE VEGAN KITCHEN**



Sweet life: Silky
Oaks Lodge chef
Mark Godbeer's yuzu
curd tart with
blue butterfly pea
meringue, nasturtium
sponge, mango
sorbet, granola
and Davidson plum



A TASTE OF AUSTRALIA

Fancy a cabin by the sea? Fine dining in the city, or the hottest ticket in town?
Here's our pick of the places to eat, stay and play. Let's go...

2021

TOP 20

PLACES TO STAY

OAK & ANCHOR HOTEL

Port Fairy

The spot-on refurbishment of Port Fairy's Oak & Anchor Hotel, circa 1857, puts this picturesque Great Ocean Road fishing town high on our bucket-and-spade list. Locals Blair and Sally Robertson have transformed the historic pub – once a departure point for Cobb & Co coaches – and added six pretty guest suites (from \$300) with spacious bathrooms, minibar, smart TV, robes and luxe textiles in earth and seashell hues. Last drinks were called at the pub in 2017, but there's a bar with street-facing tables and a good cafe serving meals all day; packages include a five-course Chefs Selection dinner. oakandanchorhotel.com

PROVINCIAL HOTEL

Ballarat

The wide, elegant streets of Ballarat invite wandering, but the comforts of the Provincial Hotel are hard to abandon. This 1909 National Trust-listed building on Lydiard St was renovated in a fresh French Provincial style a couple of years ago, the 23 suites a blend of antique, modern and custom pieces. An ivory and blue colour scheme flows through the Parisian-inspired restaurant Lola to the sunny internal courtyard and upstairs into our spacious suite with antique cocktail cabinet, immaculate bathroom and bay window overlooking the grand old railway station. Balcony suite and breakfast for two from \$385pn. theprovincialballarat.com.au



SILKY OAKS LODGE

Daintree National Park

Reopening this month after a \$15 million refurb, this iconic nature retreat sits by

the Mossman River adjacent to the world's oldest intact tropical rainforest, an hour's drive north of Cairns. Forty luxury treehouses offer river or rainforest views, the open-air restaurant serves exquisite fare paying homage to local ingredients, and if you can rouse yourself from your hammock the activities including kayaking, sightseeing and spa time. Among the updates: a new main pavilion and a premium two-bedroom suite with infinity pool. From \$960 per person per night (two night minimum), including meals, cocktail hour, guided rainforest walk, morning yoga and Port Douglas shuttle. baillielodges.com.au

WANDERPODS

Wyralong

The Scenic Rim, named by Lonely Planet as one of the world's top destinations for 2022, has never been so fashionable. Exhibit A: the five WanderPods that have touched down (lightly) at The Overflow 1895, a historic grazing property and vineyard southwest of Brisbane. The one- and two-bedroom pods, first in Wander's planned national network of luxury eco-stays in collaboration with local communities, feature a kitchenette, hot showers, flush toilets, solar and

