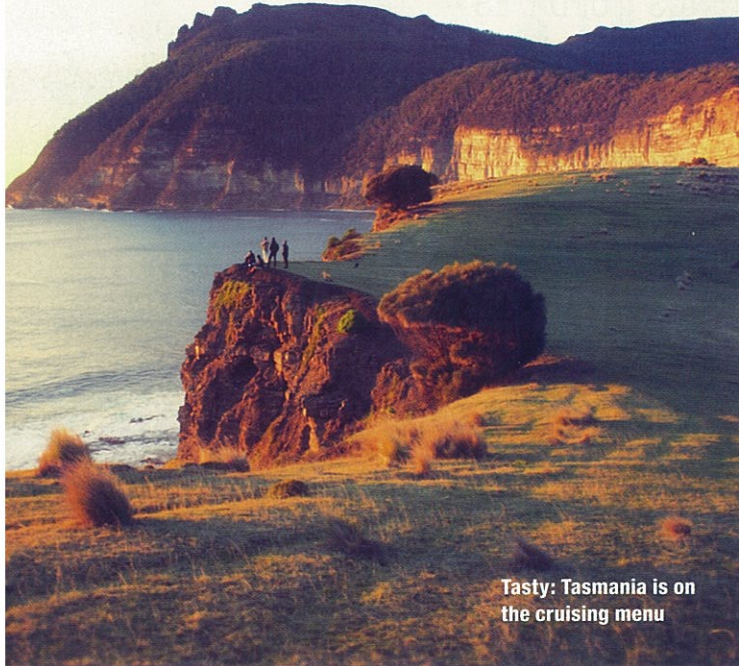


Shortcuts



Tasty: Tasmania is on the cruising menu

Speaking of cruising...

TRENDS TO LOOK FOR IN 2015

1 WINE AND DINE IN THE SUNSHINE

Yet another line has jumped on board the epicurean wave: Royal Caribbean will now be offering a food and wine cruise for 10 or 11 nights aboard the *Rhapsody of the Seas* ship, beginning in February.

2 SURF AT SEA

Ride a wave in the middle of the ocean, on board Royal Caribbean's soon-to-be revitalised *Voyager of the Seas*. Cruises start on 30 November.

3 SAILING, SUNSETS AND CHAMPAGNE

Fancy a condensed cruise? Sail Darwin's luxury 50-foot catamaran is now offering a romantic three-hour sunset sail around Darwin Harbour, topped with bubbles and dinner.

4 SLEEP-IN SAILING

For all you late-risers, Crystal Cruises is planning new itineraries this summer that start as late as midday! So now you can have your sleep and sightsee, too.

5 TASTING TASSIE

Carnival Cruise Lines is serving up a taste of Tasmania. This seven-night sail departs Sydney for a look at the region's fresh produce, local wines and striking landscape. There are two cruises departing 1 and 13 February.

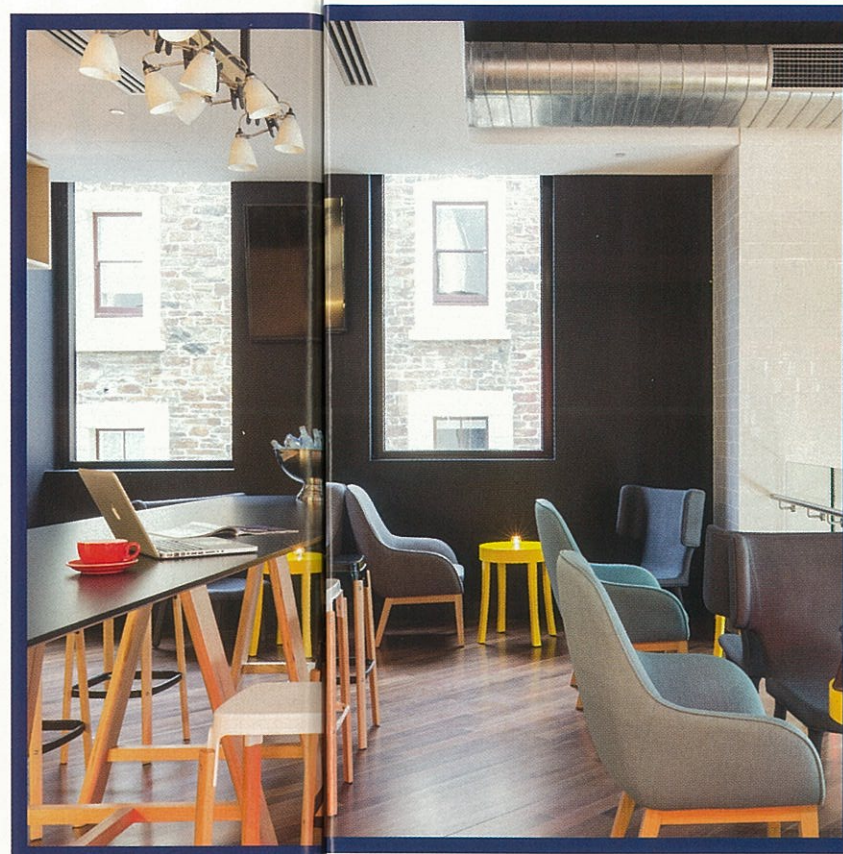
6 SPOIL YOURSELF

In-suite day spa? Almost. From late December *Seabourn Odyssey's* four brand-new penthouses will have private, direct access to the on-board spa... dangerous.



Word on the street says these hot new hotels are worth a stay...

» The opening of the Ibis hotel in Adelaide's CBD is changing the face of the Ibis brand as we know it. While still keeping that tech-savvy feel, the business hotel has moved towards a more artistic and relaxed vibe – it's an Ibis with a twist. The 311-room hotel is changing it up with commissioned artwork by street graffiti artist Ghostpatrol, while the staff moves about in comfy Converse. accorhotels.com.au/hotel/ibis-adelaide



1 October brings the launch of new brand Brady Hotels, with the opening of the four-star **BRADY HOTEL** in Melbourne's CBD. The blue stone floors, copper fittings and Japanese tiles will bring a modern, yet **UNIQUE FEEL** to the 16-floor property. But for the full experience, the two, two-bedroom **PENTHOUSE** apartments look out over the city and its gardens... and the mattresses are posturepedic! bradyhotels.com.au



Hiding away in the rolling hills just shy of the Great Ocean Road is B&B **ACQUUS ZINGA**. With only five rooms, it's as intimate as you'd expect from a B&B, but its industrial architecture, rugged landscaping and uniquely themed rooms – all of which are inspired by nature – could class it as more of a boutique hotel. Three hours' drive from Melbourne and situated in the small town of Johanna, this character-filled space aims to be a getaway from the hustle and bustle of modern life. acquuszinga.com.au



Art Series Hotels are adding another venue to their so-hip-right-now hotels with the opening of **The Larwill Studio** in north Melbourne. Named after Australian artist **David Larwill**, guests are treated to walls and rooms adorned by his colourful abstract art. Stay in and discover the art of wellbeing with in-room yoga channels (yoga mats supplied) or venture out into the oh-so-green vista of the **Royal Parklands** for a peaceful walk, bike ride or picnic. artserieshotels.com.au/larwill

*** What's next for Brisbane? NEXT hotel is.** The Brisbane opening of the new upscale hotel brand under the SilverNeedle Hospitality banner is set to welcome guests to their 304-room flagship hotel from the first of this month. The multi-million dollar project will feature an outdoor pool deck overlooking Queen Street Mall and Australia's first retail space for US fashion giant Forever 21. Oh, and you can use an app to turn your phone into your hotel room key card! nexthotels.com/brisbane

By the way...

MORE NEW HOTEL DEVELOPMENTS ARE ON THEIR WAY...

• **RYDGES ALBURY** is currently undergoing an Atura name-change and renovation that is set to be completed this December. The luxurious makeover is being led by the designer of the QT Hotels & Resorts.

• **CAPRI BY FRASER** is Fraser Hospitality's fourth Australian property, opening in Brisbane in early 2015. The office tower turned contemporary apartment hotel will be modelled off the similarly sleek Fraser Suites in Singapore, and will allow guests to check in at any time... via iPad!

• **THE W HOTEL** has been set to charm the shores of the Pacific region once again, come 2018. The lavish hotel will overlook the Brisbane River in Queensland's capital.

