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# TAKE-OFF

EDITED BY BELINDA JACKSON

## SHOWCASE

Pretty Port Fairy pops, as does the stylish renovation at one of its most celebrated and beloved properties.

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THE SAT 0005



## TAKE-OFF



## FAIRY TALES

While the Great Ocean Road sees day-trippers and bus tours dumped around the 12 or so Apostles, the smart set knows that an hour's drive further west yields equally stupendous scenery, up-close-and-personal wildlife, roadside honesty boxes with organic produce and a string of historic villages with renowned cafes and accommodation.

Top of the list is pretty Port Fairy, where Drift House has been offering design-led accommodation since 2013, complemented by warm service from its owners, Colleen Guiney and John Watkinson, at a truly boutique level rarely found in Australia. Its four suites in an 1840s bluestone house have been feted internationally, and now, the Edwardian cottage next door has been transformed to add two new, equally fresh suites to the best address in town.

Secluded and sunlit, find rumpled linens, rattan rugs and curtains that echo

fisherman's nets layered over razor-sharp architecture by Melbourne firm Multiplicity. Every suite is different: most have a fireplace, while Suite 5's cheeky secret is the former hallway, now metamorphosed into a tartan-tiled shower. Deep tubs and limewashed original timber floors complete the look.

Also new is its glass-walled salon amid fragrant gardens. In its role as a breakfast room (formerly, guests received a breakfast hamper in their rooms), this season's spread sees poached quinces, fresh strawberries, local sourdoughs, home-made relishes and regionally sourced charcuterie. And its millennial take on a 1970s conversation pit, lined with reindeer pelts, Warnambool sandstone rescued from a demolition site and featuring a flickering fire, should find a fan base come the port town's blustery winter.

The boutique hotel is five minutes' walk

from Port Fairy's main street, its surf beaches and riverside marina. It's a 3½-hour drive from Melbourne on the inland highways – if you can't push it for a weekend getaway, there's still the Queen's Birthday long weekend coming up.

From \$445 a night, B&B. The new Suite 6 is wheelchair-friendly, and Drift House allows children above 14. See [drifthouse.com.au](http://drifthouse.com.au)

Belinda Jackson was a guest of Drift House

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## THE KNOWLEDGE HOW TO TRAVEL WITH CARRY-ON ONLY



CATHY PERRY

Yes, you can travel for two weeks with carry-on luggage only, but preparation is the key, says former flight attendant and packing guru Cathy Perry, of Melbourne fashion label The Ark. See [theark.com.au](http://theark.com.au)

### STEP ONE

Don't pack at the last minute: give yourself at least two weeks to pack your bag. Hang all the clothes you're considering on a rack, and try them on in front of a full-length mirror. Then look up the past few years' temperatures, because dry season isn't always dry. Also, many hot climates are freezing indoors thanks to airconditioning, and the reverse, when it's freezing outside, it's overheated inside, so layering is the trick. Make sure all fabrics are travel friendly: are they drip-dry overnight, wash-and-wear, or do they need a travel iron?

### STEP TWO

Start by choosing three base palettes, such as white, oyster and ink. This may be a combination of pant/skirt/shorts, and pair them with a singlet of the same colour: instantly, you have three outfits. Mix them and you already have nine basic looks. Now add your gorgeous fashion layer to create versatility. For trans-seasonal versatility, throw in a lightweight trench and a knit – some people take a full pashmina-sized knit. Be prepared to cull to create a well co-ordinated travel wardrobe.

### STEP THREE

Accessorise. Scarves and jewellery add a textural element, colour and a focal point. People remember the scarf, not what lies beneath. Use cosmetic jewellery instead of grandma's heirlooms, and purchasing jewellery from overseas bazaars is a lovely

way to reconnect with your holiday memories.

### STEP FOUR

A big stumbling block is packing for a wedding or formal occasion. Take a vac bag and, once you've worn the outfit, shrink it down to its minimal size. Otherwise, if you trust the local post, consider sending it home. Alternatively, in major cities, you can hire fabulous, high-end fashion for a night, just as men hire suits and tuxedos for black-tie events: source and book in advance.

### STEP FIVE

Runners no longer go on holidays, there are so many beautiful sneakers or brogues that can do a fun run in a park, or get you over cobbled streets. Opt for a fashion runner that can be worn with a dress, and wear them on the flight with your compression socks. Ditto if you're taking winter boots, and choose a sensible heel such as a wedge. Finish with a neutral-tone sandal that goes with everything. Be ruthless – only three pairs of shoes.

**BE PREPARED TO CULL TO CREATE A WELL CO-ORDINATED TRAVEL WARDROBE.**

## BOOK IT NORFOLK ISLAND

### BOUNTY DAY

Celebrating the arrival of Pitcairn Islanders to Norfolk Island. To fit in, pack your best crinoline frocks and waistcoats circa 1859 for the day, which begins with a re-enactment of the arrival of the Pitcairn mutineers, and ends in the Bounty Ball. June 8, [norfolkisland.com.au](http://norfolkisland.com.au)



### FOOD FESTIVAL

Norfolk Islanders follow the traditions of their Pitcairn and Whaler ancestors, and celebrate Thanksgiving Day. It is now part of the Norfolk Island four-day Food Festival, which highlights the work of local chefs and producers. November 25-28, [norfolkislandfoodfestival.com](http://norfolkislandfoodfestival.com)



### BIRD WEEK

A haven for birdlife, enjoy a week spent with birding experts birdwatching around this biodiversity hotspot, while learning about the endangered Norfolk Island green parrot and the breeding sites of hundreds of thousands of seabirds. 17-21 November, [norfolkislandtravelcentre.com](http://norfolkislandtravelcentre.com)



## WHAT FLAG IS THAT?



There are only two national flags that are designed to be square, putting them out of the square with the rest of the world, so to speak. The Swiss flag is one and this is the other. It is an independent state and quite a wealthy one all-up, but it doesn't cover all that much acreage.

THE ANSWER IS ON PAGE 29

## BRING IT BACK

### MID-CENTURY MEMORIES

Two hours from Hollywood, too far for the madding crowds, Palm Springs is the epicentre of desert modernism, the streamlined architectural style that's become the embodiment of the good times of post-war 1950s. Frank Sinatra's house (available for dinner parties and weddings) kicked the low-key trend into celebrity hyperdrive in 1947: Elvis and Priscilla Presley honeymooned here in 1967, Marilyn Monroe kept a bungalow here and Liberace's piano pool is legendary (Sinatra had one, too). More recently, the mid-century modern style has also inspired a range of stylish merch designed in Palm Springs and manufactured predominantly – much of it sustainably – in southern California. Take an architecture tour through the desert town, then snap up a tissue box inspired by the iconic Butterfly House, or perhaps a mug imprinted with the angled roofs of the Wedge House. Its homewares are all embellished with Palm Springs motifs, some supporting local not-for-profit causes such as the annual Modernism Week and human rights campaigns. Tissue box, \$US75, mug, \$US12. See [DestinationPSP.com](http://DestinationPSP.com)



## COOK ISLANDS



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## TAKE-OFF

### EXPERT EXPAT VIENNA, AUSTRIA

BY BELINDA JACKSON



#### THE EXPAT

WARWICK STENGARDS

When in Europe, Melbourne's Warwick Stengards uses his old childhood nickname Rick, "because it's easier than having to listen to 'VarVick'". Currently conducting at the Vienna State Opera, Stengards first went to Vienna 20 years ago to audition for the Schoenbrunner Schlossorchester. He never moved back home.

#### SEE

A classical concert in Vienna is a must. It is the mecca for art and music and one is spoilt for choice. For classical concerts, the Musikverein, Konzerthaus and Schoenbrunn Palace are the premier venues and earlier in the week is the quieter time. If you prefer opera, you have the Staatsoper, Volksoper, Theater-an-der-Wien and many other smaller venues. My favourite acoustic is the Mozartsaal – the second largest hall at the Konzerthaus. The wonderful contemporary orchestra Klangforum Wien often perform there. See [konzerthaus.at](http://konzerthaus.at)

#### DO

I love going to contemporary dance shows and exhibitions at the Museumsquartier, an arts complex just beyond the main museums, see [mqw.at](http://mqw.at). Most of Vienna's architectural attractions are in the first district and can be reached by foot. The Hofburg, Heldenplatz, Burgtheater, Parlament, Town Hall and key museums are on the "Ring" which encircles the inner city. Inexpensive trams run in both directions if you get tired of walking.

#### EAT

You can't come to Vienna without eating a wiener schnitzel. You will have to look hard to find a bad one, but the best I've had is at Figlmüller in the heart of the city. Don't be put off by the queue and the other tourists – just catch the eye of one of the waiters and they will get you seated within 10 minutes. A glass of Austria's grüner



veitliner wine and the traditional potato salad complete the heavenly meal. See [figlmueллер.at](http://figlmueллер.at)

#### DRINK

Nothing beats a good Zwickl beer – think "cloudy-but-fine" – with great flavour. You will find it in most Austrian beisl (bars). It goes down well with a kasekrainer (beef sausage with cheese inside) or langos (pronounced lungosh), which is a cross between a giant potato-cake and pizza. My favourite is Salm Braeu, a micro-brewery near Belvedere on Rennweg ([salmbraeu.com](http://salmbraeu.com)).

#### AVOID

Avoid saying danke (thanks) when someone offers you something you would actually like – it automatically means Nein, danke (No, thanks).

Know an expat who's in the know? Contact [belinda.jackson@fairfaxmedia.com.au](mailto:belinda.jackson@fairfaxmedia.com.au)

Figlmüller, in the heart of the city, serves an excellent wiener schnitzel. PHOTO: ALAMY

### THE TRAVELLER QUIZ

1. What name is shared by electrified rapid-transit train systems in many major cities, including Paris, Shanghai and Moscow?
2. The word "museum" comes from the mythical Greek goddesses and inspirational protectors of the arts, known as what?
3. In which Australian city can you enjoy a beverage at Joe's Bar, Molly's, Mint Garden Bar, Honky Tonks and Bacaro?
4. Tourists could soon be charged \$US10 to drive down the famous winding Lombard Street, in which city?
5. What train explores the interior of Australia from Darwin to Adelaide and back?
6. What artistic and cultural Balinese town is home to Puri Saren Royal Palace, the Jalan Hanoman shopping district and the Monkey Forest?



7. What city, the capital of Nova Scotia in Canada, is the home of The Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, housing the CSS Acadia and artefacts from the RMS Titanic?
8. Home to the Minnamurra Rainforest Falls walking trails, in which Australian state or territory is Budderoo National Park?
9. In which country can you attend festivals called Green Man, How The Light Gets In, Hay, Wakestock and Laugharne?
10. One of the world's most-used shipping lanes, which 193-kilometre-long waterway links Port Said in the north with Port Tawfik in the south?
11. Mainly found in deserts, what type of geological formations are hoodoos?
12. What town, established in 1946 and 486 kilometres north of Adelaide, is home to the Rocket Range Museum?
13. Featuring 1400 parading soldiers, 200 horses and 400 musicians, what event has marked the official birthday of the British Sovereign since 1748?
14. Who explored the undersea world and shared his many exploits on film in the ship RV Calypso?
15. What word goes with crew, path, Centre and of fancy?

MAL CHENU

Quiz answers, page 28

### AIRPORT TEST ZURICH ZCH

BY STEVE MEACHAM

#### THE FLIGHT

Zurich to Singapore, Flight LX 176. This Swiss International Airlines-operated flight is code-shared with Singapore Airlines (I have an onward flight with Singapore to Australia).

#### THE ARRIVAL

Zurich is Switzerland's largest airport, serving the country's largest city. Currently it reaches 200 destinations in 67 countries. I'd flown two hours from Lisbon, checking my luggage all the way through to Sydney. So I wasn't expecting any problems. However Zurich has three terminals, confusingly called A, B/D and E. If you thought Brexit was baffling, wait until you hear about Schengen. Switzerland isn't part of the European Community, but (like Portugal where I'd flown from) it's one of 26 European states in the Schengen Area which have abolished all passport and border controls between them. Terminal A (where I'd arrived) deals only with flights to and from the Schengen Area while Terminal E (where I'm flying from) deals only with flights to and from non-Schengen countries, which requires me going through passport control again though I was in transit and my luggage had gone through unopposed. By the time I arrive at my gate – E35 – I'm thoroughly bamboozled. On the plus side, the terminals are linked by a driverless train that seems determined to set a Guinness World Record, speeding through the tunnel under the runway in just three minutes.

#### THE LOOK

Opened in 2003, Terminal E is what you'd expect of Zurich: sleek, airy, metallic-and-



glass. My main gripe is an absence of staffed information booths, lengthy walks with no moving pavements, and a lack of signage.

#### CHECK-IN

Of course, any Australian checking in at Zurich for a single flight will just go through the same passport and security controls without needing to have ever heard the word Schengen. The quickest way of getting from Zurich city centre to the airport is by train from Zurich's main station. According to the city tourism website, [zuerich.com](http://zuerich.com), it should take only 10 minutes.

#### SECURITY

As a transit passenger, I didn't have to go through it. But fellow passengers told me it was as efficient as a proverbial Swiss watch.

#### FOOD AND DRINK

Did you know the Swiss produce excellent wines (from the French-speaking northern vineyards north-west of Lausanne, not the German-speaking areas around Zurich)? So you'll have something to wash down all

those cheeses, charcuterie and chocolate on offer. Being Switzerland, it's not cheap, but there's a world of cuisine on offer.

#### RETAIL THERAPY

Apple Watch now sells more of its multiple versions each year than all the handmade Swiss brands put together. Yet if you can afford a Swiss watch, this is where you'll find both genuine choice and the genuine article. Virtually every other Swiss brand beyond my price range also has its own enticing boutique.

#### PASSING TIME

The airport is blessed with expansive outdoor observation decks – perfect for tiring out young children before the oncoming flight as they watch the planes come in and out.

#### ONE MORE THING

You may bump into Roger Federer; it's the airport he uses most often on his way to and from grand slams.

#### THE VERDICT

Schengen aside (and to be fair, the airport has an online guide about what to expect if you're switching between compliant and non-compliant countries), it's far better than any major American, British or Australian airport coping with this many planes from this many countries a day.

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