

Best new Australian hotels

CHRISTINE MCCABE The Australian February 05, 2013 12:00AM



The 1888 Hotel, Pyrmont, Sydney. Source: Supplied

FOUR of the hottest new places to stay around the country.

1888 HOTEL PYRMONT, SYDNEY

RAPIDLY expanding boutique operator 8Hotels will open a flagship property in April following the \$30 million redevelopment of an old woolstore in inner-city Pyrmont. Featuring 90 guestrooms and a 60-seater restaurant, the 1888 looks set to impress with its noteworthy industrial architecture, including sky-high ceilings, enormous period windows, furniture hewn from salvaged ironbark and a dramatic seven-storey atrium. More: 8hotels.com.

HOTEL HOTEL, CANBERRA

ALSO opening in April is Australia's latest Design Hotels member, housed over three levels of the striking Nishi residential building, claiming a seven-star eco rating and designed by Fender Katsalidis (the firm behind Hobart's MONA) in association with Japan's Suppose Design Office. The 68 guestrooms and 31 hotel apartments have a crafty vibe featuring reclaimed oak, wallpapers made from natural fibres and clay-rendered walls. Think hip, not hippie. More: designhotels.com.



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OVOLO, MELBOURNE

THE first foray outside Hong Kong for the family-run Ovolo Group, this Little Bourke Street design bolthole is all about affordable style for corporate and leisure travellers. The 43 business-friendly guestrooms are cool, but it's the hi-tech accoutrements (Apple TV with loads of channels) and free inclusions (WiFi for unlimited devices, minibar, snacks, breakfast on the go, local phone calls and happy hour) that are winning fans. More: ovologroup.com.

THE TERRACE HOTEL, PERTH

THE first new luxury hotel to open in the West Australian capital in ages owes Alistair McAlpine a debt. In the 1980s, he saved the historic St Georges House in the West End of the CBD from demolition; since it opened in November this boutique hotel has had guests making like characters from the Gatsby era in 15 handsome suites. The bespoke furniture may evoke the 1920s, but the natty modcons run to Apple TV, Foxtel IQ and an in-room iPad. More: terracehotelpertth.com.au.

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