



## IT'S COOL IN CANBERRA

GO once climbed aboard the staff bus and hammered down the highway to The National Gallery. It was a fun little excursion, although all who'd never before visited the ACT did question whether the man-made city (that packs 10 roundabouts for every federal pollie) had suffered an alien invasion. "Seriously - where are all the people?" came the chorus from the team.

Expect all that to change with the impressive, arty and ever-so environmentally responsible Hotel Hotel, originally set to open in April, although July's now likely.

Beyond confirming its business via repetition, the 68-room accommodation (there are a further 31 hotel 'apartments') will occupy three floors of the newly constructed Nishi building in the NewActon precinct, the capital's new, central hub.

No two interiors are alike, with each room delivering a "quintessential Australian vernacular" as designed by accomplished film-maker Don Cameron (best-known for Blur, David Guetta and Pet Shop Boys music videos, among others). Room prices are expected to start from \$225 a night.

As well as Hotel Hotel's own bar and lounge, restaurants, cafes and a cinema will dot the immediate area. With its creative bent (several artists in residence and collected pieces scattered throughout), a focus on sustainability (objects reclaimed and re-fashioned where possible) and community (the residential apartments are aimed at young buyers) this is a unique local offering that looks to position itself as a place for people (people).

25 Edinburgh Ave, Canberra 2601; hotel-hotel.com.au

It's always nice to board a flight and turn left (or stride smugly up the stairs). And such journeys are about to become even more civilised with Qantas introducing a complimentary chauffeur service from April. All business and first class passengers on flights over 12 hours (initially on Dubai/ London routes with more to follow in July) can get a luxury car and driver to deliver them to the airport and deposit wherever at the other end. gantas.com.au

## **PRIORITY**

Luxury hotel collection Mr & Mrs Smith unveiled its travel trends forecast for 2013 - including the ever-expanding male-centric approach of the industry At Sydney's QT (qtsydney. com.au), wet shaves are among the pampering options for blokes, while Hayman Island resort (hayman.com.au) combines chopper travel and golf - it's called heli-golf! Ovolo Melbourne's terrace suites (ovologroup.com) are now fitted out with boxing bags (a perfect post-meeting way to unwind) while French Polynesia's Motu Teta ourdreamisland.com) offers spearfishing.

One option too far, however, is surely the in-house tattooist at Bora Bora's Pearl Beach Resort & Spa? mrandmrssmith.com

