

I SPY ZÜRICH | CALIFORNIAN COOL | A CAPITAL IDEA | BUSSELTON BLISS

virgin australia

august 2014 issue 157

voyeur

The Golden Coast

PRISTINE BEACHES, SPECTACULAR VIEWS, GREAT FOOD...
WHY MUI NE IS VIETNAM'S NEWEST HOTSPOT

TIPS FROM
THE TOP
ADOPT THE
WORK HABITS
OF THE SUPER
SUCCESSFUL

CLASS ACTION

The shake-up in higher education and the ways you can benefit

FIRE & FANTASY

An insider's take on the Burning Man experience

CROWD SOURCING

From tomato tossing to frightening flicks — our guide to the world's best festivals

Virgin australia

(insider's
guide)

CAPITAL GAINS

Canberra is attracting well-deserved attention for its contemporary culture and emerging culinary scene.

WORDS DAN STAPLETON PHOTOGRAPHY JONATHAN CAMI

Canberra in 2014 is a city transformed, shrugging off its reputation as dull and staid. Locals and visitors alike are raving about innovative new buildings, boundary-pushing restaurants and a diverse, ever-strengthening arts scene. In the city centre, residential and commercial development continues apace, breathing life into what was once a ghostly precinct. Meanwhile, ambitious new creative directors have taken control of major institutions such as the National Museum of Australia and the National Portrait Gallery (pictured). Our national capital is finally asserting itself as a unique urban destination rather than just a home for federal politics.

GETTING THERE To book your flight to Canberra, visit www.virginiaustralia.com or simply call 13 67 89 (in Australia).



HIDDEN GEMS

Canberra's burgeoning small-bar scene came of age this year with the opening of **Molly** (pictured; Hobart Place; www.molly.net.au), a secret, subterranean cocktail joint that pairs Prohibition-era decor with smartly attired staff. Already popular with the city's creatives, Molly seems destined for 'classic' status thanks to its formidable spirits wall and impressive charcuterie selection. Back above ground, the **Drill Hall Gallery** (Kingsley St; +61 2 6125 5832; dhg.anu.edu.au) on the Australian National University (ANU) campus is a cultural pick-me-up. With a fast-moving program of temporary exhibitions, this small venue rewards those willing to show up and be surprised. Across the lake, at the **National Gallery of Australia** (Parkes Place; +61 2 6240 6411; www.nga.gov.au), savvy locals linger in the tucked-away Sculpture Garden, which is adorned with 26 works by local and international artists. Visit between noon and 2pm to witness Fujiko Nakaya's entrancing fog sculpture in operation. ▶



Where to eat

The food and drinks menus jostle for superiority at **Temporada** (15 Moore St; +61 2 6249 6683; www.temporada.com.au), a new, more casual venture from Ben Willis, the chef behind Canberra fine-dine mainstay *Aubergine*. Wood-grilled oysters and marinated sardines on toast share space with satisfying mixed plates and knock-out desserts such as salted-caramel parfait. Thirsty? Try the Bridge Road Brewers pale ale on tap or a Jerry Jam cocktail with seasonal berries. For a more intimate experience, there's **Močan & Green Groat** (above; 1/19 Marcus Clarke St; +61 2 6162 2909; www.mocanandgreengroat.com), where the food is prepared (and the dishes are washed) before your eyes. Breakfast here is a real treat — grab the Tripoli baked eggs with spiced radish or a smoked salmon rye muffin with whipped lemon ricotta — while the dinner menu keeps things simple (how about steak tartare or mushrooms with bone marrow?). There are newer, buzzier restaurants in Braddon than **Italian and Sons** (right; 7 Lonsdale St; +61 2 6162 4888; www.italianandsons.com.au), but none fulfils its mission statement with quite the same verve. The food is simple and elegant — think cured meats, pasta with wine-infused sauces and minimalist wood-fired pizza.





WHERE TO STAY

HIP The plaudits for newcomer **Hotel Hotel** (pictured; 25 Edinburgh Ave; +61 2 6287 6287; www.hotel-hotel.com.au) are well deserved. In addition to the inspired, ecologically sensitive design work, an array of small touches in the rooms — Aesop amenities, hardwood desks, freshly ground coffee — make the place feel less like an urban hotel and more like an exclusive retreat. **LUXE** At the opulent **Park Hyatt** (120 Commonwealth Ave; +61 2 6270 1234; www.canberra.park.hyatt.com), Art Deco furnishings, Italian marble and deep soaking tubs feature in even the most basic rooms, and the stately communal areas and spacious gardens are meticulously maintained. **MINIMALIST** Nearby, **Hotel Realm** (18 National Circuit; +61 2 6163 1800; www.hotelrealm.com.au) offers Canberra's best business-focused lodgings. The no-nonsense rooms feature essential productivity enhancers such as Nespresso coffee machines, while those looking to let off steam will be impressed by the hotel's smart gym, sauna and 25-metre lap pool. **BUDGET** For a more modest experience, book a room at **University House** (1 Balmain Cres; +61 2 6125 5275; www.anu.edu.au/unihouse) on the ANU campus. Once a residential college for graduate students and visiting academics, this pleasant 1950s building now offers accommodation for singles (with shared facilities) as well as a range of larger rooms at reasonable prices. ▶