

THE CONCIERGE TRAVELLER EDITION • ISSUE #10

The top tier... The winning goal... The perfect pleasure... THE BEST OF THE BEST!

Concierge traveller

DEFINING THE BEST IN TRAVEL IS DIFFICULT BUT NOT SOMETHING WE SHY AWAY FROM

The enduring enjoyment of travel so often turns on something unexpected or just madly enjoyable. It's our vast network of privileged insider connections with the world's elite hoteliers, tour operators, cruise companies and airlines underpinned by our many years of personal experience, that enable us to open doors to experiences that we know are indeed of the "best of the best".



My most recent trip was to the rose-hued city of Marrakech where I treated myself to a night at the opulent Amanjena. Its suites skirt pools, colonnades and

gardens that were the best tonic in the world for a long-haul traveller. The Moorish hammam had me steamed and scrubbed to laid -back perfection. Amanjena gets my vote as the most palatial oasis in Marrakech.

Our Advisors have an enviable knowledge of signature options that include: hotel rooms with the "best" view; a bar where cocktails are served at what was once the world's longest postal counter or a far-flung table for two.

Let this issue be your inspiration, where you will find that the best of the best can provide joyful rewards you never thought





Executive General Manager





PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL QUOTED COSTS ARE SUBJECT TO ALTERATION WITHOUT NOTICE

STEPHANIE ROGERS-JULIAN - EDITOR



BAREFOOT BEST

Ningaloo Reef is where tropical currents meet Antarctic currents and where coral reefs and continental shelf almost collide.



Amazing sea life navigates the narrow channels between them including seasonally migrating whale sharks and humpback whales.

Hidden in the coastal dunes is Sal Salis, an environmentally sensitive tented camp. The beds and food are heavenly, the wildlife of the rocky hinterland mirrors the underwater spectacle and luxury is

the very essence of this extraordinary cradle of Australian nature. Most activities are included in the tariff. Star-gazing complimentary of course!



BUSH BEST

Arkaba station, an historic homestead near the Flinders Ranges, welcomes self-drive travellers on a B & B basis. Walkers have the opportunity to dig deep into ancient terrains from riverbeds and massive red gums, to grasslands, forests and craggy outcrops. A three-night guided walk reveals an extraordinary variety of birdlife and wildlife. At each day's end, guests are greeted in camp with a hot shower, an aperitif and dinner.



PACKAGE INCLUDES: • 3 NIGHTS SWAG ACCOMMODATION • MEALS • OPEN BAR - PARK FEES - GUIDES CONCIERGE BONUS PRIVILEGE: A COMPLIMENTARY
NIGHT AT ARKABA HOMESTEAD AND ALL MEALS - FROM AUD2,000.00 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE • VALID UNTIL JUNE 2012



Contact Melissa for more information and packages for Sal Salis and Arkaba on 1800 047 047 or email her at: mcoles@conciergetraveller.com.au





YOU'LL BE OVER THERE WITH UNITED

When you think about travelling to the USA or to Canada, value for money is happily no longer something that requires pause



for careful consideration. United takes passengers to everywhere, over there.

America's cities are an obvious lure but it is also home to the world's best national parks. Canada is equally vast, famed for natural landscapes such as The Rocky Mountains, astounding wildlife and its unique English/ French duality.

For premium passengers with United Airlines there are lie-flat seats that recline to a full 1.9 metre length bed; great menus; efficient and hospitable service; priority check-ins and super sized digital entertainment screens. All these amenities come teamed with the largest airline network in North America. Daily, non-stop flights to Los Angeles and San Francisco and a huge network of onward connections give travellers the option of 185 destinations.

United is the spacious best when it comes to premium trans Pacific travel.

RETURN BUSINESS CLASS FARES FROM SYDNEY TO LOS ANGELES OR SAN FRANCISCO FROM AUD6,699.00 PER PERSON, INCLUDING TAXES. NEW YORK FROM AUD7,699.00 PER PERSON INCLUDING TAXES, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY, SEASONALITY AND AIRLINE CHANGES



Contact Guy for more information, destinations and fares on 1800 047 047 or email him at: gbatten@conciergetraveller.com.au

SILVER SERVICE IN THE

Train journeys see time stretched, conviviality nurtured and provide the opportunity to appreciate a destination slowly. Travel by day and allow yourself to experience a near palpable connection to the landscapes of British Columbia and Alberta.



Begin a journey in Vancouver, Banff or Calgary. The glassdomed carriages of the Rocky Mountaineer trains are the place for rewarding views of a magical route. Their new SilverLeaf Service provides an affordable option to upgrade from RedLeaf Service. It offers

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comfortable seats in a single level glass-domed carriage along with delicious meals served at your seat. It is possible to see eagles, spawning salmon, and with luck, a black bear or two.

The First Passage to the West journey is a two-day, all daylight iourney that includes the twists of the Spiral Tunnels and panoramas over the Continental Divide.

Julie's advice - choose April for fresh snowfalls or September for spectacular displays of autumn colours.

THERE ARE FOUR RAIL JOURNEYS, EACH WITH A VARIETY OF PRE AND POST OPTIONS FOR ACCOMMODATION, CAR HIRE, SIGHTSEEING & CRUISES CONCIERGE BONUS PRIVILEGE: ANY 5 NIGHT OR LONGER JOURNEY RECEIVES A SEA TO SKY DAY TRIP FROM VANCOUVER TO WHISTLER (NOT TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY) • VALID UNTIL OCTOBER 2012 FOR BOOKINGS MADE 01 JAN - 30



Contact Julie for more information on 1800 047 047 or email her at: irichards@conciergetraveller.com.au









HOW TO

SUMMIT,

EFFORTLESSLY,

IN BEIJING







The "real" Shangri-La is a mythical place in the vertiginous valleys of the Tibetan Himalayas. Reflecting this concept, the China World Summit Wing, Beijing is a Shangri-La sanctuary on the uppermost floors of a business tower in central Beijing. Each floor dazzles with bespoke artworks, fabrics and colour schemes worthy of Emperor Pu Yi or his dowager mother. Opulent and lavish, every truc of the trade has been finessed with impeccable Oriental taste.

Its rooms, restaurants, dining areas and observation deck sit loftily above the city's streets and Beijing's highest spa, CHI, sits serenely on the 77th floor. All its therapies are based on Chinese and Asian wellbeing traditions. Moreover, the rituals, philosophies and culture of China pervade every atom of this hotel. The concepts of Yin and Yang, heaven and earth, balance and harmony, are the



complementary dynamics that link the spa with the health club on 78th floor. Ascend in the bubble lift to a gym and a 25-metre infinity pool that seems to float in the heavens.

masterful display of this same beguiling philosophy. The elegant Atmosphere Bar on the 80th floor would not be out of place beneath SHARE · VALID UNTIL JUNE 2012 a real constellation of stars. From the bar guests can descend in a glass lift to the warm and earthy spaces of



Astute guests rate this hotel a perfect 10 right down to its earthly core. Breathtaking food, comfort, luxury and service all match the lofty place to which guests are elevated.

WORLD SUMMIT PACKAGE INCLUDES: 2 NIGHTS IN A PREMIER KING-BEDDED SUITE • FREE INTERNET CONCIERGE BONUS PRIVILEGES GRADE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY DAILY BREAKFAST · RMB700 PER ROOM CREDIT FOR EITHER F & B (LIMITED) OR SPA TREATMENT · SPECIAL TURNDOWN AMENITIES • FROM RMB5,168 PER PERSON, TWIN

Contact lan for more information on 1800 047 047 or email her at: jstanton@ conciergetraveller.com.au









to its fortunate guests. This location is the absolute best for business, conferences, shopping and dining on the island. If you feel moved to promenade in Kowloon, the Star Ferry provides all the wow you need in transport But the Island Shangri La is the dazzling balm you need in a hotel.

Hong Kong is a dense and intensive cityscape but that often obscures the fact that much of it is devoted to





parkland spaces. The Island Shangri-La taps into the philosophy of "a place to breathe" in the midst of forests of glittering buildings, incorporating touches such as a greenedup outdoor pool and café. Similarly, guests love the plant-filled roof garden on the 56th floor. It is a place from which to admire the island's skyscrapers and to chill out in rattan chairs beneath the cooling sweep of ceiling fans.

Apart from a clutch of chic places to dine, the glamorous rooms are swathed in silken fabrics of delicious cream, gold and burnt orange, whilst the elegant furniture, dreamy beds, the mirrors and marble of the bathrooms bring touches of the palatial to mere mortals. John has



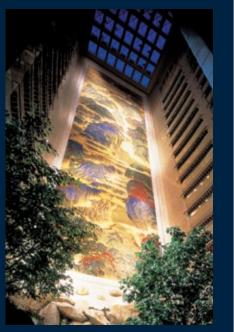


Solicitous service is their mantra. From an arty atrium dominated by a 16-story Chinese mural and from yoga to Yum Cha, this is the pinnacle of hotel perfection on Hong Kong Island.

CONCIERGE EXCLUSIVE PACKAGE NCLUDES: 3 NIGHTS IN AN HORIZON HARBOUR VIEW ROOM + ROUND TRIP AIRPORT TRANSFERS . ONE CULINARY IOURNEY SET DINNER WITH WINE PAIRINGS FOR FOR 2 & BOTTLE OF FINE WINE • FROM HKD18,900 PER ROOM · VALID UNTIL

Contact John for more information on 1800 047 047 or email him at: jchekian@ conciergetraveller.com.au





HARBOURING ONLY THE BEST







BEST ON THE BAY

In Singapore, Fullerton Heritage has made glamour the byword around the Marina Bay waterfront. The location of The Fullerton Hotel means easy access to the city's revved up cultural scene and business centres.

The update of the 1928 General Post Office gave Singapore an imposing gem of a hotel. The Fullerton doffs its hat to its unique colonial heritage but everything about this hotel exudes swish and respectful elegance. This sanctuary offers service and amenities that all luxury lovers seek. The Fullerton's dramatic Lighthouse Restaurant has a private rooftop for pre or post dinner drinks where the visual feast perfectly complements the joys of the table.

Whilst the exterior of the hotel is admired for its grandeur, the cosseting rooms combine a soupçon of colonial with spades of contemporary comfort and high-tech efficiency. For some indolent down time, settle by its award-winning infinity pool that looks onto the historic river precinct.

The Fullerton remains on all the "best of" lists for good reason.

T

CONCIERGE EXCLUSIVE RATE INCLUDES: 1 NIGHT IN A COURTYARD ROOM - BREAKFAST - ONE 6 COURSE DINNER AT JADE RESTAURANT - COMPLIMENTARY INTERNET - FROM SGD 428 PER ROOM + TAX - VALID FOR FRI, SAT & SUN CHECK IN UNTIL 30 JUNE 2012

TREAT YOURSELF TO THE BEST

A more boutique approach to the Marina Bay location is The Fullerton Bay Hotel, all romance and sexy ambience. It is the only Singaporean hotel right on the waters of the bay and its Asian designer chic is perfection.

The building sits between two iconic heritage buildings – Clifford Pier and Customs House and is close to the CBD, Boat Quay and the theatres on the Esplanade. Intimate glamour permeates the public spaces and the 50 square metre high-tech rooms. Full-length windows and private balconies are the unbeatable wow factor, but it is the fabulous rooms whose aquatic views are the show-off icing on this delicious cake.

Those dreamy views are matched at the rooftop bar, Lantern. This poolside bar is open until 1 am so that a perfect evening can be languidly stretched to your liking.

John recommends the signature Red Lantern cocktail, a salute to the area's heritage when red lanterns hung on the pier to welcome immigrants and seafarers.



CONCIERGE EXCLUSIVE RATE INCLUDES: 2 NIGHTS IN A PREMIER BAY VIEW ROOM • BREAKFAST • ONE AFTERNOON TEA FOR 2 • COMPLIMENTARY INTERNET • FROM SGD580 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE + TAX • VALID FOR MONDAY TO FRIDAY CHECK IN UNTIL 30 JUNE 2012



Contact John for additional night rates and more information on both Fullerton properties on 1800 047 047 or email him at: jchekian@conciergetraveller.com.au















BEAUTY AND THE BEST

Africa is a powerhouse of dramatic scenery, open skies and wildlife spectacles, punctuated by desirable touches of luxury. We have partnered with Trans Africa Safaris, a company that has been a frontrunner in private tours in Southern Africa since the 1950's. Attention to detail is combined with a portfolio of charming hotels and uniquely welcoming lodges across Southern Africa.

The highlight of any journey should be a safari to experience the rhythm and sounds of the bush. Lion Sands Private Game Reserve was established close to Kruger National Park in the 1920's. A fourth-generation of brothers still nurture lodges there that exude stylish hospitality. Lion Sands lodges all offer private spaces to relax between the hours of thrilling safaris.

Elisabeth recommends a visit to Cape Town, the undisputed beauty of South Africa's capitals, combined with this safari experience. You can add optional extensions to Victoria Falls, Namibia and Botswana.

PACKAGE INCLUDES: 4 NIGHTS CAPE TOWN • BREAKFAST DAILY • TRANSFERS & 2 DAYS TOURING • FLIGHTS TO JOHANNESBURG & SKUKUZA • 4 NIGHTS LION SANDS • ALL MEALS • ALL GAME ACTIVITIES © CONCIERGE BONUS PRIVILEGE: IN CAPE TOWN & LION SANDS, UPGRADE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY, A MASSAGE & GIFT • FROM AUD4,960.00 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE • VALID UNTIL OCTOBER 2012



Contact Elisabeth for more information on 1800 047 047 or email her at: egrieder@conciergetraveller.com.au

STILL...THE BEST

Tahiti's Motu Tau Tau is unspoiled beyond care. There, Relais & Chateaux Le Taha'a Resort laps a perfect lagoon. Le Taha'a takes privacy and a casual ambience very seriously. The flight from Papeete to Raiatea takes 35 minutes followed by an enjoyable 35-minute speedboat transfer. The holiday seduction begins with this transfer that skims over dive sites and marine ecosystems bursting with life.

A dozen signature beach villas overlook white beaches and a lagoon and each has a patio, garden and plunge pool enclosed by high, dry stonewalls.

Walk barefoot to the end of the motu and bliss out in one of the indoor-outdoor treatment areas. Dine in the treetops or stay in your villa. This corner of paradise means uncomplicated escapism for guests who want to eschew glitz and those who crave refreshing stillness. The luxury of Le Taha'a lies in that very stillness.

PACKAGE INCLUDES: ROUND TRIP ECONOMY AIRFARE & TAXES SYDNEY/
TAHITI/RAIATEA · 2 NIGHTS PAPEETE, 5 NIGHTS IN A TAHA'A BEACH VILLA
• TRANSFERS · 6 BREAKFASTS · 5 DINNERS CONCIERGE BONUS PRIVILEGES:
ONE COMPLIMENTARY NIGHT AT LE TAHA'A INCLUDED • ONE 30 MINUTE
MASSAGE PER PERSON • FROM AUD5,505.00 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE
• VALID UNTIL IUNE 2012



Contact Paul for more information on 1800 047 047 or email him at: ppatane@conciergetraveller.com.au



















SUNDAY TO SUNDAY BEST

Wolgan Valley is a special playground for any event worth celebrating. It's a wilderness retreat our clients adore and it is perfect for those who want to enjoy a place with like-minded friends. Slip out of the city and quickly into the epic landscapes of Great Dividing Range valleys that are blanketed in eucalypts and brimming with Australian wildlife.

Wolgan's colonial-style suites evoke the raw beauty of the Australian bush and inside it's all plumped comfort with leather sofas around gas-burning fireplaces, indulgent bedrooms and slate bathrooms. Every suite has a private heated plunge pool. Come with friends. Suites are close enough for easy socialising and sensibly distanced to maintain and sensibly distanced to maintain.

For families and groups, there's a full daily schedule of horseback riding, hikes and sensibly distanced to maintain some privacy.

two bedrooms, two ensuite bathrooms overlooking the property. A narrated

plus a living area. The Wolgan suite is really a self-contained lodge with two oversized bedroom suites plus staff quarters that can double as a third guestroom. Private terraces, a pool and a gourmet kitchen are everything a small group would find satisfyingly indulgent.

Two restaurants serve contemporary Australian cuisine but if seclusion is the raison d'être of a group, fine dining is easily arranged in a private dining room or in your own suite. Otherwise an al fresco location can be organized for a gourmet picnic lunch or dinner under the stars.

and four-wheel-drive "safaris". Wolgan's team of guides can often conjure up The Wollemi suites are ideal for a family numerous wildlife sightings and safaris or a multi-generational retreat. Each has end with sundowners on a hilltop deck

after-dinner stargazing session will enthral any age group, whilst sipping a first-rate local tipple is strictly for the grown ups.

Paul reckons that Wolgan Valley is the best venue for a house-party with trimmings.

HERITAGE SUITE ACCOMMODATION . ALL MEALS • ONE BREAKAST IN BED • NON ALCOHOLIC DRINKS · WINE AND BEER WITH MEALS · TREATMENTS PER BOOKING • FROM AUD1650.00 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE • VALID UNTIL 31 MARCH 2013

Contact Paul for more information on 1800 047 047 or email him at: ppatane@conciergetraveller.com.au













SYDNEY SCENE **AT ITS BEST**

Anyone who has stayed in a Shangri-La Hotel will appreciate the reason for the Sydney Shangri-La's recent 20 million dollar refurbishment.

In keeping with the fact that Shangri-La is an Asianbased accommodation and design success, a subtlyfinessed oriental colour scheme and fresh ambience has been created for its Sydney outpost to bring it into line with its stable of legendary sister properties. Inspiration for the new palette of colours, fabrics and designs – warm, shimmering gold, beige and naturalistic hues of brown - provide feel-good and luxurious touches. The refreshed interiors now provide the perfect foil to the mesmerising scenes through its dramatic windows.

As if the harbour's edge location were not appealing enough, the clever decision to include purpose-built window seats in all rooms was perhaps the most ingenious. From a personal, leather-clad "bench" in the sky, fabulous panoramas can be given more serious consideration. Each room now also has a Bluetooth media hub that allows guests to connect all their digital equipment to the television. It is the best techno gadgetry for the leisure and business traveller, particularly those wanting to take a perfect photographic slice of Sydney home to treasure. iHome docks, incorporating an ipod dock, complete the guestroom wizardry.

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We can't make enough of the fact that views are the heartbeat of establishment and we have already enthused about the delights of the 36th floor Altitude and chef Steven Krasicki's talents. Next door to Altitude is the chic Blu Bar where, from 5pm, you can keep a leisurely cocktail eye on the fading hues of the day, the harbour and the waves of commuter action on the Bridge.

What is more than a perfect idea is to arrange a few nights of reckless indulgence or purposeful celebration with family, friends or Sydney visitors. Make the Blu Bar the clubby sanctuary to which you withdraw in the late afternoon for pre-dinner drinks followed by a high Altitude experience. Join your visitors or friends to explore the city outside, or for some individual space you can retreat and enjoy being revitalized in the signature spa, CHI.

SHANGRI-LA PACKAGE INCLUDES: 2 NIGHTS IN A KING BEDDED EXECUTIVE ROOM, CITY OR OPERA HOUSE VIEW • TAXES CONCIERGE & CHOCOLATES • FROM AUD440.00 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE • VALID

Contact Melissa for more information on 1800 047 047 or email her at: mcoles@conciergetraveller.com.au



WHEN SMALL IS BEST

Adonia is small compared to the vessels of most cruise fleets. Adonia seems almost perfect: big enough to have plenty of Its appeal resides in a sweeping staircase that opens grandly into the lobby, lashings of wood panelling, an elegant library and the space aft of the sun deck where dining venues command sweeping views over the ship's wake. This ship is all 21st century technology wrapped in beautifully crafted detailing.

Adonia is a ship of intimate charm where smart casual is the order of the day, and night dictates a little more formality. There is grand ballroom dancing, afternoon teas and classical recitals – and no kids! Just about everything including the card room has panoramic ocean views and that includes the swish Pacific Ocean Dining Room - the heart of six-course silver-service. Sorrento is an Italian specialty restaurant in the slow food lane and the al fresco Ocean Grill, is popular for not just its cuisine but for excellent wines by the glass.

Eight bars dot the ship but the Crows Nest is the pinnacle for the best daytime views. At night its ambience is perfectly suited for pre or post dinner drinks. The modern gym is a busy hub and thought-provoking lectures generally draw a packed audience. There's a pool, ample space for sunbathing and a pretty spa.

facilities, but small enough to feel like home. Passengers love the camaraderie of like-minded travellers, attentive service and the absence of all things brash. It might sport a trademark yellow funnel but where her sisters might boast of a casino, Adonia is quietly proud of its Anderson's lounge with its clubby leather chairs.

Built to carry just 710 passengers, 75% of Adonia's cabins have a balcony. The importance of this high percentage is anchored in the fact that the Adonia can explore the world's most interesting sea lanes, docking at ports that larger ships are

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE PACKAGE INCLUDES: 16 OR 21 NIGHTS INSIDE CABIN ACCOMMODATION - ALL MEALS - ENTERTAINMENT - PORT • FROM AUD3,333.00 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE • VALID FOR 21 AUGUST & 16 SEPTEMBER CRUISES 2012 (UNTIL SOLD OUT)



Contact Jan for more information on 1800 047 047 or email her at: jstanton@conciergetraveller.com.au











BEST OF BRITISH

The word Cunard evokes images of stately and refined ocean travel and the closest thing to travelling royally. Ironically, it boasts the youngest fleet in the world. Its three "royals", Queen Elizabeth, Queen Victoria and Queen Mary 2, bring a generation of regal modernity to long-held traditions of British seafaring.

In March 2013 there will be an opportunity for Australians to join the Queen Mary 2 on her first Royal Circumnavigation of New Zealand. Passengers will cruise onboard the tallest, longest and most expensive ocean liner ever built and will sail through Fiordland National Park to cities and to the Bay of Islands.

The staterooms and suites are your sanctuary on a ship that brims with libraries, boutiques, silver service meals and obliging sommeliers who will mine the largest wine cellars afloat. Nostalgia runs riot on the art deco walls that are lined with Hollywood heyday royalty. Muster a group of friends - there are acres of deck space, pools and bars to keep you content and gyms and spas to counteract the effects of all the champagne glamour.

CIRCUMNAVIGATION PACKAGE INCLUDES: 12 NIGHTS INSIDE CABIN ACCOMMODATION • ALL MEALS • ENTERTAINMENT • PORT CHARGES • FROM AUD3,399.00 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE • VALID FOR 7 MARCH CRUISE 2013 (UNTIL SOLD OUT)



Contact Erika for more information on 1800 047 047 or email her at: eaffolter@conciergetraveller.com.au

CRUISE CALENDAR

Contact one of our Cruise Masters, Julie or Guy for more information about one or all of these cruises





Call 1800 047 047 or email them at either: jrichards@conciergetraveller.com or at: gbatten@conciergetraveller.com

MONTH	SHIP	DAYS	ITINERARY	COST
7-Mar-13	QM2	17	Sydney Auckland Wellington, Christchurch Sydney	FROM AUD3,399pp
31-Aug-12	Adonia	17	UK Spain Gibraltar Italy France Portugal UK	FROM AUD3,333pp
16-Sep-12	Adonia	22	UK Spain Tunisia Croatia Italy Portugal UK	FROM AUD3,991pp
12-May-12	Sea Dream	8	Riviera - Rome to Monte Carlo	FROM USD5,126pp
07-Jun-12	Silver Shadow	9	Vancouver, inside passage, Juneau, Skagway to Seward, Alaska	FROM AUD3,782pp
24-Sep-12	Silver Wind	16	Athens to Istanbul (can book as 9 night from Venice)	FROM AUD8,351pp

- READ PRICES ARE BASED ON PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE.





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