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Grand old-timer offers robe, slippers and iPod dock

April 20, 2013

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Julietta Jameson

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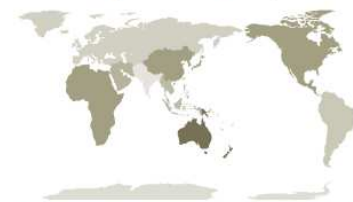
The upgraded Mercure Hotel Brisbane.

Two landmark Mercure hotels have just finished large-scale upgrades.

The 93-year-old Mercure Grosvenor Hotel Adelaide is in the city centre on North Terrace. Rooms now have new bathrooms, LCD televisions and iPod docks. Upgraded Privilege Rooms offer guests extra touches including robe and slippers, Nespresso coffee machines and free internet access.

Rooms are from \$139 a night. Phone (08) 8407 8888. See accorhotels.com.

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Yeppoon's Coral Inn Resort & Flashpackers.

The Mercure Brisbane is also unveiling its own multimillion-dollar upgrade.

Rooms in the four-star hotel have bathrooms with walk-in showers, large hand basins and LED mirror lights. New lighting, digital LCD televisions, glass-fronted fridges, internet access, room safes and iPod docks have been installed.

The hotel has a deal in which guests staying two consecutive nights receive free breakfast.

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Mountain Whispers in Leura and Katoomba.

Phone (07) 3237 2300. For package prices, see mercurebrisbane.com.au.

Why not flashpack?

Those looking for something cheap and cheery on Queensland's Capricorn Coast may love Yeppoon's newest accommodation, the Coral Inn Resort & Flashpackers. The flashpacker concept — an up-market take on the basic backpacker hostel — is popular with adventurous travellers with a little more money to spend.

The property is the result of a 10-year dream for German owners Thomas and Gabriele Jehle and their children, Elvis, 10, and Naomi, 15.

"It has always been a dream of ours to have a guest house and a few years ago I stayed at a flashpackers in New Zealand and fell in love with the idea," Gabriele says.

To keep things interesting while in the budget frame, each wall in every room is different — even the en suites.

Phone (07) 4939 2925. See flashpackers.net.au.

Ultimate lucky dip

Do you feel lucky? Well, do you?

The Windsor in Melbourne is on the lookout for its 5 millionth guest.



Settle in: Melbourne's Hotel Windsor will reward a lucky guest.

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The fortunate guest will be rewarded with five nights for two in the hotel's 120-square-metre Royal Suite with the use of a dedicated butler for the stay and a private dinner party for six in the fabulous in-suite dining room.

To qualify, you must book online via thehotelwindsor.com.au and stay any time between now until August 31. The 5 millionth guest will be announced on September 1.

Luxurious respite

Mountain Whispers is a boutique luxury collection of four historic Blue Mountains homes restored to their former glories by owner Lorraine Allanson.

Allanson's life has been touched by cancer, with several relatives afflicted, and she says that has given her understanding of "the importance of support and creating a comfortable and safe environment, not just for those who are recovering, but also for terminally ill patients who want to create special memories with their loved ones".

She says she's noticed a growing number of her guests are seeking the special experience she offers.

Allanson is involved in the Weekend to End Women's Cancer Walk (endcancer.org.au) with her team, the Pink Diamonds, and hopes to raise \$5000 for the cause.

See mountainwhispers.com.au.

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