



# A *Rose* AMONGST THE THORNS

Surrounded by a lovely, private rambling garden in the scenic Blue Mountains, Leura Rose Cottage is ideal for a romantic escape or quiet break from the stresses of life.

Story by Lauren Broomham Photography by Ryan Hernandez Styling by Amy Howker

**I**mmaculately restored by Lorraine Allanson, this cosy turn-of-the-century cottage is completely self-contained and designed to make your stay relaxing and stress-free. Guests have the whole cottage to themselves and the host goes to great lengths to ensure their peace is not disturbed. The house can comfortably accommodate between two and four people in its two stunning bedrooms, both of which have mahogany four-poster beds, snuggly doonas, gorgeous linen and electric blankets.

The main bedroom 'Amore' is true to its name; decorated in rich, deep magenta tones, set off by pretty gold accents, it offers sweeping views of the pines and ferns that surround the cottage. The second bedroom 'Bacio' has a calming feel, with its sage-coloured walls and soft, rose pink details. The opulent master bathroom has everything you need for the perfect soak, including underfloor heating, fine linen, toiletries and recessed speakers, not to mention the magnificent mahogany gas-log fireplace. All you





have to do is light the many candles provided and lie back in the luxurious double spa bath while you look out through rose leadlight bay windows to cupids nestled in the secluded garden.

After your bath, wrap yourself in the plush bathrobe and slip into your complimentary slippers then wander through to the lounge and dining room, where you can help yourself to port, wine and chocolates. Adorned in regal green, rich burgundy and soft golds with traditional timber furniture, this room is a great place to relax with a drink. Enjoy your favourite shows and movies on the TV, Austar and DVD player, or curl up on the plush lounge with a book, magazine or game. For those cold nights, there is central heating throughout the cottage, plus another mahogany gas-log fireplace in the lounge room.

The fully equipped mahogany kitchen has double French doors, which open to a sunny verandah that wraps around the house and overlooks the garden. Continental breakfast is supplied with eggs, milk, bread, butter, juice, Twinings tea, coffee and biscuits and for an added indulgence, luscious hot chocolate with marshmallows. Leura Rose also provides a laundry equipped with a washing machine, dryer, iron and clothes line. Outdoors, guests can take pleasure in a meal at the alfresco dining setting complete with barbecue, or relax with a drink in the private courtyard.

Enjoy a quiet stroll through the sunny garden, which is filled with the gorgeous scents of lavender, azaleas, camellias and of course, roses. If you want to go further afield, Leura Rose Cottage is only a short walk to Leura Mall, which is home to many antique and gift shops, fashion boutiques and galleries, as well as bakeries, cafes and restaurants – so why not indulge in one of the delicious Devonshire teas for which the area is famous?



**ABOVE:** The beautiful mahogany kitchen is fully equipped with everything you need to whip up a romantic meal.

**RIGHT:** During your stay, sample the best in local food and wine that the Blue Mountains has to offer.

**OPPOSITE PAGE**

Decorated with traditional furniture and elegant furnishings, the drawing room has a warm and inviting feel.









The world-heritage-listed Blue Mountains region also offers a host of outdoor activities for all ages, from bushwalking, abseiling and rock climbing to golf, horse riding and mountain biking. Explore the local attractions such as the Jenolan Caves, Wentworth Falls and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Mount Tomah, or take in the spectacular views from Echo Point, the Three Sisters or Govett's Leap Lookout. For a different kind of adventure, take a ride on the famous Zig-Zag Steam Railway, or simply enjoy a picnic at Gordon Falls or visit the Toy and Railway Museum.

Leura is known as the Garden Village for its stunning private gardens, with many open all year round and more on display at the Leura Spring Garden Festival, including the renowned National Trust-listed 1930s Everglades Garden.

Less than two hours drive from Sydney and easy to reach by both road and rail, Leura Rose Cottage offers the perfect retreat from the outside world. ■

**ABOVE:** The master bathroom is the ultimate in comfort with underfloor heating, a luxurious spa bath and of course, chocolates!

**BELOW:** The finishing touch to your relaxing bath – a glass of bubbly!

**OPPOSITE PAGE**

The Bacio bedroom has a peaceful atmosphere with its sage-coloured walls and delicate details.



**LEURA ROSE COTTAGE**

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