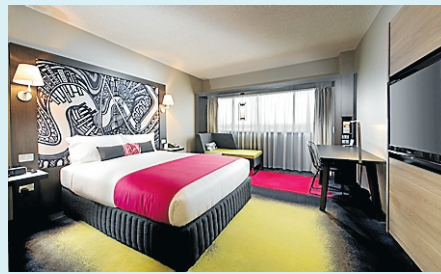


## ROOM SERVICE



**Settle in:** (Clockwise from left) Melbourne's Hotel Windsor will reward a lucky guest; the upgraded Mercure Hotel Brisbane; Yeppoon's Coral Inn Resort & Flashpackers; Mountain Whispers in Leura and Katoomba.

## Grand old-timer offers robe, slippers and iPod dock

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](http://accorhotels.com).

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.

Phone (07) 3237 2300. For package prices, see [mercurebrisbane.com.au](http://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](http://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.

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](http://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](http://endcancer.org.au)) with her team, the Pink Diamonds, and hopes to raise \$5000 for the cause.

See [mountainwhispers.com.au](http://mountainwhispers.com.au).  
**Julietta Jameson**

## FREQUENT FLYER AMBER SCEATS

For this young Sydney-based jewellery designer, travel has always been a way of life.

### Q How long have you been a traveller?

**A** From a very young age [she's now 30]. The first holiday I can remember was in Surfers. But the first trip overseas was Hawaii and we stayed in the pink hotel [the Royal Hawaiian]. My parents are in the wholesale watch business. I'd go to Hong Kong for watch trade fairs with them, but one was this jewellery fair. I asked mum if I could start a jewellery business, give me six months, see what I could do. The reason my stuff is mainly made in Hong Kong is because of that. I got on a plane with my wax models and designs and, though I only went live in October, it's going amazingly. As well as in Australia, I'm selling in the US, New Zealand and Jordan.

### Q How often do you travel out of Australia?

**A** For work, I go to Hong Kong probably three times a year. Then I holiday somewhere hot. I'm always searching for the sun and heat, so it's Europe, Asia, America and the Middle East.

### Q Where are you off to next?

**A** Hong Kong as planned, but also I'm going to London for a few weeks, then Paris to do a jewellery fair, Amsterdam and the Greek Islands.

### Q How are your packing skills?

**A** I don't travel light. My friends always laugh. I pack three weeks before. Everything is perfectly packed and prepared. I spend so much money on buying new cosmetics and face wash, new toiletry bags. People who pack just before they leave give me anxiety.

### Q What's in your carry-on?

**A** Moisturiser, toothbrush, change of clothes, socks, perfume, hairspray, lip balm and reading material. I can go through a book on a flight. I love reading people's stories and I find the most interesting autobiographies at the airport.

### Q What kind of bags do you have?

**A** My luggage is lightweight Samsonite because I want to put as much as I can into it, and on board I have a Louis Vuitton briefcase with me. It's my on-board staple.

### Q Best travel advice?

**A** I'm a pre-planner. I love to know what I'm doing when I get there. But I've learnt to not book everywhere I'm going to go because opportunities arise. That's the best advice I've been given because it's led to some of the best experiences.

**Julietta Jameson**

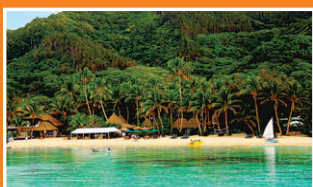


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