

## Getting It Just Right in Sydney

On a recent trip to Sydney, I caught a glimpse of the Paramount House Hotel, which opens in March inside the movie studio's former regional headquarters. It was the first time I'd seen a hotel here keeping pace with the city's food and design scenes in an area you want to be in—trendy Surry Hills, which is a five-minute cab ride from the harbor. Many of the chic and breezy rooms have Japanese soaking tubs and cozy throws from local designer Karina Seljak. But more importantly, staying at Paramount places you at the center of Sydney's edgiest food and drink. The celebrated Aussie chef Mat Lindsay will head up Poly, the hotel's restaurant, so count on every foodie from Barangaroo to Bondi to line up for his simple but delicious dishes like the charred eggplant that put his restaurant Ester on the map (hotel guests get priority). And you have to go for a classic Sydney brekkie of green juice, avo toast, and a flat white: The rooms are above Paramount Coffee Project, an institution here since 2013. ERIN FLORIO

## London Twist



At the new **Curtain hotel in Shoreditch**, each of the **120 rooms** has a gin cart stocked with **snazzy retro shakers and all the fixings**, so you can stir up and sip your own **East London Liquor Company martini** without changing out of your **La Bottega bathrobe**.

## A Nomadic Hotel

Think of 700,000 Heures, a new project from Thierry Teyssier of Morocco's Dar Ahlam, as a hotelier's way of helping us access otherwise inaccessible stays. Teyssier transforms buildings with provenance—a fishing lodge in Sweden or a Bhutanese monastery—into luxury hotels for six months. His team might bring in silverware or a dining room table but is careful to preserve the site's aesthetic. Things kick off in September at a palazzo in Salento.



## A ROOM WE LOVE

The sunlit *Elsa*, one of three bedrooms in Venice's villa-style *Casa Flora*, has soft-pink walls and plenty of indoor plants.



## Back to Connecticut

I grew up in Stamford, and a weekend trip to the recently reopened **Gray Barns**, a 19th-century estate in Norwalk, reminded my why I love this part of the country. It hit those cozy New England notes from my childhood—clean white walls, big velvet couches you sink right into, and lots of cashmere. Though for this Connecticuter, spying the golden foliage through the large windows—the inn looks toward the Silvermine River—was what made me feel like I was home. Valeria Suasnavas

## Great Hotels Doing Good

### Wa Ale Island Resort, Myanmar

When this resort, with its 14 castaway-chic tented and tree-top villas, opens this March in the Myeik Archipelago, nearly a quarter of its profits will go to help the Lampi Foundation's efforts, like preserving the Lampi Marine National Park and its turtles.

### Hotel Sol y Luna, Peru

The conditions of the Sacred Valley's public schools led Petit Miribel and Franz Schilter to establish Sol y Luna Intercultural School, while the area's natural beauty and incredible trekking inspired them to open this rustic-luxe hotel, whose profits fully finance the 185-student facility.

### Mahu Whenua, New Zealand

The music producer Mutt Lange bought and combined four sheep stations to create the country's largest private conservation effort. His five-star lodge operates alongside native plant and bird regeneration projects.

### Misool, Indonesia

Convinced that private enterprise could fund a 300,000-acre reserve (with one of the world's most pristine coral reefs) in the remote Raja Ampat islands, Marit and Andrew Miners spent two-and-a-half years constructing the resort's stylish cottages from reclaimed hardwood. After a dozen years, their cultlike following has proved them right.

photograph by ODDUR THORISSON