



Weird & Wonderful
PLACES
TO STAY



The Myna Motel
Palm Beach, Queensland

WHAT You'll feel as though you've stepped straight into a Slim Aarons portrait when you arrive at The Myna Motel, a sustainable seven-room, pastel-hued oasis located on the iconic Gold Coast Highway. Formerly known as the Palm Trees Motel, the retro vibes are still strong here, and there are plenty of cheeky nods to the classic motels of old, with breeze block feature walls, fibreglass sun-lounger chairs and neon signage. Even the original kidney-shaped pool remains, although it's been upgraded to a magnesium mineral version, which has incredible benefits for your skin, hair and muscles. In accordance with striving to be as environmentally friendly as possible, the property relies on rainwater tanks for the toilets and garden, solar panels for energy, and (where possible) vintage and recycled items have been used to furnish the rooms. **WHY** Because motels are cool again, and who can resist a flashing neon palm tree sign? **HOW** From AU\$220 per night. themysamotel.com

Barn Hives
Yallingup, Western Australia

WHAT Like bees to honey, it's hard to resist the lure of Barn Hives, a collection of brand-new, self-sustainable and eco-friendly pods that have popped up in Yallingup, in the Margaret River Region. Situated on the Barnyard Bees property (hence the name), the six two-storey structures have been built with the intent to leave as little imprint on the Earth as possible, with special attention given to the natural materials used and a rainwater collection system that is heated by solar panels. Inside each you'll find a full kitchen, cosy lounge and pallet fireplace, while the master suite upstairs offers incredible views across the surrounding vineyard and nearby Smiths Beach. Evenings are best spent barbecuing on the outdoor deck, soaking up those epic West Australian sunsets. **WHY** Total luxury and relaxation, minus the eco guilt. **HOW** From AU\$275 per night, with a minimum two-night stay. barnhives.com.au



Charleson Farm
Wensleydale, Victoria

WHAT Can't decide between a rural escape or beach getaway? As the Old El Paso girl once said, 'porque no los dos?' Set on a gorgeous 100-acre property just 30-minutes from Lorne, Charleson Farm is a modern, architecturally striking house that sleeps up to 14 people. There are five bedrooms, a large kitchen and a separate games room, and the views from the wrap-around veranda are pretty specy – especially when the resident kangaroos stop by to say hello. Plus, the beaches, cute cafes and major attractions of the Surf Coast and Great Ocean Road are just a short drive away. Oh, and did we mention the heated plunge pool? On a warm evening – glass of local vino in hand, of course – there's no better place to be. **WHY** A little slice of country heaven not far from the Great Ocean Road. **HOW** From AU\$1,090 per night, with a minimum two-night stay on weekends. riparide.com

Cabn X
McLaren Vale, South Australia

WHAT We all know tiny houses are having a moment, but what if squeezing into a one-room pod isn't quite your style? Introducing Cabn X, the larger, more luxurious offshoot of sustainable accommodation company, Cabn. The two lodgings are called *Giles* and *William*, and are nestled among the vines of Gemtree Wines, a biodynamic winery in McLaren Vale. Aside from slight variances in materials and colour (*William* has been fitted with darker timber cuts), both boast a king-size bed, floor-to-ceiling windows, log fireplace and an outdoor sunken bath. Upon arrival you'll even find an assortment of yummy goodies from local producers. Best of all though, when you book, Cabn will plant a native tree on your behalf. **WHY** The idea of a tiny house gives you claustrophobia, but you still want to get away from it all. **HOW** From AU\$595 per night, with a minimum two-night stay.

cabn.life



Ovolo South Yarra
Melbourne, Australia

WHAT Ovolo has a knack for opening a new hotel and very quickly establishing a loyal fanbase of guests who don't just want to stay there, but guests who want to be seen staying there. When you walk into the lobby of their new 123 room hotel in the chic and elegant inner-Melbourne suburb of South Yarra it's easy to understand why. A concrete reception desk weighing up to six tonnes, a central fireplace with a bright orange flue and a vast internal light well – the largest in Australia – together help to serve as the beating heart of this avant-garde, designer hotel. The flavour of every room matches the hotel's self-proclaimed 'retrofuturistic' tone and unpredictable approach to design, which leaves you guessing at every corner. Nothing matches, but everything somehow fits perfectly. **WHY** The old meets the new in this perfect design collision. **HOW** From AU\$279 per night.

ovolohotels.com



Kokohuia Lodge
Omapere, New Zealand

WHAT When it comes to exclusive lodges, there's no denying New Zealand has its fair share of ridiculously gorgeous options – but we've got to say, Kokohuia Lodge could just be our new favourite. Hidden in the hills overlooking Hokianga Harbour (about a three-hour drive north of Auckland), this private, eco-conscious B&B has been designed with total opulence in mind, and features a freestanding, egg-shaped bath, a selection of pillows to suit your taste and enormous glass doors that open to a sun-soaked terrace. Owners Suzanne Duff and Steve Heim have worked hard to ensure the property is also proudly off-grid and produces its own solar electricity and hot water. They'll even whip up a delicious cooked brekky using homegrown, free-range and locally-sourced produce. What more could you want? **WHY** Good ol' fashioned B&B hospitality, with epic views. **HOW** From AU\$345 per night.

kokohuialodge.co.nz

