

99 THINGS WE LOVE ABOUT AUSTRALIA

Kangaroos, koalas, and Kylie, oh my! The Land Down Under is, however, so much more than its well-worn touchstones. More continent than country in geographical scope, Australia delivers in humble extremes, from the sleeping earth of the singeing-red Outback to the coastal metropolitan centers and their thriving café-dotted neighborhoods. The legalization of marriage equality at the end of 2017 opened the floodgates for alternative culture—from out-and-proud artists to queer-themed television—on the global stage, the likes of which we haven't seen since *Priscilla*. It took you a while to get here, Australia, but we're glad you've arrived. It's with good reason that you're often called Oz—you cast a wizardly spell.





1
SYDNEY
OPERA HOUSE

2.

THE DREAMING

To understand the great cultures of Aboriginal Australia is to fathom that they'll never be properly understood. What has become known as The Dreaming is the great formless anthem of life as it relates to the world—a tradition that knows not the bounds of time or paper, but provides rules for how we must interact with the natural environment and its sacred geography, and how we must interact with one another.

The term "Dreaming" approximately describes an act of creation by ancestral beings, who traveled the continent designing all the things we see and feel today—topography, animals, and the laws of kinship. These events, however, are not viewed as taking place long ago, as the stories of the Bible, Torah, or Koran, but are lived every day as maps to the physical and moral worlds.

It is customary today in Australia that when people gather together, be it for a concert or board meeting, they start by taking a moment to acknowledge the Aboriginal peoples of Australia as "the traditional custodians of the land."



3.

KEIYNAN LONSDALE ISN'T MASC.

THE QUEER STAR OF *LOVE, SIMON* TALKS KISSES AND CONFIDENCE

It was a long trip to the top of the Ferris wheel—9,280 miles, to be exact. And now that Keiynan Lonsdale is on his way down, he can finally start to take it in.

The 26-year-old Sydney-born actor was still grappling with his sexual orientation when he shot the historic climax of *Love, Simon* in Atlanta last year. In the first rom-com about a gay teen to debut with a studio release, Lonsdale played the secret penpal crush to Nick Robinson's Simon, giving young gay and questioning audiences the kind of first-kiss spectacle—between two teenage boys at the top of a carnival Ferris wheel—reserved for hetero couples since the dawn of cinema.

For Lonsdale, it sparked a personal reckoning. He was starring in a groundbreaking gay film, but still confronting the tension between the two attitudes that defined his upbringing: the mega-machismo of the Australian male stereotype, and the culture of acceptance at his performing arts school in Sydney, where he trained as a dancer.

Soon after production wrapped, Lonsdale came out as queer. And since then, he's left his day job on The CW's superhero drama *The Legends of Tomorrow*, playing Wally West, a.k.a. "Kid Flash." When we chat, Lonsdale is, in a way, coming down off the Ferris wheel again. He and Robinson just won Best Kiss at the MTV Movie & TV Awards a few days ago.

"I just want to say to every kid, you can live your dreams and wear dresses," he said from the stage, while wearing a gold-embellished trench coat he found at a music festival, a metallic forehead tattoo, and, tying it all together, a

flowing, floor-length white skirt. "You can live your dreams and kiss the one that you love... You can live your dreams and you can be yourself."

The speech came to him seconds before his category was announced when he looked down at his outfit. "I wasn't nervous about what I was wearing," he says. "If anything, it made me more confident, because that's how I wanted to present myself. Because that's how I felt." He admits that younger Keiynan couldn't even imagine his current self on a stage in that ensemble, proudly and publicly queer, and accepting an award for a same-sex kiss. "But secretly he would be happy."

Lonsdale grew up in Sydney as one of 11 siblings. He was shy and quiet, and admits that he tended to get lost in the shuffle. When he was little, he would try on dresses—a habit he forced himself out of as he became aware of Australia's gender norms.

To the American eye, Aussie men seem to exist on the spectrum from Steve Irwin wrestling an alligator to Wolverine to the Hemsworth brothers, with their hulking muscles strong enough to wield Thor's hammer. "There's definitely that stereotype of the Aussie bloke," says Lonsdale, who copped to the pressure to aspire to that ideal. "When an Australian guy is put on TV, he's always represented in this very specific hyper-masculine way."

His insecurity about his identity might seem confusing to those aware of Lonsdale's performing arts past. But as one of a few black male dancers at school, he constantly felt othered and alone, striving to be what he perceived as the platonic ideal of normal.



PHOTOGRAPHY
BY BRIAN HIGBEE

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His first professional gig included a stint in the musical *Fame* and a role in the Aussie series *Dance Academy*. When it’s pointed out how cool and transgressive it is that someone who came up through dance would go on to play a superhero, he laughs. “I mean, what about Hugh Jackman?”

While some audiences first caught on to Lonsdale’s star power with *Love*,

Simon, comic-book enthusiasts have been obsessed with him since he donned Wally West’s yellow spandex on *The Flash* in 2015. Imagine those fans’ disappointment, then, when he announced in June that he’d be stepping back from the role. Being a superhero is fun, sure. But, at least for now, world-saving is taking a back seat to one of Lonsdale’s deepest passions: music.

His latest single, “Kiss the Boy,” came out in March, and, while he doesn’t have a release date set for his first album, the song and its accompanying, queer-positive music video radiate enough heat to carry him to whenever that might be.

After all, kissing boys has worked well for him so far.

—KEVIN FALLON



of David, I was told immediately that he would eventually come out on the show, and a long-term relationship with Aaron (played by Matt Wilson) was in the works that would unfold over the course of my multi-year contract.

What parts of David do you see in yourself?

As someone with a Japanese background in Australia I know how it feels to not quite belong. I'm playing an Australian character who happens to be Japanese, just as I'm playing an Australian who happens to be gay—neither one defines David. I get asked this retrograde question all the time: as a straight actor what is it like to play gay? Love is love, and it's my job as an actor to empathize with my role.

Why is this wedding episode happening so late relative to other Western countries?

Culturally, there are things that take longer than they should—politically too, and oftentimes one blames the other. There were key figures with loud voices who held it off for reasons that were completely self-serving. At *Neighbours* we've been pushing this for quite a while. The head of scripts is a gay man, as is our executive producer, and my storyline has been in the works for years, long before the legalization of gay marriage. It's nice that our on-screen wedding will have more legitimacy now—it's a celebration, not an act of defiance.

4.

NEIGHBOURS GETS GAY-MARRIED

A Q&A WITH TAKAYA HONDA—HALF OF THE SOAP OPERA'S SEMINAL SAME-SEX COUPLE.

Raised in Sydney in a mixed Australian household—half-Caucasian, half-Japanese—Takaya Honda cut his teeth as a professional actor starring in repertory productions of Shakespeare before tackling several gigs as a hosting personality. Now a household name in Oz, Honda joined the cast of *Neighbours* in 2016 playing Dr. David Tanaka, who, in early September, will make history by getting hitched to Aaron, his on-screen fiancé, in Australia's first same-sex wedding on primetime television.

—BRANDON PRESSER



Tell us a little bit about *Neighbours* and its obsessive fan base.

The show is suburban semi-realism that sells an idyllic, always-sunny Australian lifestyle. It's relatable; it's an average slice of life. Right now we have a cast of 28, so we tackle a variety of domestic issues—some taboo. I think people respond to the show because everyone can find their story represented within.

When you read for the part, were you aware of David's future story arc?

After landing the role

5.

PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK

A conversation with Natalie Dormer, star of the newest iteration of the Australian classic

"It's an atmosphere of place," Joan Lindsay once said of her novel *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, a seminal piece of Australian literature published in 1967. Set in 1900, the plot details the disappearance of several young women at a rural finishing school during a Valentine's Day excursion in the mystical Macedon Ranges outside of Melbourne. According to Lindsay, the idea came to her in a dream, and she feverishly scrawled out the details, turning in a manuscript only a couple of weeks later. At the suggestion of her editor, the final chapter of the book was removed before publishing, giving the story an even greater sense of mystery by refusing to tie up the loose ends (spoiler alert: the girls are never found).

In 1975, Peter Weir directed a movie version of the novel, a critical success,

despite the fact that it left some audiences peeved that the story lacked a resolution. Weir brought the unsettling metaphysics of the Macedon's red rocks to life and counterbalanced the thirsty trees and scorched earth with imagery of the pure white outfits of the missing girls. This year, *Picnic at Hanging Rock* has been tackled again—this time as a miniseries, starring Natalie Dormer of *Game of Thrones* and *The Hunger Games* fame. Dormer plays Hester, the nefarious headmistress of the finishing school. But this time, things get pretty weird—and queer. The girls,



for example, discover their sexuality with one another—and a relationship develops between one of the girls and a teacher, who disappears as well. Even the two men who task themselves with a modest search mission explicitly fall in love.

"Our *Picnic* really is a fleshing out of the book's ensemble of characters,"

says Dormer. "It's a musing on the great themes that Lindsay set the foundations of so beautifully: repression, liberation, identity, fear, shame, social stigma, love, time, coming of age, and the hope and desire to reinvent yourself."

On filming in Lindsay's magically imbued wilderness, Dormer adds: "Australia is such a dramatic, stunning, epic country. The majesty of its Outback is just breathtaking. The landscape truly is a character in both the book and our miniseries. And my character is intimidated by it. Whatever your beliefs, *Hanging Rock* is a very spiritual place and gorgeous to visit." —BP



6-10.

OUT IN THE OUTBACK

When Aussie A-Listers played queer



Cate Blanchett
in *Carol* (2015)
Decked out in daz-zling '50s-era garb, Blanchett literally wooed the pants off Rooney Mara.



Guy Pearce
in *Factory Girl* (2006)
Muse Edie Sedgwick (Sienna Miller) was the film's star, but Pearce stole the show as icon Andy Warhol.



Heath Ledger
in *Brokeback Mountain* (2005)
He got a posthumous Oscar for playing The Joker, but we'll always remember Ledger as the lovelorn Gyllenhaal.



Nicole Kidman
in *The Hours* (2002)
Kidman slapped on a prosthetic nose, and won an Oscar, when she turned Virginia Woolf's sadness into riveting drama.



Naomi Watts
in *Mulholland Dr.* (2001)
It's all acting Olympics for Watts, who bumps uglies with Laura Harring in this twisted fantasy.



the finest wares and fabrics from Asia and Scandinavia. Think Marimekko, textured wallpaper from Japan, and luxuriant Thai silk. CheeSoonFitzgerald.com

11-20.

WALK THE BLOCK: REDFERN

SYDNEY'S ON-THE-CUSP QUARTER IS A WONDERLAND OF EXPERIMENTAL RESTAURANTS AND BOUTIQUES HIDDEN BEHIND UNPOLISHED FACADES.

"A political battleground and creative frontier, there's no neighborhood in Sydney quite like Redfern—an area caught between past and present," says Sophia de Mestre, founder of Culture Scouts (CultureScouts.com.au). Unrecognizable 10 years ago, today Redfern is emerging from social struggle to become one of the most vital places in the city. Walking its streets, you'll witness how the deeply rooted indigenous history entwines with an emerging creative scene of bars, cafés, restaurants, and design retail.

WILD COCKATOO BAKERY

You'll be out of luck if you swing by in the afternoon—the fresh breads, tarts, and meat pies sell out by noon, gobbled up by devotees who

pray that this unassuming bakery doesn't get noticed by the masses.
30 Botany Rd

CICCONE & SONS

Ciccone's small-batch gelato is the perfect accessory for your Redfern walk. Flavors change regularly as the incoming local produce evolves with the seasons. You can't go wrong with anything honeycomb or passionfruit. CicconeAndSons.BigCartel.com

THE D E A STORE

Every place has a thing, and every thing an exact place, at this dainty, detail-oriented boutique specializing in ceramics and succulents. TheDEAStore.com

THE BEARDED TIT

This bar-meets-gallery is a queer-positive performance space with a retro Winnebago parked in the back courtyard. It's the tits. TheBeardedTit.com

CHEE SOON & FITZGERALD

Ladies who lunch take their town cars from Vaucluse—Sydney's Beverly Hills—to this gay-owned retailer importing

MOYA'S JUNIPER LOUNGE

Though Moya doesn't strive for a speakeasy vibe, it's entrance is easy to miss, attracting in-the-know locals who dig a good Negroni and throwback decor mimicking an old London watering hole. MoyasGin.com

REDFERN CONTINENTAL

If you lived in Redfern, this is where you'd meet your friends for easy, pan-European dishes (from bratwurst to spaghetti) in the front, and GDR—a bar that looks like a canasta lounge from 1960—in the back. RedfernContinental.com.au



MISFITS

With good food and drink and drink, and plenty of millennial pink, this hangout for every stripe of Sydneysider hides above a Domino's Pizza.

MisfitsRedfern.com.au

SEASONAL CONCEPTS

Like one of those dusky antique shops found in a forgotten town, this reliquary is bursting at the seams with old Australian wares: wooden furniture, vintage crockery, and fresh flowers, all placed under the watchful eye of taxidermied game.

SeasonalConcepts.com.au



Bart Jr.

BART JR.

Come for the beer, stay for the award-winning bar food at this small, subway-tiled hangout, named for a notorious tomcat who roams the neighborhood.

BartJr.com.au

—BRANDON PRESSER



Misfits

21-24.

SYDNEY'S QUEER REBELS

THE AUSTRALIAN CITY'S NIGHTLIFE LOCKDOWN WON'T STOP ITS LGBTQ MAINSTAYS.

Last year, The Midnight Shift—Sydney's oldest gay bar—closed after 37 years in business. It's one of many casualties of Sydney's draconian lockout laws, which have heavily restricted bars' and nightclubs' opening hours since 2014. The city's own lord mayor Clover Moore (a wildly popular queer ally who famously introduced the bill allowing same-sex couples to adopt) called the laws a "sledgehammer" to Sydney's nightlife. Protest marches of up to 15,000 people have called for the government to "Keep Sydney Open," and that plea has become the moniker of a movement so popular, it's a legitimate political party. So, what's a queen without a scene? Pissed off, proactive, and ready as ever to party. — ZAC BAYLY



Peter Shopovski

Owner of queer hot spot House of Mince

"Sydney's queer community has become unified in our opposition and it's made us stronger. Clubbing is a culture, and its audience are adults."



Kurt Johnson

Queer stylist, editor, and scene personality

"The lockout laws have left many people from oppressed subcultures with no safe spaces to socialize."



Tilly Lawless

Queer sex worker, activist, social media star

"The laws have sapped Oxford Street of its culture. I no longer feel safe walking alone as a woman. Sex workers have lost their red-light district and their incomes. But still, we fight back and dance on."



Tyson Koh

Director of Keep Sydney Open

"Starting Keep Sydney Open and turning it into a political party is a declaration that alternative culture matters. We're not ashamed for wanting to express ourselves at any time, night or day."



25.

JEAN NOUVEL'S VERTICAL GARDENS

Jean Nouvel and Patrick Blanc's One Central Park is a feat in sustainable construction. A hydroponic and heliostat system enable soilless, sky-high vegetation growth along the height of the 384-foot tall, two-tower complex, which includes more than 600 apartments and a five-story shopping center. Completed in 2013, the gardens have turned Sydney's once-derelict Chippendale district into one of its newly coveted neighborhoods.

26.

WHITE RABBIT GALLERY



Bringing rising Chinese contemporary artists to an Australian audience, this exhibition space has evolved into one of the most significant collections in the world. Founded by Judith Neilson, a Zimbabwe-born billionaire by way of her ex-husband's stock market fortune, White Rabbit owns nearly 2,500 works by more than 500 artists; Neilson funds the endeavor solo, and is constantly revitalizing it.

27. HEAD OVER HEELS FOR TONI COLLETTE

FROM *MURIEL'S WEDDING* TO *HEARTS BEAT LOUD*, THIS AUSSIE STAR IS THANKFUL FOR THE MUSIC.

Toni Collette has held a firm place in our hearts—and given us karaoke goals—since her debut as gawky ABBA fangirl Muriel in 1994's *Muriel's Wedding*. This summer, The Aussie actress returned to horror (*The Sixth Sense*, anyone?) with *Hereditary* and got tuneful again in the queer-themed indie *Hearts Beat Loud*. Here, Collette dishes on music, her homeland, and Muriel's lasting appeal.

What are your thoughts on 1994's Australian film explosion, with *Muriel's Wedding* and *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*?

Those two films and *Strictly Ballroom* came flying out of the country in a very short period of time. It was exciting. I think those things are determined by the filmmakers. That's what creates the wave. I don't know if it's happened since.

What do you remember about the reception of *Muriel's Wedding* in America, and the splash you made as an actress?

I felt so alive and appreciative. It was such a surprise when people embraced that character. The movie was life-changing—it helped me embark on a career I never could have dreamed of.

Do you think the success of *Muriel* and *Priscilla* made it easier for American filmmakers to do more queer-targeted films?

Priscilla certainly did. It was so fun, but not without depth and poignancy. I don't know if it opened doors for other films, but when something like that is available to people, it must.

In *Hearts Beat Loud*, the two romances involve a middle-aged straight couple and queer teen girls. It's rare to see screen romances that aren't straight people in their 20s. I loved that there was no fuss made



about that. And the daughter is black and no fuss was made. It's just people living their lives. None of those questions were ever important, and that's the way life should be.

And you get to sing karaoke in the film!

Yes! I started acting through singing. As a teenager, I did musicals. But the last musical I did was *The Wild Party* on Broadway in 2000. I'd like to do more of it, but I've been pretty busy with my day job!

Any future music plans?

I'm always singing. You can't shut me up. My husband's a musician and we talk about doing something again—we put out an album 12 years ago. And I write things, but only for myself. I can't imagine life without music.

Finally, what is a must-do in Australia for anyone reading this?

I would do the Bondi-to-Bronte walk along the cliffs in Sydney. And jump in the ocean whenever possible.

—MICHAEL MARTIN

28.

MERCH QUEEN

Aussie beauty and *RPDR* alum Courtney Act on her coveted swag

THE ECSTASY TANK

"I've been doing my meet-and-greets in this new merch shirt, partly because it's cute and partly because I forgot to pack a meet-and-greet look."

THE PILLOW

"What you do in the privacy of your own home is none of my business...but when you wake up in the morning I hope you feel guilt-free and refreshed!"
– On what she wants you to experience with her "Resting on Pretty" pillow



29.

THE IMPERIAL

Freshly reopened after a nip and a much-needed tuck, this legendary bar—originally opened in 1983, and heavily featured in *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*—does drag seven nights a week, and offers veggie-forward eats in a new on-site restaurant, the aptly named Priscilla's. ImperialErskineville.com.au



30.

BERNADETTE'S BEST



Looking for shade in the outback? No one throws it better than Terence Stamp's fabulously feathered heroine in the 1994 Aussie classic *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. Here, a ranking of her sauciest quips.

3. *"Don't 'darling,' me, darling. Look at you. You've got a face like a cat's arse."*
2. *"That's just what this country needs: a cock in a frock on a rock."*
1. *"Now listen here, you mullet. Why don't you just light your tampon and blow your box apart? Because it's the only bang you're ever gonna get, sweetheart!"*

31.

KAREN FROM FINANCE

When in doubt, Australia's reigning queen of tax puts it on the company card.

She may be the self-described "premiere corporate Queen of Melbourne" but Karen From Finance is fast on her way to taking on clients worldwide. Now, if she could only learn how to BCC...

Why isn't Karen From Finance on LinkedIn?

I got banned for trolling Amanda From Reception. I kept sending her fake emails pretending to be other employers to get her out of my office.

What's your policy on office romances?

I've never had one! And until I do have one, I feel like they should be forbidden to all! Especially Amanda.

You've been featured at RuPaul's Drag Con and Drag Fest tours. Which contestants did you love?

I have a soft spot for Tammie Brown, Detox, and Naomi Smalls. All those girls love a glass or two of champagne, and so do I!

Do you have strong opinions on CCing and BCCing?

Email isn't my forte. I thought BCC was a vitamin.

Heard any good gossip round the water cooler recently?

I heard that Amanda got caught stealing extra channels from Foxtel with a dodgy card and now she's in court. Apparently, she asked Deborah From HR for a raise, but Deborah told her that if she needed more cash, she should stop spending so much on crappy foundation.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

Still here. In exactly the same position I'm in now. Hopefully back in my own apartment, though, and not living with my sister.

—ZAC BAYLY





32.

THE FLAT WHITE

Conceived as a method to end the rampant drunkenness in the convict colonies, coffee was the cornerstone of Australia's early Temperance Movement. The nation's deep relationship with its cuppa has contributed to its present-day café culture and reverence for the almighty bean. The most famous Australian twist on the drink is the flat white. Often bastardized in other countries, the original creation was a froth-less cappuccino founded in the 1980s at the now-defunct Moors Espresso Bar in Sydney. Be a real Aussie and the next time you order ask for a "three-quarters flat white," which has slightly less milk, allowing the aromatics of the coffee to shine through.

33.

PARAMOUNT COFFEE PROJECT

Perhaps the only café on the planet that's so beloved it opened a hotel within its walls, this inspired collab between three of Australia's coffee industry pros made a name for itself in the Sydney neighborhood of Surry Hills by presenting local and international roasts in an unbiased and educational format. All "cupping" by the lead baristas is done blind, ensuring only the most inspired flavors make it into customers' mugs. Paramount recently landed in America with a new coffee shop at the ROW DLTA development in Downtown Los Angeles' Arts District.



34-39.

AUSTRALIA'S TOP CAFÉS

Jin Ng, Mark Dundon, and Russell Beard, the three founders of the Paramount Coffee Project, weigh in on their favorite spots in Australia.

REUBEN HILLS

Sydney, NSW

This micro-roastery and café is where Beard showcases the fruit of his international findings. He imports beans directly from farmers, and is constantly introducing new, small-batch produce.

ETHEL FOOD STORE

Brunswick Heads, QLD

A one-stop shop associated with its sister restaurant Fleet, Ethel spins take-home meals, cakes, pastries, and salads.

CORNERSMITH

Sydney, NSW

Located in Sydney's innerwest, this café has an on-site picklery and sources seasonal produce for thoughtful breakfasts and lunches.

SEVEN SEEDS

Melbourne, VIC

Dundon owns this Melbourne mainstay, which features weekly public cuppings that introduce coffee enthusiasts to new beans plucked from small farms and cooperatives.

EVERYDAY COFFEE

Melbourne, VIC

Found within Australia's first shared coffee roasting workspace, Bureaux Collective, Everyday makes beans with a lighter profile to showcase their provenance.

BARRIO COLLECTIVE

COFFEE, Canberra, ACT

Barrio's menu mixes traditional and contemporary brew methods to play up the versatility of their beans.

40-44.

UMAMI? OOH DADDY!

Oz's edible obsessions

TIM TAMS

Addiction knows no bounds with these chocolate cookies dunked in a gooey, melty coating. You'll find notes of heath bar and honeycomb buried within, and we challenge you not to eat a an entire sleeve in one go.



LAMINGTONS

The popular dessert is a square sponge cake coated in chocolate and left to partially harden before it's rolled in desiccated coconut.



MILO

Invented by an Australian chemist in the 1930s, this proprietary blend of cocoa and malt is a childhood fave when stirred with hot water or—even better—warm milk.



VEGEMITE

A byproduct of brewer's yeast, this thick spread is salty, malty, and perfect when slathered on toast and crackers. Australians fervently avow it's better than the British version, Marmite.



WATTLESEED

Grown from a native acacia then roasted in a drum like coffee, wattleseed has high levels of antioxidants and a pucker-y taste, lending itself well to chocolate and ice cream. It's poised to be the gateway "bushtucker" product—like Australia's own açai.



45. THE D'ARENBERG CUBE

Like a giant, swiveling Rubik's Cube plopped in the middle of a vineyard, the tasting room slash museum slash restaurant at the d'Arenberg estate is Australia's valiant effort to create a new piece of striking sculpture architecture, complete with odd astroturf foliage, African masks, and rainbow cow-print furniture inside. Love it or hate it, it's drummed up a significant amount of exposure for the McLaren Valley, and while you're there be sure to try the d'Arenberg 2014 Derelict Vineyard Grenache, the head sommelier's favorite bottle.

46-51.

OZ'S BEST WINES

Here, Josh Picken, head sommelier at the d'Arenberg Cube, shares his top wine selects from the disparate grape-growing regions throughout the country.

BK WINES REMY PINOT NOIR, ADELAIDE HILLS, SA 2015

An ex-pro snowboarder and DJ from New Zealand, Brendan Keys, or "BK", is one of the coolest wine makers around. His wife, Kristian, picks the single best barrel of Pinot Noir to make into Remy, which bears notes of juicy bright rhubarb and strawberry.

YALUMBA VIRGILIUS VIOGNIER EDEN VALLEY, SA 2015

Yalumba is one of Australia's biggest wine brands, and it's still family-owned. The Eden Valley region is further northeast of the famous Barossa; its higher altitude adds a different flavor profile. Riesling is king, but Viognier continues to etch a name here.

DOMAINE SIMHA CABERNET FRANC TAMAR VALLEY 2014

Simha is owned and operated by renowned sommelier Louisa Radmen and her husband, winemaker Nav Singh, who has experience working at Domain Chandon. Cabernet Franc is a varietal with bright cherry blossom perfume, blackcurrant leaf, and juicy acidity, but without the weight and tannin.

CULLEN WINES KEVIN JOHN CHARDONNAY MARGARET RIVER 2016

Cullen is at the top of the crowd of wineries in this beachside destination known for Chardonnay. Kevin John is named after Cullen's founding father, who put a considerable amount of work into making his wine 100% biodynamic.

EDEN ROAD NEBBIOLO CANBERRA DISTRICT 2015

Eden Road now calls this sub-region of NSW home, and it has been on the rise in the domestic wine scene for the last five years. This amazing interpretation of Nebbiolo has a tobacco nose and a gravelly palate.

COBAW RIDGE LAGREIN MACEDON RANGES, VIC 2005

Situated near the Cobaw State Forest, Cobaw Ridge's stand-out Lagrein, an Italian grape, is a lighter, aromatic varietal that's attracted many top Australian producers. This bottle shows aged meaty characters and tobacco leaf, with stewed black fruits.





52.

LEONARDO NAM

THE RISING *WESTWORLD* STAR IS ENJOYING HIS NEWFOUND RECOGNITION, AND IS POISED FOR MORE EXPOSURE—YES, THAT KIND, TOO.

A few days before the second season finale of *Westworld*, Leonardo Nam is playing coy about his character's fate. "I am just as interested as you to find out," he says with a laugh. Like fans, the 38-year-old actor has had to embrace a measure of confusion when it comes to the multiple timelines and puzzle-box narratives of HBO's sci-fi western.

Thanks to *Westworld*, Nam's star is on the rise. Born in Argentina to Korean parents, he moved with

his family to Australia as a child. There he performed in church plays with his brother and sister, but it was studying Shakespeare in high school that really piqued his interest in acting. When he was 19, he moved to New York with almost no money—even spending a few nights sleeping in Central Park—before landing a spot with the legendary Uta Hagen, training at the Herbert Berghof studio.

While performing in Shakespeare in the Park, he

was cast in his first major film role alongside Scarlett Johansson and Chris Evans in 2004's *The Perfect Score*. Parts in *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*, and *The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift* followed. But while his co-stars became household names, Nam remained on the periphery of fame. "I would be lying if I said it doesn't matter in the industry," he admits. "To know that opportunities weren't even shown to me because I didn't have the name or face recognition needed—you ask yourself, is it talent? Is it because I'm Asian?"

Nam recalls hearing a rumor that Warner Bros. was considering recasting his role in *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2*. There was concern that Middle America wouldn't respond to an Asian male in a romantic role, so Nam set out to make himself into a matinee idol, hitting the gym extra hard. It paid

off, in more ways than one: he retained the role in the film and met his husband at the gym. "It's a true basic-gay love story!" he jokes. They are now the proud parents of twin 18-month-old boys.

Since *Westworld*, however, Nam has noticed a shift in the kind of roles for which he's being considered. "I'm definitely starting to see roles that traditionally would have been cast as a white male," he says. Many of those are in sci-fi or post-apocalyptic films, and he's fine with that. "What I like in particular about sci-fi is that it usually offers a really interesting commentary on where we are now or where we're going."

And Nam is finally beginning to get more of that all-important recognition for his work, which itself is a kind of commentary on the ways in which Hollywood is changing. On a recent trip to Rajasthan he encountered fans at a temple who watch *Westworld* on their phones. "We now have access to a global storytelling platform," he says. "You can't separate the time that we live in from the content we're creating."

So, what's next for Nam? Well, on *Westworld*, we've yet to see him in the buff—one of the few characters who hasn't stripped down—that's something to perhaps look forward to in Season 3, even if no one can quite figure out the plot. "I'm down!" Nam, says. "I've got a beautiful body. Why not?"

—JOHN RUSSELL



53.

RADHA MITCHELL'S QUEENSLAND

"I like Byron but I've grown to love Noosa on Queensland's Sunshine Coast for its epic sea walk and its family-friendly ambience. For hiking, I love the area's Glass House Mountains. Lamington National Park is magnificent, too. Think sunlight-dappled rainforests, ancient species of trees, and sweeping vistas of green mountains and valleys. There are plenty of kooky wood cabins for tree lovers, twitchers, and botanical geeks. Personally, I just love walking barefoot, and feeling the ancient soil underfoot."



54-55.

MAURICE TERZINI & BONDI BEACH

SYDNEY'S KING OF FOOD AND FASHION



Raised between Melbourne and the Abruzzo, Maurice Terzini has a boisterous Australian attitude with a refined Italian sensibility. As a young twenty-something he opened a trattoria in the yet-to-be-hip Melbourne neighborhood of South Yarra, proffering real-deal cuisine from the boot-shaped country instead of the factory fare fakery found on touristy Lygon Street. He

credits luck—"the right place at the right time" for his early entrepreneurial success, and there have been some higher highs (and some very low lows) leading up to his greatest accomplishment in the food biz: launching a massively successful restaurant concept at Icebergs—Sydney's second-most iconic building after its opera house.

A glass fortress set directly on Bondi Beach—so close to the waves that they crash right into the open-air swimming pool in moodier weather—Icebergs has helped turn the once undesirable 'burb (the city used to pipe

its sewage out to sea in the area) into one of the hottest addresses in all of Sydney. Bondi is synonymous with Australia's pronounced surf culture—its de facto capital—with toned young men in half-zipped neoprene and kaftan-wearing beach babes idling at the local coffee shops.

"The beach is the great equalizer in Australia. Every type of person gathers, stripped down of their artifice, on the sand," says Terzini of Bondi—his veritable fiefdom—which attracts not only wave riders, but Sydneysiders of every alternative stripe.

Beyond Icebergs and his numerous other restaurants around town, Terzini has also made a name for himself in the fashion world. "These are our basic needs: food and shelter," he says when asked about the relationship between his passion for designing menus and designing streetwear. "I want to create a beautiful life for everyone—I like to think of it as all being a part of a greater lifestyle brand," he adds. What's next? Terzini plans to make landfall in the U.S. with a restaurant-bar in Los Angeles and then: "A hotel. I want to pull all of these things together." —**BRANDON PRESSER**

56. UNDER DOWN UNDER

A WEEKLONG ROAD TRIP UP TASMANIA'S DAZZLING EASTERN COAST

Wild, rugged, and remote even by Australian standards, Tasmania feels very different from the red sands of the Outback and turquoise waters of the mainland beaches. The island state is primordial with old-growth forests, wispy overcast clouds, and vertiginous cliffs. A trip along the coast of the Great Eastern Drive brings a constellation of sacred sites to light, connecting the island's two major towns. —**BRANDON PRESSER**



DAY 1: HOBART

Cure your jet lag with a caffeinated visit to Hobart's historic downtown (it's Australia's second oldest state capital after Sydney); **Hobart Walking Tours** (HobartWalkingTours.com.au) specializes in coffee-themed excursions that offer compelling insight into the importance of café culture in Oz. Outside the city limits, the **Museum of Old and New Art** (MONA; Mona.net.au) is home to David Walsh's world-famous collection of



Binalong Bay



Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary

DAY 2: TASMAN PENINSULA

The crumbling ruins of **Port Arthur Historic Site** (PortArthur.org.au) were once home to some of Britain's most hardened criminals. In good weather, the former penal colony kinda feels like a colonial-style holiday park (gruesome stories of leg sores from bearing actual ball-and-chains notwithstanding). The area also features ethereal rock formations, birthed by torturous seismic activity and the immemorial pounding of waves born in Antarctica. A boat ride with **Pennicott Wilderness Journey** (TasmanCruises

art that's not only contemporary, but contemplative and contentious (hello, 72 plastered vaginas; hello, robotic pooping machine!). Swing by the **Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary** (Bonorong.com.au) nearby, where rescued marsupials are nursed back to health.

Back in the heart of town, feast on fresh oysters and line-caught sashimi at **The Glass House** (*TheGlass.house*), then retreat back to the city's newest and poshest pad, **MACq01** (*Macq01.com.au*). The third-floor rooms have generous AstroTurfed balconies perfect for self-guided yoga amid potted succulents.

.com.au) hugs the coastline where pillars of dolorite line the cliffs like organ pipes—if you're lucky you'll spot dolphins frolicking in your vessel's wake.

Catch the sunset at Tessellated Pavement, a mini Giant's Causeway where the purple haze of twilight glitters off of the shiny, striated ground.



DAY 3: FREYCINET NATIONAL PARK

Like the tail of a dragon, Freycinet National Park whips out into the sea—you'll see the peninsula's stony crest in the distance long before you arrive. Once you've settled into Coles Bay, the launching point for the reserve, jump into a kayak with **Freycinet Adventures** (FreycinetAdventures.com.au) for a sea lion's perspective of the fjord-like surrounds.

DAY 4: FRIENDLY BEACHES

After a scramble up Mount Amos, reward yourself with oysters and uni at **Freycinet Marine Farm** (FreycinetMarineFarm.com), the best place in Tasmania for a buffet of bivalves. The extreme vastness of the talcum-white Friendly Beaches lies ahead, where you can delight in the notion that there are still places of unimaginable beauty left in the world that are unadulterated and unexplored.

DAY 5: BAY OF FIRES

Near the township of St. Helens, you'll reach the Bay of Fires—a mystical moniker given to the area perhaps because the ancient aboriginals would light bonfires along the shore, or maybe it's because of the scorching red color of the pervasive lichen. Explore the village of Binalong Bay, then withdraw to the **Bay of Fires Bush Retreat** (BayOfFiresBushRetreat.com.au)—a huddle of glamping tents purpose-built for a hipster's Instagram account.



Dinners prepared by the husband-and-wife owners are worthy #foodporn, too.

DAY 6: LAUNCESTON

Start early the next morning at The Gardens to catch the rays of the rising sun as they bleach the rings of crimson moss on the seaside stones. Pull over at one of the tidal beaches like Cosy Corner, where pensioners park their caravans to imbibe the warm, unusual light that can only be found in "Tassie." The drive inland towards Launceston looks like an ad for ranch salad dressing, where hidden valleys are hemmed by ridges of impenetrable forest. Wind your way down to low-lying Launceston for a winning evening in one of the art-inspired studios at friendly **Hatherley Birrell Collection** (Hatherley.com.au). Its Muse Garden and Magnolia Garden pavilions have inviting outdoor bathtubs. Just sayin'.

DAY 7: TAMAR VALLEY

It's worth sticking around "Lonnie" to take in the throwback architecture (Victorian- and Federation-style facades) that gives the town its frontier vibe. A dinner of New Nordic-inspired mains at **Geronimo Aperitivo Bar & Restaurant** (GeronimoRestaurant.com.au) is also a must, but spend the afternoon in the dales of the nearby Tamar Valley, which produces most of Tasmania's world-class wine, like the award-winning bottles at **Josef Chromy** (JosefChromy.com.au)



Tasmanian oysters

Launceston Seaport



57.

JESSICA MAUBOY

A Q&A WITH AUSTRALIA'S
EUROVISION GOLDEN GIRL

BORN IN DARWIN in Australia's Northern Territory, Mauboy is of aboriginal descent and grew up with four sisters in what has often been described as the noisiest house on the block—singing has always been her “best friend.” She rose to notoriety after finishing as the runner-up on the fourth season of *Australian Idol*. Two weeks later Sony gave her a record deal, and her star has been on the rise ever since. When Eurovision invited Australia, a loyal devotee from afar, to join the song contest in 2014, Mauboy was chosen as the nation's delegate singer. In 2018 she made an unprecedented return to the Eurovision stage with the song “We Got Love” to vie for another win. She shares her thoughts on diversity in Australia, and the country's love of the kitschy contest. —**BRANDON PRESSER**

What's the deal with Australia's Eurovision obsession?

In addition to having a very robust music scene domestically, Australia has often been the first country—ironic given the distance—for many acts building an international career. ABBA, for example, broke in Australia very early in their international journey. Also, SBS, an Australian network, has been broadcasting Eurovision since 1983—it's been a very long love affair. As a child, my dad and I would get up so early to catch the competition live—it's so much more than a song contest, it's like the World Cup of singing, bringing countries and diverse people together.

A lot of Eurovision participants, like ABBA and Celine Dion, have become gay icons over the years—what's your relationship to the LGBTQ community in Australia?

I am very proud that my country is making huge strides towards equality and diversity—I live in the heart of

Sydney's gay community, and it was such an incredible and joyous day on the streets when marriage equality was passed. Personally, two of my favorite performances were at the Sydney Mardi Gras—it's such an extraordinary and empowering event, and I feel very privileged to be welcomed and invited into the LGBTQ community in Australia. My favorite act at Mardi Gras are the Sistagirls, trans dancers from the Tiwi Islands—I always cheer the loudest for them.

What would you say are the key differences between Americans and Australians?

Americans have this amazing confidence—we use this word “larrikin” (playfully boisterous, loud, extra-friendly). Australians are more humble by nature. American artists are all about

high-end glamour; here, our art is more conversational. Storytelling is the foundation of aboriginal culture.

Where should one travel in Australia to understand its beating heart?

You'll never see scenery as stunning as the ancient, soul-stirring landscapes of rural Australia. In fact, a quarter of the country—like the Kakadu National Park—is managed by Aboriginal land trusts. The Aboriginal rangers that manage and protect these beautiful and vast pieces of land are the nation's unsung heroes. Add the Northern Territory to your to-do list—it feels like the end of the earth in the best way imaginable. Eat tropical fruit from the Mindil Beach markets and watch the sunset, then stick around after dark—if you haven't been to the Northern Territory you haven't really seen the stars.



58.

G FLIP

The queer Aussie newcomer is turning heartbreak into perfect pop.

Aussie artist G Flip put everything on pause—even her beloved nights out on Melbourne's queer scene—to start producing her own music..

"It's always rowdy," she says of her favorite party, "Thursgay."

"And I wanted to focus. I'm someone that always goes 100% with shit." G Flip, aka 24-year-old Georgia Flip, has always been as obsessed with polished pop as with scruffed-up rock.

A tattoo on her left arm pays tribute to Michael Jackson, and she previously drummed for EMPRA, a four-piece who toured with Fall Out Boy. "But I was secretly writing music on the side," she says. "I just never showed anyone."

She shut herself away for the whole of 2017 to work on her solo project, emerging with more than 50 tracks, including her debut single, "About You," a punchy bop that evokes Lorde if she went on a synth rampage, and the frothy Scandi-pop-esque kiss-off "Killing My Time."

"All my songs are about girls who have either ruined me, or whom I've fallen head over heels in love with," G Flip says. "I'm always gonna be honest." That candor is paying off: She already has a loyal queer fanbase, and this spring "About You" hit number one on Spotify's viral chart. "I cried a lot of happy tears," she says. "Playing on shitty stages and sleeping on floors for years—it was all leading up to that moment. I was like, 'Holy shit, my life just began.'"



59.

COURTNEY BARNETT'S MELBOURNE

Where the acclaimed queer singer-songwriter buys her records—and gets tipsy

POISON CITY RECORDS is a little record store on Brunswick Street in Fitzroy. It's also a record label that produces some of the greatest bands around, like Camp Cope, Mod Con, Cable Ties, TV Haze, Batpiss, and Harmony. They get 100 points for passion, enthusiasm, community spirit, and good taste. If you're looking for the perfect bar, go to **Joe's Shoe Store** on High Street in Northcote. You'll find drinks that are fancy but not too fancy, local people spinning good records, and lights that are too dim for taking selfies. You can order dinner from **Pizza Meine Liebe** next door: one Margherita with olives and one Greenpeace (mozzarella, taleggio, silverbeet, broccoli, lemon, and parmesan)."

Barnett's latest album, Tell Me How You Really Feel, is out now.



60-84.

PLAYLIST: 25 CLASSICS FROM THE LAND OF OZ

From Kylie to Sia to Troye Sivan, our favorite songs by Australian artists

The Seekers, "Georgy Girl" (1966)



The Easybeats, "Friday on My Mind" (1966)



AC/DC, "Big Balls" (1976)

Men at Work, "Who Can It Be Now?" (1981)



Olivia Newton-John, "Physical" (1981)

Crowded House, "Don't Dream It's Over" (1986)



Midnight Oil, "Beds Are Burning" (1987)

The Church, "Under the Milky Way" (1988)

The Go-Betweens, "Streets of Your Town" (1988)

Nick Cave & the Bad Seeds, "The Ship Song" (1990)

Divinyls, "I Touch Myself" (1990)

Dead Can Dance, "The Carnival Is Over" (1993)

Natalie Imbruglia, "Torn" (1997)

The Avalanches, "Frontier Psychiatrist" (2000)

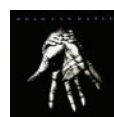
Kylie Minogue, "Can't Get You Out of My Head" (2001)

The Veronicas, "Untouched" (2007)



Sam Sparro, "Black and Gold" (2008)

Cut Copy, "Hearts on Fire" (2008)



Empire of the Sun, "Walking on a Dream" (2008)

Gotye, "Somebody That I Used to Know" (2011)



Sia, "Chandelier" (2014)

Courtney Barnett, "Depreston" (2015)

Tame Impala, "Let It Happen" (2015)

The Goon Sax, "Boyfriend" (2015)



Troye Sivan, "My My My!" (2018)

85.

24 HOURS IN FREMANTLE

A PERFECT DAY IN PERTH'S SEASIDE SUBURB

AM

If Perth is like Los Angeles, with its immense sprawl between the desert and the water, then little “Freo” is its Venice Beach—an oceanside nook bubbling over with gritty bohemian charm. Instead of driving from central Perth, opt for the hour-long boat ride along the scenic Swan River. Fuel up with a flat white along Cappuccino Row, named for the preponderance of Italian storefronts along the main drag, before following High Street down to the crumbling Round House, Western Australia’s oldest structure—a prison, natch. From the ruins you can see one of the most ambitious public art stunts, Arc d’Ellipses—ribbons of yellow paint scrawled along the historic facades that look like a contiguous swirl.



PM

Pause for lunch at one of the local artisanal restaurants, like **Bread in Common** (BreadInCommon.com.au), **Strange Company** (StrangeCompany.com.au) or **Stable Hands** (StableHandsFremantle.com.au), then spend the rest of the day with **Fremantle Tours** (FremantleTours.com.au), run by Michael and Lucy, two locals with a true passion for travel. Hop on one of

their bikes to check out stops like the Fremantle Prison, now a World Heritage site, and the Rainbow Sea Containers, a testament to Fremantle’s free and queer spirit. As the sun sets, grab a glass of wine at **Bathers Beach House** (BathersBeachHouse.com.au), the only seaside establishment with a liquor license, then gorge on flatbreads and pale ales at the **Little Creatures** brewery (LittleCreatures.com.au).



86.

LATHER. RINSE. REPEAT

The fable of Aesop, Australia’s hand soap hegemony

If you’ve ever spent more than \$100 on a meal, then chances are you’ve spotted Aesop’s hand soap in the restaurant’s bathroom. Founded in Melbourne in 1987, Aesop has earned a global reputation with its Scandinavian apothecary aesthetic and compelling aromatics. Aesop.com



87.

BRUNY ISLAND



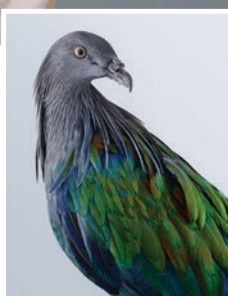
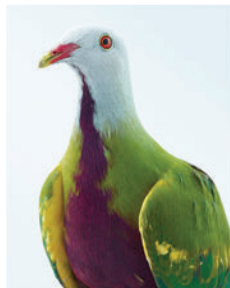
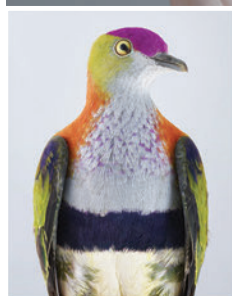
Bruny, a short ferry ride from Tasmania, offers the best of the island state. Enjoy a picnic made up of fresh bread and cheese from **Bruny Island Cheese Co.** (BrunyIslandCheese.com.au), oysters from **Get Shucked** (GetShucked.com.au), and wine from **Bruny Island Premium Wines** (BrunyIslandWine.com) on the quiet beach at Adventure Bay. At night, stay at one of the properties managed by **Bruny Island Coastal Retreats** (BrunyIsland.com.au), a development company dedicated to preserving the island’s natural vibe by buying the southern part and leaving it completely untouched save a few luxury houses.



88.

#QUOKKASELFIE

This always-smiling marsupial is poised to pose when you visit Rottnest Island, near Perth.



89.

FANCY FEATHERS

“Australia is known for its unusual mammals but the birdlife is equally fascinating: a result of tens of millions of years of evolutionary isolation. Australian birds are intelligent, loud, and live in complex societies—and, mostly importantly, they’re so much fun. In Sydney we have flocks of sulphur crested cockatoos that have adapted to city living. They can be seen having breakfast by Mosman’s beaches, lunch in affluent Potts Point, and spending the afternoon talking to their mates on a balcony in Kirrabilly, just up the road from the Prime Minister’s Sydney residence.”

—Leila Jeffreys, wildlife photographer

90–91.

ALEX HOTEL & SHADOW WINE BAR

BY FAR THE COOLEST address in Perth, the Alex Hotel in the bar-lined Northbridge neighborhood gets it right with inviting communal spaces, minimalist decor in the rooms, and fun flourishes like hand-milled soaps and written guides to the city. A receptionist-cum-barista is always on duty to handle your needs—coffee or other—and

can set you up with one of the complimentary hipster-slim Lekker bicycles. The attached



restaurant, Shadow Wine Bar, is—hyperbole alert—the best restaurant in the city, and certainly deserves consideration as one of the top addresses in the country. Waiters with encyclopedic knowledge of domestic wines match bottles with pared-back iterations of European favorites like beef carpaccio and tarte tatin.

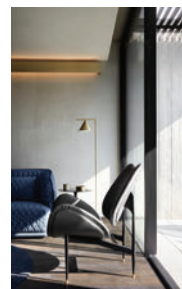
AlexHotel.com.au

92.

UNITED PLACES BOTANIC GARDENS

Melbourne’s newest digs in the fashionable South Yarra district find the impossible balance

between a hotel and Airbnb: a collection of 12 spacious suites with all the amenities of an apartment plus the convenience of an inn. A luxurious complimentary breakfast comes from the on-site restaurant,



Matilda, but feel free to make full use of your in-room kitchen to whip up fresh eats sourced from the local farmers’ market.

UnitedPlaces.com.au



93.

THE CORAL COAST

700 MILES OF DESOLATION UNFURL NORTH OF PERTH ALONG WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S VIVIDLY COLORED COASTLINE, WHERE THE RED SANDS OF ULURU MEET THE AQUAMARINE SEA.

SHARK BAY

One of the two World Heritage sites in the region, Gutharraguda—as it's called in the local aboriginal dialect—is a trove of natural anomalies, including a beach made entirely of scallop shells, one of the world's largest underwater kelp forests, and a lagoon system of stromatolites—the primordial ooze that formed the crux of life on Earth.

Guests staying at **Monkey Mia's** no-frills resort (ParksAndResorts.RAC.com.au/Monkey-Mia) can sip their morning lattes while watching

habituated dolphins swim to shore to say hi and eat a couple of fresh fish fed by volunteer marine biologists.

FRANCOIS PERON NATIONAL PARK

Evidence suggests that the Malgana people have been living along the rugged Peron peninsula—Wulybidi in the local language—for at least 25,000 years.

And the only way to unlock the mysticism of this faraway preserve is on a day trip with **Wula Gura Nyinda** (WulaRura.com.au), an aboriginal-run tour operator led by Capes, a descendant of the nomads that once

roamed the land. Through short hikes, kayaking, a soak at a warm artesian spring, and didgeridoo-playing sessions, he brings to life a reverence for the sleeping earth that's been lost since the arrival of Europeans.

NINGALOO REEF

Australia's other Great Reef, Ningaloo is a massive fringe shoal, famous for its whale sharks that visit between April and July each year. Day trips to

swim with the world's biggest fish are done in a sustainable fashion, getting snorkelers up-close and personal without disturbing the gentle giants' environs. More than 500 types of tropical fish populate the reef. Hardcore marine life lovers can overnight on a catamaran, **Sail Ningaloo** (SailNingaloo.com.au), to dive with hammerheads and manta rays.

BULLARA STATION

A working cattle ranch run by the Shallcross family, **Bullara** (Bullara-Station.com.au) is

the ultimate inland antidote to the continuous tresses of coastal dunes. Fulfill your Outback dreams by camping out on the tent reserve amid wild kangaroos. There are aluminum-sided bunk units and proper farmer cottages, too—and a tricked-out shower under the stars fixed to a dappled eucalyptus tree.

CAPE RANGE NATIONAL PARK

Fanning out along the western ledge of the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area, this vast system of canyons and coves offers some of the best snorkeling and sunsets in Australia. At Turquoise Bay, enter the sea on the far left of the beach, then ride the soft, northerly current past sea turtles and giant clams. Massive schools of neon fish also spool around the Oyster Stacks nearby.

In the evening, pack a picnic and drive up the mesa to watch the sun set along the horizon at the Vlamingh Head Lighthouse.



Above: A whale shark at Exmouth. Below: François Péron National Park. Opposite page:

NAVY PIER

Unlike Queensland's Great Barrier Reef, where divers have to travel miles out to sea to find optimal scuba conditions, Western Australia's top site is accessible from the beach. The Navy Pier in Exmouth is arguably the best shore dive in the world, with thousands of schooling fish, wobbegongs (carpet sharks), octopus, and technicolor nudibranchs. Protected under local military authority, only one operator, **Dive Ningaloo** (DiveNingaloo.com.au) has permission to access the reef, so crowds are kept to a minimum.



SHUTTERSTOCK (NINGALOO). COURTESY OF BRANDON PRESSER (FRANÇOIS PÉRON NATIONAL PARK). COURTESY OF AP (HEMSWORTH). COURTESY OF INSTAGRAM (EMU)

94-98.

CHRIS HEMSWORTH'S FIVE FAVORITE BEACHES



Cape Woolamai, Phillip Island, VIC

I spent a lot of my childhood surfing here, and have great memories growing up with my brothers.

Cape Shank, VIC

I love the raw and rugged coastline, paired with some of the most incredible bush walks you'll ever experience.

Julian Rocks, Byron Bay, NSW

As a protected marine park, there's an abundance of sea life for divers to experience.

Currumbin Alley, Gold Coast, QLD

Perfect for families, it's where a waist-deep crystal-clear coastal estuary meets the ocean.

Mallacoota, VIC

My family camped here every Christmas—it has everything: white sand, crystal water, great surf, and wildlife.

99.

INSTAEMU

Need we say more? (@emusofinsta)

