

A U S T R A L I A N

GOURMET

TRAVELLER

Comfort food

61 PERFECT WINTER RECIPES
PIES, SOUPS, PUDDINGS,
BRAISES... ALL YOU NEED



Saucy chocolate pudding
with muscatel ice-cream

ESCAPE PLAN

IRELAND'S DINGLE: (ALMOST) MORE PUBS THAN PEOPLE
WHAT'S NEW IN NEW ZEALAND'S WANAKA
plus BATHING WITH ELEPHANTS IN THAILAND

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JUNE 2011 \$8.95 NZ \$9.70



Art house Suites in The Cullen exhibit a tasteful curation of art and furnishings.

The 115-room hotel is adorned with MORE THAN 400 of Cullen's artworks ranging from archival prints to two painted FIBREGLASS COWS in the foyer.

deliver a ready-to-barbecue dinner to their cabin, to enjoy whenever they wish. Days are filled with mud crabbing, reef voyages and "tag-along" tours with local Djarindjin guides. A timeless experience. kooljaman.com.au

BEST AIRLINE SERVICE

Singapore Airlines Runner-up: Emirates

She's more than 60 years old but manages to retain a youthful edge in both her fleet and her service. The always-innovative Singapore Airlines was the first carrier to pamper jetsetters with free drinks and headsets, first to provide an in-flight phone service and first to fly the A380, and holds the record for the longest non-stop flight on the planet (Singapore to Newark in 2004). Instead of resting on its considerable laurels, the airline publicly declares its ongoing commitment to excellence in every aspect of service, a trait that serves it well in a rapidly changing aviation industry where Middle Eastern carriers are rising

to challenge their Asian adversaries. Now flying to nearly 100 destinations in more than 40 countries and five continents, Singapore's national carrier is admired as much for its high-altitude entertainment as for its in-flight fare, conceived by a panel of nine renowned international chefs. Having its home base at one of our favourite airports, Changi, only adds to the Singapore Girl's appeal. singaporeair.com

BEST NEW BOUTIQUE ACCOMMODATION

The Cullen, Melbourne, Vic Runner-up: The Lair, Tas

When Melbourne's property-developing Deague family set their sights on creating a new breed of small hotel, they turned to modern art for inspiration. The result is not one but three new hotels in the southern capital that showcase the work of Australian art legends John Olsen, Charles Blackman and Adam Cullen. The Cullen, located in happening Prahran, is their debut property – a six-storey riot of colour

and movement in bohemian Prahran. The 115-room hotel is adorned with more than 400 of Cullen's artworks ranging from archival prints to two painted fibreglass cows in the foyer; there's even an in-house curator on hand to interpret the collection for interested guests. The attention to detail extends beyond decorations to such novelties as the rooftop gymnasium with city views, bustling on-site hair salon and the street-level Hutong restaurant and bar, a sizzling Sino-inspired addition to the Commercial Road dining strip. Definitely not your average boutique hotel. artserieshotels.com.au

BEST SPA

Qualia, Hamilton Island, Qld Runner-up: Wolgan Valley Resort and Spa, NSW

It's the location as much as the leisure options that have helped Qualia capture the imaginations of Australia's sybarites. This exclusive billionaire's playground on Hamilton Island in the tropical>