



THE CONCIERGE TRAVELLER EDITION • ISSUE #7

Personal opinions, informed suggestions and  
unique experiences... **ADVISOR INSIGHTS** that  
will surpass all expectations.

Concierge traveller

There is nothing as vicariously enjoyable as a travel tip from someone whose opinion you trust.



Melissa Coles - Advisor  
Robert Firmani - Financial Controller  
Maria Baberowski - IT Manager

With a talented team of much-travelled Advisors at Concierge Traveller, I have decided to mine their decades of travel experiences, open their figurative photo albums and have them ponder what has impressed and inspired them, in particular what expert tips and tales they can provide for our readers.

I suppose everyone has a piece of landscape somewhere that he or she finds captivating beyond words, has stayed at a hotel whose concierge has talents beyond compare, has found a bar or bistro with unutterably simple but delicious fare or has hooked up with a local guide who has made a city "sing". All of us when we travel absorb experiences and then build up a store of seemingly trivial details. Tapping into these personal insights is what this issue is about.

The Advisors at Concierge Traveller share my passion for travel and, like you, they revel in planning and then enjoying a journey, so it has been a fascinating experience drawing them out about what has been personally appealing in their own very varied travels and yours.

Whether you have a predilection for soft adventure or you are a small ship addict or simply an aficionado of delicious comfort whilst you skim the stratosphere en route to your destination, this issue should provide some entertaining and perhaps even edifying snippets in view of the special Advisor tips.



I salute our team of impressive Advisors. They were the driving force behind our win in the category of Best Travel Agency Retail - Multi Location at the Australian Federation of Travel Agents

National Travel Industry Awards 2010.

*Look for their winning insights in italics.*



Mary Gava  
Executive General Manager



THROUGHOUT THE EDITION, THIS KEY REPRESENTS A CONCIERGE TRAVELLER EXCLUSIVE PACKAGE OR BONUS PRIVILEGE, UNIQUE TO CONCIERGE TRAVELLER.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL QUOTED COSTS ARE SUBJECT TO ALTERATION WITHOUT NOTICE.



STEPHANIE ROGERS-JULIAN  
- EDITOR

# PATHS OF PERFECTION

According to our Executive General Manager, Mary Gava, Tasmania is a bastion of primeval forests, pristine coasts, an unrivalled food and wine culture and the world's freshest air. Added to this mix are establishments that perfectly complement the essence of the island.



One example is the Islington Hotel in Hobart, an 11-room gem whose epicurean delights we have previously proclaimed. Its facelift has been nothing short of perfect. Attractive gardens, eclectic artefacts and genteel ambience are a treat and all this luxurious privacy comes with views of Hobart and Mt Wellington.

The Islington showcases visits to salmon and oyster farms and cold climate vineyards. Mary particularly enjoyed a "slow food" cooking class after a visit to a local farm with the hotel's resident chef.



Sticking to a food & wine trajectory, you should head north of Hobart to the Priory Country Lodge on a neat hillside at Bothwell. Indulge in family style dinners and by

day choose from flyfishing, vineyard cellar lunches, whiskey distillery tours or a visit to a cheese farm where artisans produce award-winning highland chèvres and blues.



At Wineglass Bay on the Freycinet Coast is The Lair, a very private 2-bedroom hideaway that propels you, visually and audibly, into one of the world's most inspiring landscapes. Explore or do nothing, but certainly its store of French champagne and fine local wines will leave you breathless with joy.

*Melissa Coles says: rooms on the ground floor of the new extension at the Islington Hotel have the best views in the house. The gardens and courtyard are perfect for a stroll, easing yourself into a good book, newspaper or just enjoying a drink.*



**CONCIERGE EXCLUSIVE ISLINGTON PACKAGE INCLUDES:** • 2 NIGHTS DELUXE ACCOMMODATION • ONE 6 COURSE DÉGUSTATION DINNER WITH MATCHED WINES (THURS TO SAT) • VINEYARD TOUR, TASTING & LUNCH • COOKING CLASS & LUNCH • LOCAL PRODUCERS TOUR & MORNING TEA • FROM AUD1,050.00 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE • VALID UNTIL 30 NOVEMBER 2010, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

ASK MELISSA ABOUT A 6 NIGHT PACKAGE FOR ALL 3 PROPERTIES

Contact Melissa for more information on 1800 047 047 or email her at: [mcoles@conciergetraveller.com.au](mailto:mcoles@conciergetraveller.com.au)



Virgin Blue, Pacific Blue and Polynesian Blue operate a modern fleet to take you around Australia, into Asia, to the sunniest and most laid-back climes of the Pacific, to New Zealand and to New Guinea. Their philosophy is that all travel should be affordable.

Entry into lounges at major airports is free if you pay an annual membership or, for a one off entry fee (lower if you pre-book online), you can use a lounge prior to a flight and enjoy uncomplicated food, a calm atmosphere, free Internet access, a shower or a chance to "switch off" briefly.



## VIRGIN BLUE LIFTS ITS PROFILE



Check-in can be done online, using your mobile, in person at an airport kiosk or counter. The choices continue on board. You can pay a little more for premium economy that attracts benefits such as: an unoccupied middle seat, complimentary food, beverages and entertainment. On the ground: complimentary lounge access where available, complimentary check-in baggage allowances, priority check-in where possible and sometimes even flexible and refundable fares. If it is just extra leg-room you want you can purchase an exit row that has a 39 inch seat pitch with the cost relative to the length of the flight but prices start at just AUD30.00 per sector. It's called the Blue Zone but it will increase your contentment quotient.

*Melissa's tip for a perfect Christmas gift: Concierge Traveller travel vouchers ranging from AUD50 to AUD5,000, valid for 12 months from date of purchase, with no blackout periods and transferable to any person's name.*



## REMOTE SOPHISTICATION IN THE HIMALAYAS

*Elisabeth loves the cities and landscapes of India. Its hotels and resorts are the most opulent and lavish in the world and are a perfect foil for its heady and remote regions. She guarantees a journey into a colourful, spiritual and very seductive culture.*

We partner with a clever boutique company that offers exclusively designed tours everywhere in India and rare opportunities in the breathtaking Himalayan wilderness. You don't have to scale mountains, but you can combine quiet sophistication with the simple and very charming aspects of this region. How is this achieved? You walk through valleys of lush, terraced rice fields, meet the attractive and shy Kumaoni, enjoy nutritious food, sweet air and deep slumber in traditional homes. This journey culminates at the stunning 360 Leti retreat beneath the Nanda Devi range, where four private cottages offer touches of comfort and understated luxury.



**Incredible India**

Shakti's portfolio includes experiencing the exotic and rich Buddhist culture of Sikkim and a Ladakh journey into three unspoiled villages in the Indus valley. Most tours are perfect for families.

To experience amazing India, Elisabeth consistently recommends the award-winning services of Singapore Airlines as a perfect fit with Shakti. They offer over 100 convenient flights per week into the furthest reaches of India.

*If you are willing to detour from your regular travel paths the rewards will take you to the roof of the world, effortlessly.*



**CONCIERGE EXCLUSIVE PACKAGE INCLUDES:** • 5 NIGHTS COTTAGE ACCOMMODATION AT 360 LETI • ALL MEALS, SOFT DRINKS & IMPORTED ALCOHOL • ALL ACTIVITIES EXCEPT YOGA & MASSAGE • ENGLISH SPEAKING GUIDE & PORTERS • CAR AT YOUR DISPOSAL • TRANSFERS BETWEEN ALMORA, VILLAGE WALKS & LETI • BONUS: INCLUDES 50% DISCOUNT FOR 5TH NIGHT • FROM AUD2,975.00 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE • VALID OCTOBER 2010 UNTIL APRIL 2011

ASK ABOUT A 9 NIGHT VILLAGE WALK AND 360 LETI COMBINATION PACKAGE

## GLAMOUR AT CRUISING ALTITUDE

Glamour, old-fashioned grace and an unhurried pace have returned with every high tech touch imaginable. The suites onboard Singapore Airlines A380 aircraft outstrip anything provided by any airline for first class travellers. In all their modernity, these suites hark back to the era of stylish train travel. With restrooms that put Hollywood glamour in the shade, service that everyone rates as the most attentive in the air, the greatest treat in lavish comfort and privacy is now



a reality. If you already adore the gamut of service offered by this airline, then you will be astonished by this next level of bliss – see yourself beyond first and travelling in an elegant, private, hand-crafted leather furnished suite.

One client explains how he was tempted to try this rarefied experience. *"The widest seat in the sky with a stand-alone bed, mattress and crisp linen sheets; a choice of dining à deux or eating in a rare haven of privacy; a fabulous 23-inch LCD screen. I also noticed that some passengers used the suite more as a personal office, but with easy-access USB ports, I used the time for viewing my most recent travel shots".*



Currently the Singapore Airlines A380 operates on selected flights between Singapore and Zurich, Paris, London, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Melbourne and Sydney.

*Elisabeth suggests this: slip into your Givenchy pyjamas, lower the mood lighting or just immerse yourself in non-stop entertainment.*



**CONCIERGE EXCLUSIVE PACKAGE INCLUDES:** • RETURN SINGAPORE AIRLINES SUITE CLASS AIRFARE SYDNEY/MELBOURNE TO SINGAPORE • AIRLINE TAXES • 2 NIGHTS TOWER WING HORIZON DELUXE ROOM AT SHANGRI-LA IN SINGAPORE • DAILY BREAKFAST • ALL DAY COFFEE, JUICES & SOFT DRINKS • DEDICATED CONCIERGE SERVICE • FROM AUD8,699.00 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE • VALID UNTIL 31 MARCH 2011



Contact Elisabeth for more information on 1800 047 047 or email her at: [egrieder@conciergetraveller.com.au](mailto:egrieder@conciergetraveller.com.au)





## PLYING THE AYEYARWADY

*Waking early enough to watch the sun rise over the Ayeyarwady River is one of the thrills of an elegant and cultural cruise in Burma.* Tourism in Burma is still not large scale, the country is safe for foreigners and the Burmese people themselves welcome the opportunity to share their exceptionally beautiful and fascinating country.

Orient-Express has had a presence in Burma for 15 years and they have refined their tours to impressive and indulgent river adventures. On board The Road to Mandalay, like Rudyard Kipling, you will be guided into the very soul of Burma to listen to "the clunking paddles of the vessels plying the Ayeyarwady River".



The vessel has recently been refurbished and has returned to the Ayeyarwady. Due to a lack of tourist infrastructure you have to carry your creature comforts with you and the sensitive upgrade has delivered what was needed. The comfortable cabins and facilities on board provide the perfect means for enjoying the landscapes of a country still largely untouched by modern times and the gentle pace of cruises is thoroughly apt.



The Road To Mandalay incorporates elegant Burmese materials and modern comforts. Air-conditioned throughout, the ship has 4 decks and accommodates just 82 passengers in five categories of cabins. Both Western and regional à la carte cuisines are offered along with European and Australian wines. Local entertainment is sometimes

presented in the evenings to enhance your knowledge of Burmese culture. Follow up what you observe in the onboard library. *John loves the State Cabins with their two large windows, room to move and Bulgari amenities.*

3, 4, 7 and 11 night cruises make for an unhurried foray into riverside villages, hill stations and daily life in Burma. Most journeys begin with a stay in Yangon at the Governor's Residence, an impressive, teak, 1920's mansion-hotel within the elegant diplomatic quarter and close to the spectacular Shwedagon Pagoda. Here, drinks in the blissful shade of an airy verandah or a cooling dip in a fan-shaped ceramic pool are the stuff of pleasures in a tropical clime. As well as leafy gardens and lotus ponds the hotel's amenities include one of the best formal restaurants in the city.



John recalls that one client was so thoroughly immersed in the colonial nostalgia of the hotel that he could picture himself striding inside, dressed in a panama and a white cotton suit to look for a bar with a revolving ceiling fan.

*John also discovered some unusual tours for Yangon. You can choose from a Trickshaw tour of the colourful markets just behind the hotel that includes a fabulous tea shop stop or even a candle lit dinner cruise on a Burmese junk to take in the villages and isolated islands of the river.*



**ROAD TO MANDALAY EXCLUSIVE PACKAGE INCLUDES:** • 7 NIGHTS STATE ROOM ACCOMMODATION • ALL MEALS • DAILY EXCURSIONS • A ONE WAY ECONOMY CLASS DOMESTIC FLIGHT • ALL TRANSFERS • 1 COMPLIMENTARY NIGHT AT THE GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE • FROM AUD6,520.00 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE • BOOK BY 30 NOVEMBER, VALID UNTIL 31 DECEMBER 2010

Contact John for more information on 1800 047 047 or email him at: [jchekian@conciergetraveller.com.au](mailto:jchekian@conciergetraveller.com.au)



# A FRESH LOOK AT UNITED AIRLINES BUSINESS CLASS

Guy Batten is a knowledgeable barometer of what's good and what's not in business class travel. Recently he had the opportunity to make a trans-Pacific journey in business class with United Airlines. He reports that from check-in to disembarkation, the makeover has been a roaring success. Seats become beds that are in fact flat rather than slightly tilted.

All things considered, United's business class is fresher, more spacious, and more comfortable, given the front and reverse facing seating that makes sensible room between them for banks of large digital screens. *Guy's advice is to request a seat on the more intimate upper deck and it's heaven on a stick right down to the handy bin space under the windows.*



The experienced staff is just the right mix of efficiency and hospitality and whilst safety on board is their first priority, your comfort and equanimity are no less important. United's "Boeing sky girls" were aviation's first ever flight attendants in 1930 and they pioneered that role. Now United has been servicing the trans-Pacific route for 25 years so the route and its people have been integral to United's aviation history.

*Guy loves the fact that if you are watching the dénouement of a movie, just wanting to hear one more track on a favourite album or listen to exchanges between the pilot and air traffic control on a dedicated audio channel, the entertainment system and headphones are yours until the aircraft is at a standstill.*

United's network is your chance to visit just about any place you fancy across the USA and Guy's choice of cities are in the western and eastern reaches of the continent: Las Vegas and Boston.

UNITED FLIES DAILY TO LOS ANGELES. RETURN BUSINESS CLASS FARES FROM SYDNEY TO LOS ANGELES ARE FROM AUD\$2,999.00 PER PERSON INCLUDING TAXES. ASK GUY TO PLAN YOUR NEXT TRIP.

While gambling remains the raison d'être of Las Vegas, Mandarin Oriental emphasises the city's recreational options. Its new outpost is a stylish touch of Asia that is a gambling-free oasis of calm. Located in the centre of the Strip, it literally floats above the city. The 23rd floor reception lobby soars above the skyline

and dark marble floors lead you to its spectacular bar and restaurants that include Twist by Pierre Gagnaire and Mozen Bistro, a contemporary sushi bar.



CONCIERGE EXCLUSIVE PACKAGE INCLUDES: 3 NIGHTS IN A CITYSCAPE ROOM • AMERICAN BREAKFAST DAILY FOR 2 • UPGRADE ON ARRIVAL IF AVAILABLE • 12 NOON EARLY CHECK-IN IF AVAILABLE • TWO 1 HOUR ORIENTAL ESSENCE MASSAGES PER ROOM • COMPLIMENTARY SIGNATURE OILS KIT • SPECIAL IN-ROOM AMENITY • FROM USD488.00 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE + TAX 12% • VALID UNTIL 31 DECEMBER 2010

Boston is the logical start or end point for a self-drive tour of the north-east. September and October see you in the glorious tones of autumn but any time of the year is ideal to visit this genteel corner of the USA. Historic Salem, the beautiful bays and villages of Maine, the mountains of New Hampshire, the farms, and covered bridges of Vermont – all make for a week of pleasurable driving.

*In Boston Guy recommends the art deco XV Beacon. Its impeccably friendly staff and the complimentary car service to anywhere around town in the hotel's Lexus are brilliant.*



XV BEACON PACKAGE INCLUDES: 2 NIGHTS TRADITIONAL QUEEN ROOM ACCOMMODATION • CONTINENTAL DAILY BREAKFAST FOR 2 • CONCIERGE BONUS PRIVILEGES: UPGRADE ON ARRIVAL IF AVAILABLE • 12 NOON EARLY CHECK-IN IF AVAILABLE • ONE USD85.00 ROOM CREDIT • FROM USD333.00 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE + TAX 12.45% • VALID UNTIL 30 MARCH 2011



Contact Guy for more information on 1800 047 047 or email him at: [gbatten@conciergetraveller.com.au](mailto:gbatten@conciergetraveller.com.au)

Julie Richards reveals that in the exciting and fast forward chaos of Cairo she has unearthed some stunning rewards. *It's as simple as sitting back in a taxi and taking in the passing sights, wandering in backstreet bazaars or taking a private tour of the Citadel of Saladin Mosque.* She has always been enthralled by this city's history, by its people, its grand 19th-century boulevards,



mosques, Coptic churches and minarets. In Julie's view it is the force and beauty of past and present together that

# THE MODERN PYRAMIDS OF CAIRO

According to Julie, the European style First Residence, in the embassy district and close to the Zoo, is popular with royalty, celebrities and regular travellers alike. The high tech rooms are among the largest in Cairo and about half have sweeping Nile or Pyramid views. You can even see the Nile from a treadmill in the gym! The hotel is also home to the designer-filled department store, Beymen. In Julie's words *"the elegant décor is superb and the breakfast buffet is the best in the Middle East."*

Across the river the New York inspired Nile Plaza is another beacon of sophisticated hospitality on the Corniche. The décor, ambience, F & B and personalized attention are on par (that is

to say equally as sumptuous) but even more of the rooms have commanding views of the Nile, and there are delicious dining options - in fact six marvelous restaurants - and lavish spa facilities. It is located just 10 minutes walk from the Cairo Museum. *Julie's tip: in the bar grab a table on the left side at the window for great views of the Nile.*



have forged the character of daily life. To watch the sun set over the Nile is one of the real pleasures of Cairo and Julie's pick of hotels is therefore logical. Not surprisingly, they face each other across the widest stretch of

the river. Above all else, the level of service in these twin hotels has set unrivalled standards in Egypt. *To watch Cairenes crowd the banks or picnic on its bridges, see feluccas drift by and hear the call to prayer from minarets, are just some of the delights that these two Four Seasons hotels can guarantee.*

With your "digs" and choice of guides then expertly organized, you can concentrate on discovering the real Cairo. *I can advise you on the best months to visit but I can also let you in on other secret joys of Cairo such as Mohammed Abdu Street, Fishawi's Café, the Gayer-Anderson Museum, the Dahshur Pyramid and many more of its least-exploited attractions.*



CONCIERGE EXCLUSIVE FIRST RESIDENCE PACKAGE INCLUDES: 2 NIGHTS IN A SUPERIOR NILE OR PYRAMID GARDEN VIEW ROOM • AMERICAN BREAKFAST DAILY FOR 2 • UPGRADE ON ARRIVAL IF AVAILABLE • 12 NOON EARLY CHECK-IN • 15% DISCOUNT ON FOOD, BEVERAGES AND SPA TREATMENTS • FROM USD490.00 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE • VALID UNTIL 31 JANUARY 2011



CONCIERGE EXCLUSIVE NILE PLAZA PACKAGE INCLUDES: 2 NIGHTS IN A SUPERIOR CITADEL POOL VIEW ROOM • AMERICAN BREAKFAST DAILY FOR 2 • UPGRADE ON ARRIVAL IF AVAILABLE • 12 NOON EARLY CHECK-IN • 3PM LATE CHECK-OUT • 15% DISCOUNT ON FOOD, BEVERAGES AND SPA TREATMENTS • FROM USD490.00 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE • VALID UNTIL 31 JANUARY 2011



Contact Julie for more information on 1800 047 047 or email her at: [jrichards@conciergetraveller.com.au](mailto:jrichards@conciergetraveller.com.au)



# A HONG KONG HAVEN



Paul Patane outlines some of the features of his favourite Hong Kong Island hotel that make it one of the most outstanding to grace the harbour foreshores: *traditional décor, spotless rooms, impeccable service, exceptional comfort and modern facilities.* He is talking about the Island Shangri-La. With staff who without exception, address guests by name, he says *a stay feels more like being at someone's splendid home than in an anonymous hotel.* There is no doubt that *seemingly small touches make a great difference to hotel guests right down to that special drawer in my room to keep my shoes dry and shapely.*

This Hong Kong location does not come any better - at the doorstep is some of the most glamorous shopping in Hong Kong. In fact you will find that this city is the capital of bespoke, but excellent shopping can be found anywhere. For example, the Jade Market in Yaumatei where we can tell you the stall number and name of the best river pearl seller in Hong Kong.



We can offer packages at the Island Shangri-La whose 7 excellent restaurants include the two Michelin starred Petrus on the 56th floor. The elegant and very impressive Japanese eatery Nadaman is the first of its kind to be established outside Japan.

Paul is still talking about the sensational views from the Horizon Club harbour view rooms, the hot towel service and the exquisitely presented jasmine tea service provided with an in-room check-in. What also impressed him are sensational, light-as-a-feather breakfast omelettes and a Veuve in the glamorous bar before an evening sortie.



Paul adores a quiet drink at the Horizon Bar in time for the 8PM light show on the harbour. No doubt, however, in saying that the very best view of the nightly harbour show is from a table at Petrus. Despite the fact that I love a low-key stay anywhere, this hotel is ideal for family celebrations or even for working groups who might want to enjoy the pleasures of the metropolis as much as any necessary work. My final tip: the concierge is a genius. At short notice he was able to secure me a table for lunch at one of the most coveted and atmospheric clubs in the city. It's steps away from the hotel, let's you in on Hong Kong's rich colonial past and has a special view of the harbour from one of its rooftop bars. I have heard tales of his prowess in re-uniting long staying guests with their golf clubs in a far distant city that are beyond impressive.

ISLAND SHANGRI-LA PACKAGE INCLUDES: • 2 NIGHTS IN DELUXE HARBOUR VIEW ROOM • DAILY BREAKFAST FOR 2 AT PETRUS • DAILY NEWSPAPER AND FRUIT • PERSONALIZED STATIONERY SET • 4PM CHECK-OUT SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY • DAILY FRUIT BASKET • CONCIERGE BONUS PRIVILEGES: ROOM UPGRADE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY • ONE WAY AIRPORT LIMOUSINE TRANSFER • IN ROOM CHECK-IN • FROM HKD3,880 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE + TAX 20% • VALID UNTIL 31 MARCH 2011 ASK PAUL ABOUT AN EXCLUSIVE SUITE PACKAGE

Contact Paul for more information on 1800 047 047 or email him at: [ppatane@conciergetraveller.com.au](mailto:ppatane@conciergetraveller.com.au)



Singapore's healthy economy and spotless rapid transit system are well-acknowledged but you may be less familiar with its Arab Quarter, the revitalized Chinatown and centuries-old temples. We canvassed our Advisors to find out why you should choose Singapore as a stop over or a holiday destination. The reasons are: art galleries, antique stores, indulgent spas, raucous food stalls, festivals, botanic gardens, performances at the stunning arts centre on the harbour front and even business. With this gamut of attractions, the next all-important decision for travellers is where to stay.



and attracts fashionistas, politicians, the glitterati as well as travellers in-the-know. A private arrival and reception area provides a level of comfort and service that is unrivalled anywhere.



*Paul's opinion: dining here is a culinary adventure from classical Japanese at (another) Nadaman, to the best of Cantonese at Shang Palace and international dining at award-winning BLU with its molecular gastronomy. The chef has worked at the stellar El Bulli in Spain and in sought after restaurants in New York and so he draws upon his experience to create taste-provoking dishes.*



To say that the Shangri-La is one of Singapore's more impressive properties is an understatement. Tucked in just a stroll away from the shopping belt of Orchard Road the legendary Shangri-La Hotel, a 15-acre haven of tumbling bougainvillea, riotous trees and flowers, shady fruit bowers and great shoals of luminously coloured koi in waterfall-fed ponds. Loved by its aficionados for all these reasons plus its free-form pool, it has three distinctive wings. Of the three, Paul loves the exclusive Valley Wing. It is the most prestigious wing

Valley Wing. They are elegantly spacious and have luxurious bathrooms fitted with LCD TV screens and separate dressing rooms. From arrival to departure, you can enjoy an unparalleled array of luxury amenities and personalised services that include complimentary champagne and cocktails, canapés, complimentary Internet access and butler service.

*Paul can book you a hotel garden tour for any Friday morning. And in keeping with his love of a relaxing pause, he recommends English tea served on Wedgwood at the Rose Verandah or a "cheongsam", the signature cocktail in the Lobby Court. Then for an awe-inspiring view of Orchard Road go to BLU on the 24th floor and ask for a window table.*



**CONCIERGE EXCLUSIVE PACKAGE INCLUDES:**  
 • 2 NIGHTS IN A VALLEY WING DELUXE ROOM • PRIVATE CHECK-IN • BREAKFAST DAILY  
 • COMPLIMENTARY CHAMPAGNE, TEA, COFFEE, JUICES & WINE 11AM TO 10.30 PM • ENGLISH HIGH TEA 2-5PM • EVENING CANAPÉS  
 • PERSONAL BUTLER SERVICE  
 • COMPLIMENTARY BROADBAND ACCESS • FREE LOCAL TELEPHONE CALLS • BONUS PRIVILEGE: STAY 4 NIGHTS AND PAY FOR 3 • FROM SGD889.00 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE + TAX 10% • VALID 15 DECEMBER 2010 UNTIL 28 FEBRUARY 2011

Contact Paul for more information on 1800 047 047 or email him at: [ppatane@conciergetraveller.com.au](mailto:ppatane@conciergetraveller.com.au)



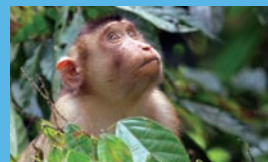
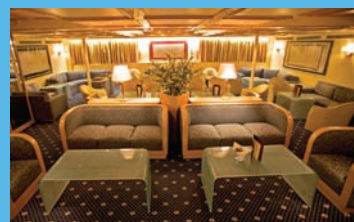
## SINGAPORE OR SHANGRI-LA?

John Chekian reminded us that for the past 5 years Orion has delivered up-close-and-personal, all-inclusive explorations with an ease that larger ships cannot even contemplate. It is such a successful company that some passengers have sailed on Orion no less than 20 times. Now Orion II is steaming over the horizon to make its inaugural cruise in mid 2011. Orion's portfolio of destinations will be enticingly expanded to include the fiery Kamchatka Peninsula in eastern Russia, ethereal cypress forests and traditional villages in Japan, biodiverse jungle in Borneo and the hospitable landscapes of Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. John is excited about the addition of Borneo in particular. *A national park visit will be a much-anticipated day for many passengers as it will provide an opportunity to see orangutans in their natural habitat.*

The pristine beauty of the Sepik in New Guinea, New Zealand, Antarctica and the Kimberley where red rocks and desert dramatically slam up against an indescribably blue sea will continue to delight new and repeat passengers. *According to John the highlight of a Kimberley cruise is a thrilling flight over the Bungle Bungle Ranges and what's more, it is included in the cost of the cruise.*

Chilled champagne, good company, a casually elegant dining ambience, fresh, seasonal food à la mode de Serge Dansereau and a suite to retire to that reflects the best in spacious comfort and modern technology – all this and you are on a 5 star expedition, floating through a wilderness! *John enthuses that no other mode*

# ARTFUL EXPEDITIONS AFLOAT



*of travel offers this level of ultra satisfying comfort, luxury amenities and convenience and yet still allows you to feel like you are on a privileged adventure.*

Special interest groups really love Orion – photographers, “twitchers”, history buffs, keen mariners and the merely curious – and now that Asia will be offered as a year-round destination, why not consider organizing a group and use the time on board to appreciate a spectacular latitude together?

There is a ratio of 1 staff to every 2 guests and never more than about 100 guests on board. In 2011 both new and established staff will be rotated between the two vessels and happily for repeat guests that will still mean a familiar welcome.

*For John food is one stellar attraction of Orion, but to be able to see, taste and smell the sea from your own balcony and marvel at the Milky Way at night – that is the real essence of cruising. A French balcony suite on deck 5 will deliver all this and a bathroom to love!*



CONCIERGE EXCLUSIVE  
KIMBERLEY EXPEDITION  
INCLUDES: 10 NIGHTS

STATEROOM ACCOMMODATION  
• ALL MEALS • 24-HOUR ROOM  
SERVICE • EDUCATIONAL  
PROGRAMMES • PORT &  
HANDLING CHARGES • ZODIAC  
EXCURSIONS AND TENDER  
TRANSFERS • BUNGLE BUNGLE  
FIXED WING FLIGHT • FEES & TAXES  
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UP TO 15% SAVING, SUBJECT TO  
AVAILABILITY • FROM AUD9,100.00  
PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE • VALID  
APRIL UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2011

Contact John for  
more information on  
1800 047 047 or email  
him at: [jchekian@  
conciergetraveller.com.au](mailto:jchekian@conciergetraveller.com.au)



# SAIL WITH A LEGEND



Erika Affolter loves a small ship experience with an "Adventures in Paradise" touch. In 1931 a New York heiress said exactly the same thing but she wanted a yacht built that would be generously lavish and tasteful. Her husband granted her wish and the result was a masted yacht that took the collective breath of high society away. In 1976 that same yacht was brought back to its original beauty, once again in Germany and once again renamed Sea Cloud. In 2010 the accolades for Sea Cloud continue to accumulate. Its 3 extraordinary yachts exude glamour and modernized nostalgia in spades.



Sea Cloud's yachts now ply the waters of the Mediterranean and the Caribbean. Wooden panelling, objet's d'art, fine dining, privacy, excursions into ports where larger ships cannot go. Add to this a "no herding" policy that Marjorie would have endorsed herself - onshore excursions and local guides are only the best.

Sea Cloud II will be based in the Antilles, Central America and Cuba in early 2011 and there are cruises for golf enthusiasts and a stunning Havana to Santo Domingo cruise.

*Erika literally purrs when she says: the crackle of unfurling sails in a warm breeze is a tantalizing lure for anyone looking for a unique cruise experience. For a stylish high seas honeymoon or a special occasion, Sea Cloud cruises will delight anyone whose loves graceful nostalgia.*



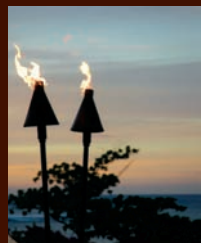
CONCIERGE EXCLUSIVE CUBA CRUISE PACKAGE INCLUDES: • 9 NIGHTS IN E CATEGORY CABIN • 6 MEALS DAILY • WINE & BEER WITH LUNCH & DINNER • ALL NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINKS • ALL EXCURSIONS • PORT FEES • WELCOME BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE • WELCOME & FAREWELL COCKTAILS • DAILY FRUIT BASKET • 100 ON BOARD CREDIT PER CABIN \* FROM 4,285.00 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE • VALID FOR REMAINING 2010 AND ALL 2011 DEPARTURES



Contact Erika for more information on 1800 047 047 or email her at: [eaffolter@conciergetraveller.com.au](mailto:eaffolter@conciergetraveller.com.au)

## V AUSTRALIA & PACIFIC BLUE

Recently V Australia introduced two new services: Melbourne to Johannesburg and Melbourne to Phuket. For lovers of Fiji, Pacific Blue provides an easy-to-access slice of the Pacific playgrounds with this destination proving popular with Australians.



Mary Ann loves the magic of the South Pacific, in particular, Fiji with surroundings of incredible natural beauty and the intoxicating combination of tropical Islands, sandy beaches, blue lagoons and Fijian charm. The

surrounding sea is sublime; turquoise coloured and beautifully warm and excellent for snorkelling and diving. Just 20 minutes from Nadi Airport, the Radisson Resort Fiji Denaru Island sits on a beachfront where the rooms and dining venues take best advantage of landscaped gardens and 5 swimming lagoons. Mary Ann San Roman warns: breakfasts are hearty but having dinner with your feet in the water and sand between your toes, is holiday heaven. An 18-hole championship golf course is conveniently nearby and there is a range of resort activities for those who want to stay active.

RADISSON RESORT PACKAGE INCLUDES: • 7 NIGHTS IN A CLASSIC ONE BEDROOM SUITE • BREAKFAST DAILY • RETURN ECONOMY FLIGHTS FROM SYDNEY WITH VIRGIN BLUE \* AIRLINE TAXES • ROUND TRIP AIRPORT TRANSFERS  
CONCIERGE BONUS PRIVILEGE: 2 COMPLIMENTARY NIGHTS • FROM AUD1,525.00 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE • VALID UNTIL 31 MARCH 2011 (25 SEP-10 OCT & 28 DEC -11 JAN 11 EXCLUDED)



Tobuerua Island Resort sits off the eastern tip of Fiji's main island and families love it. Children under 16 receive free transfers from Suva and the under 12's enjoy discounted meals. Our clients love everything about the resort - the food, the family friendly and cheerful atmosphere, the lovely beach and the peaceful seclusion. The bliss factor - only 15 spacious and attractive bures.

*Mary Ann San Roman insists that this is one of the underrated gems of Fiji.*

TOBERUA ISLAND PACKAGE INCLUDES: • 7 NIGHTS IN A DELUXE OCEAN FRONT BURE • ALL MEALS • RETURN ECONOMY FLIGHTS FROM SYDNEY WITH VIRGIN BLUE • AIRLINE TAXES • ROUND TRIP AIRPORT TRANSFERS  
CONCIERGE BONUS PRIVILEGE: 2 COMPLIMENTARY NIGHTS • FROM AUD2,415.00 PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE • VALID UNTIL 31 MARCH 2011 (25 SEP-10 OCT 2010 & 28 DEC 2010 - 11 JAN 2011 EXCLUDED)



Contact Mary Ann for more information on 1800 047 047 or email her at: [masanroman@conciergetraveller.com.au](mailto:masanroman@conciergetraveller.com.au)





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