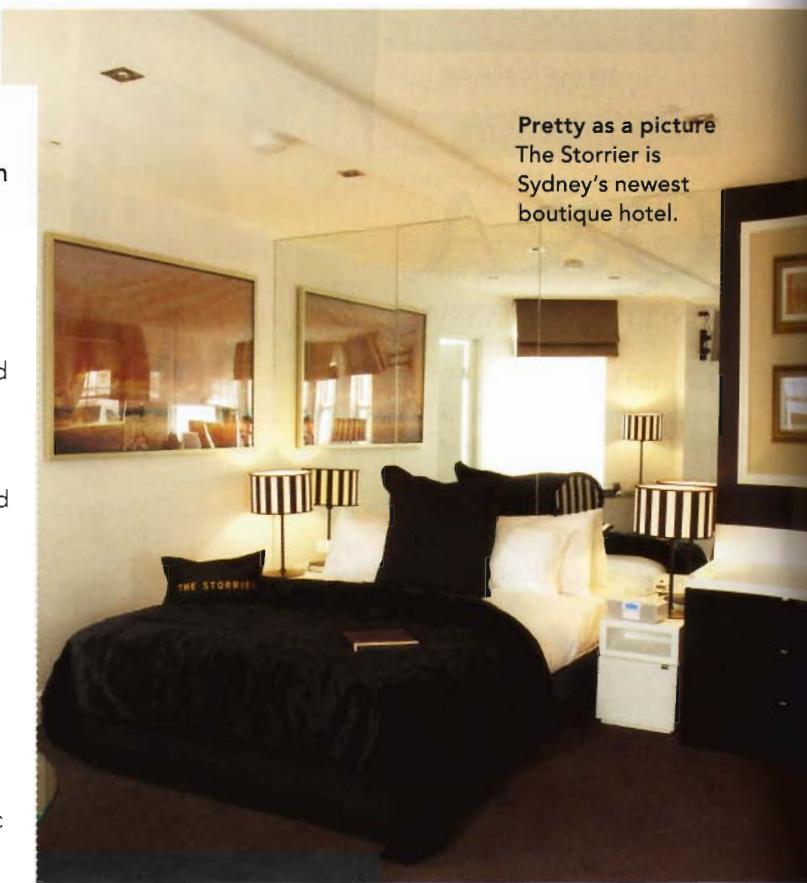


A BED-TIME STORRIER

This Sydney hotel named after Tim Storrier is the first in a series of boutique beauties with an artistic bent.

SYDNEY The first indication that this is not your ordinary hotel is the gigantic Tim Storrier original painting in the corridor. An insurance nightmare quite possibly, but a statement nonetheless. Then there are the photographs of Storrier attached to almost every bit of available wall space, from Red Belly – the pretty downstairs restaurant named after a Storrier artwork, headed by chef Coop Woodstone (ex 360 Bar and Dining) – to the upstairs corridors leading to the hotel's 72 elegantly furnished rooms. The Storrier (what else?) in Potts Point is the first in a series of boutique hotels around the country to be named after leading Australian artists. The Whiteley (after Sydney artist Brett), the most ambitious of the art hotels, is now under way. The project, in Daly Street, South Yarra, will see an old warehouse transformed into an eight-level serviced apartment building. Nearby in Chapel Street, The Olsen (after John), a 14-level boutique hotel concept, is also being built. Other hotels named after David Larwill and Jeffrey Smart are planned for Prahran. The brainchild of A Hotels, a division of Melbourne's Asian Pacific Building Corporation, the \$500 million boutique hotels will be rolled out over the next two years. At The Storrier, tucked down a tiny lane off busy Darlinghurst Road, introductory rates begin at \$245 per night for a superior room, \$270 for a deluxe and \$345 for the largest room, the executive suite. 15 Springfield Ave, Potts Point, (02) 8988 6999, www.thestorrier.com.au.



Pretty as a picture
The Storrier is Sydney's newest boutique hotel.

Voiceover artist Emma Clarke, whose dulcet tones urged millions of Tube users to "Mind the gap", has been sacked for allegedly criticising London Underground.

IN BRIEF

A VINE NIGHT OUT

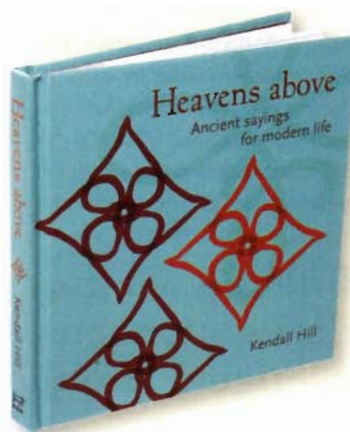
In the summertime it would be silly not to visit an outdoor cinema. And what better than one surrounded by vineyards? Hungerford Hill Winery Pokolbin's Starlight Cinema runs from March 19 to 23. Book early for a spot on the terrace for dinner at Terroir restaurant. www.hungerfordhill.com.au/cinema.

TRAVEL TIPS ON CALL

Want to know what the weather is like at your next destination? Whether your flight's on time?



Hungerford Hill's Starlight Cinema.



TURN OVER A NEW LEAF

Struggling to keep calm as the baggage carousel revolves for the 52nd time and still no sign of your suitcase? You need a copy of *Heavens Above*, a cute little volume of ancient sayings for modern life, based on the principles of love, respect and humanity. Compiled by GT regular Kendall Hill, it's a perfect companion for the weary traveller. *Hardie Grant Books, \$19.95 hbk.*

What the latest government travel warning is? All this will be texted to your mobile phone under a new service called Travel Messenger, developed by Melbourne company Loop9. Buy it from travel agents for \$25.95.

BOOK A LOOK

Foyles bookshop in Charing Cross Road, London, now has a specialist section selling second-hand food and drink books. Go hunting for rarities such as early editions of *The Savoy Cocktail Book* to more

recent titles such as *Roast Chicken and Other Stories*. Browsing is compelling (and potentially dangerous to your bank balance) if you like seeing the classics in their original form.

LOVE IT

Forgotten to book that romantic getaway for Valentine's Day? Don't fret, www.lovebirds.com.au has handpicked some heavenly romantic escape options, from secluded cottages to boutique hotels and spa resorts. Forget over-priced roses, log on now.