

Take-off

**YOUR
SUNDAY
TRAVEL
DOSSIER**

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SHOWCASE

French connection



A romantic eyrie in a French provincial tower overlooking vineyards: and only three hours from Melbourne. Mount Ophir Estate is on the outskirts of Rutherglen, in north-east Victoria, and the new elegant tower suite - just for two - is the crown in the reborn estate, a winery dating from 1891. Sashay up the spiral staircase, admiring the Parisian chandelier, the marble bathroom, stocked library and the art and ceramics by local artists on your way to the bedroom at the

FLY

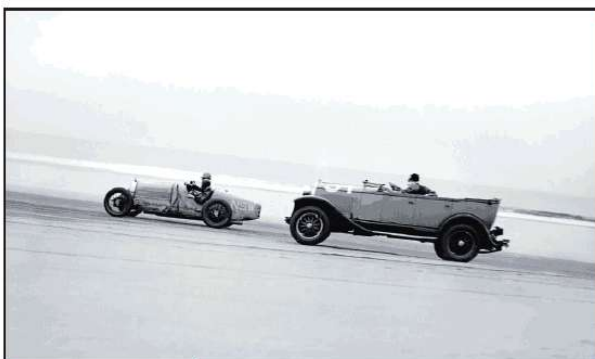
Bag a bargain

Europe's biggest budget airline, Ryanair, delights in floating wild money-making schemes (think: standing-only flights, a fee to use the loo). However, the carrier changes its baggage policy sees the carrier dropping its bag check-in fees from €35 to €25 per bag, and increasing its checked-in luggage allowances by 5kg to 20kg. The flip side to this largesse is limiting the amount of hand luggage customers can bring on board. Its new rules allow passengers to bring only one



bag on board, free. If you want to bring two, you'll have to pay €5 for priority boarding or check the larger of the two bags into the hold (maximum 10kg) for free, at the boarding

gate. This month, the airline added Porto Airport as its latest hub, allowing travellers to connect on to 20 destinations via Portugal's second city. See ryanair.com



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PMO WHICH AIRPORT IS THAT?

Also known as **Falcone-Borsellino Airport**, this international airport serves the largest city on the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea. **The answer is on page 30**



pinnacle of the tower. Owned by siblings Nick, Eliza and Angela Brown (of the Brown Brothers family), the 57-hectare property has three other newly renovated houses: the little winemaker's cottage (sleeps two), the Gatehouse (sleeps eight) and Pickers Cottage (sleeps 20). Cycle between Rutherglen's wineries, restaurants, art galleries and wine bars ... or just stay in your tower. Costs from \$550 a night, minimum two nights. See mountophirestate.com.au

FIND

Beauty and the Abyss

At the turn of the 20th century, Vienna was the intellectual and artistic capital of Europe, with writers, artists and philosophers gathering in coffee houses to share progressive ideas as the city hovered between beauty and the looming abyss of war. This year marks the centenary of the death of four geniuses from this cultural era: art nouveau painter Gustav Klimt, enfant terrible expressionist Egon Schiele, architect Otto Wagner and graphic designer Koloman Moser - credited with creating the first ever



logo. Vienna celebrates 100 years of Viennese modernism through 2018, with exhibitions, tours and events. Highlights include an Egon Schiele retrospective at the Leopold Museum; an exhibition exploring the legacy of Klimt at the Belvedere; tours to Otto Wagner's art nouveau masterpiece, the Church of St Leopold; and modernism-themed tours. See weinfo.info
Julie Miller

EXPAT

I live here ... Osaka, Japan

WHO Julian Wong, 33, owner-operator of Rainbow House Osaka guest house. See houserainbow.com

FROM Sydney, living in Japan for nine years.



SEE At 170 metres high, Umeda Sky Building at night has beautiful, 360-degree panoramic views of the city. See osaka-info.jp, japan-guide.com and kansalscene.com

DO Snowboarding! Take a day/week/ weekend bus trip to experience the best powder snow in the world. Hakuba is well developed and has lots of Aussie-owned establishments, which is great for anyone worried about not speaking the language: go during the week to Cortina, or Happono-one, my two favourites in the area for the off-piste opportunities. You won't see as many foreigners in Myoko Kogen or Nozawa Onsen, but the powder is the same quality.

EAT Muteppou Ramen has been rated the best tonkotsu (pork broth) ramen four years in a row. The broth is so thick they use a gardening shovel to stir the huge pot. Avoid peak lunch/dinner times as you will have to queue up to 40 minutes: best to go around 9pm with just a 10 to 15-minute wait. 1 Chome-5-21 Eblsuhonmachi, Naniwa Ward.

DRINK Space Station is a small cosy video-game bar that has everything from Atari 64 to VR gaming. Try the Street Fighter video game series *Hadouken!*, 2 Chome-13-3 Nishishinsaibashi, Chuo.

AVOID Universal Studios Japan on weekends/holidays, when it's way too packed. However, it's a must for Harry Potter fans, so buy an express pass a month in advance - pricey but worth it for skipping the ridiculous queues. See usj.co.jp

Know an expat who's in the know? Contact belinda.jackson@fairtaxmedia.com.au

GEAR

Stripes are stars

If the phrase 'travel towel' has you remembering that tiny, malodorous green rag dangling from your backpack, circa 1990, it's time to go new-school. The smart stripes of the Cabana collection towels by Australian-British collaboration Dock and Bay belie their travel cred. The microfibre towels each measure 160cm x 80cm - that's the sun-lounger covered - yet squish into the smallest spaces. They also repel smells and sand, and promise to dry before you can say, "last one in's a rotten egg". There are six boldly striped towels in the set, including Bondi Blue and Phi Phi Pink. Costs \$192/set. See thestore.com.au



CLASSIC

Chicken Tikka Masala

Where's it from? Chicken tikka - marinated chicken pieces cooked in the tandoor (oven) - dates back to 16th-century Punjab, in northern India. The story goes that the masala was added in the early 1970s when a customer in Glasgow curry house Shish Mahal complained his chicken tikka was too dry. So the resourceful owner, Ali Ahmed Aslam, threw a can of Campbell's condensed



tomato soup into the spiced curry sauce, giving the world one of its favourite Indian dishes.

Recipe, please Cooking the marinated chicken in the tandoor lends a smoky flavour to the meat before being dropped into a spiced, tomato-based sauce and finished with a handful of chopped capsicum.

Get it here Shish Mahal restaurant opened in Glasgow in 1964 and is still run by Aslam and his family. See shishmahal.co.uk

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