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**REEF MAGAZINE**

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ISLAND  
& THE  
GREAT  
BARRIER  
REEF**

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# INTRODUCTION



AUDI HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK

**W**elcome to Hamilton Island. I hope that you are enjoying your stay with us here in the glorious Whitsundays, in the heart of the Great Barrier Reef. Over the course of the last few months, some great things have been achieved on the island. The 31st edition of Audi Hamilton Island Race Week marked another signature year in the history of Australia's most celebrated sailing event, with entries up by more than 25 boats. It's a time when the island really comes alive, with lots of bands and entertainment intermingled with salty sailing sea dogs and their stories of bravery and prowess, filling the streets with fun and exuberance. It was about high level racing too, with cruising and racing divisions making every effort to get on the podium by the end of the week. But this wasn't the only impressive sight on the water, we all enjoyed the displays from the giant humpback whales that had migrated to our waters to breed in the safe and warm haven of the Coral Sea. It was a week that reminded those of us who live here on the island, that we really are in one of the most amazing places on earth.

Of course Audi Hamilton Island Race Week was also a celebration of the good food and wine we have on the island. Alongside our own great chefs, we had some very impressive visiting chefs too, including Guillaume Brahimi, Matt Moran, Kylie Kwong and Shannon Bennett. The newly refurbished Manta Ray, in the Marina Village, was a hub of activity, hosting Club Marine Radio each day along with the Ketel One Bloody Mary Bar. Now open for breakfast, the new Mediterranean-style fit out of Manta Ray makes it the perfect place to start the day. Another favourite spot on the island with locals and visitors alike is One Tree Hill, with its incredible views of the neighbouring islands and the Coral Sea. We are opening a new, perfectly positioned café and bar, serving light snacks, coffee and drinks from late 2014 – definitely the place to be at sunset. I'm pleased to say that we launched our new website, [www.hamiltonisland.com.au](http://www.hamiltonisland.com.au), in August 2014, and even more pleased to see how well it has already been received, taking out 'Best New Website' at the TRAVELtech Web Awards recently. We were also particularly humbled with

qualia being awarded Best Resort in Australia in the UK Condé Nast Traveller's 17th Annual Top 100 Readers' Travel Awards. The magazine asked readers to rate their experiences at top-level hotels in some of the world's most iconic holiday destinations, and qualia emerged first in Australia. It's extremely gratifying to see our hotels and our people receive such esteemed recognition from our past guests. It shows me that we are on the right track and it's hugely motivating to our team on the island. I hope you enjoy this issue of REEF Magazine, full of holiday inspiration and stories, but more importantly, I hope you make the most of your time here in our little slice of paradise and enjoy all the many wonderful experiences the island has to offer.

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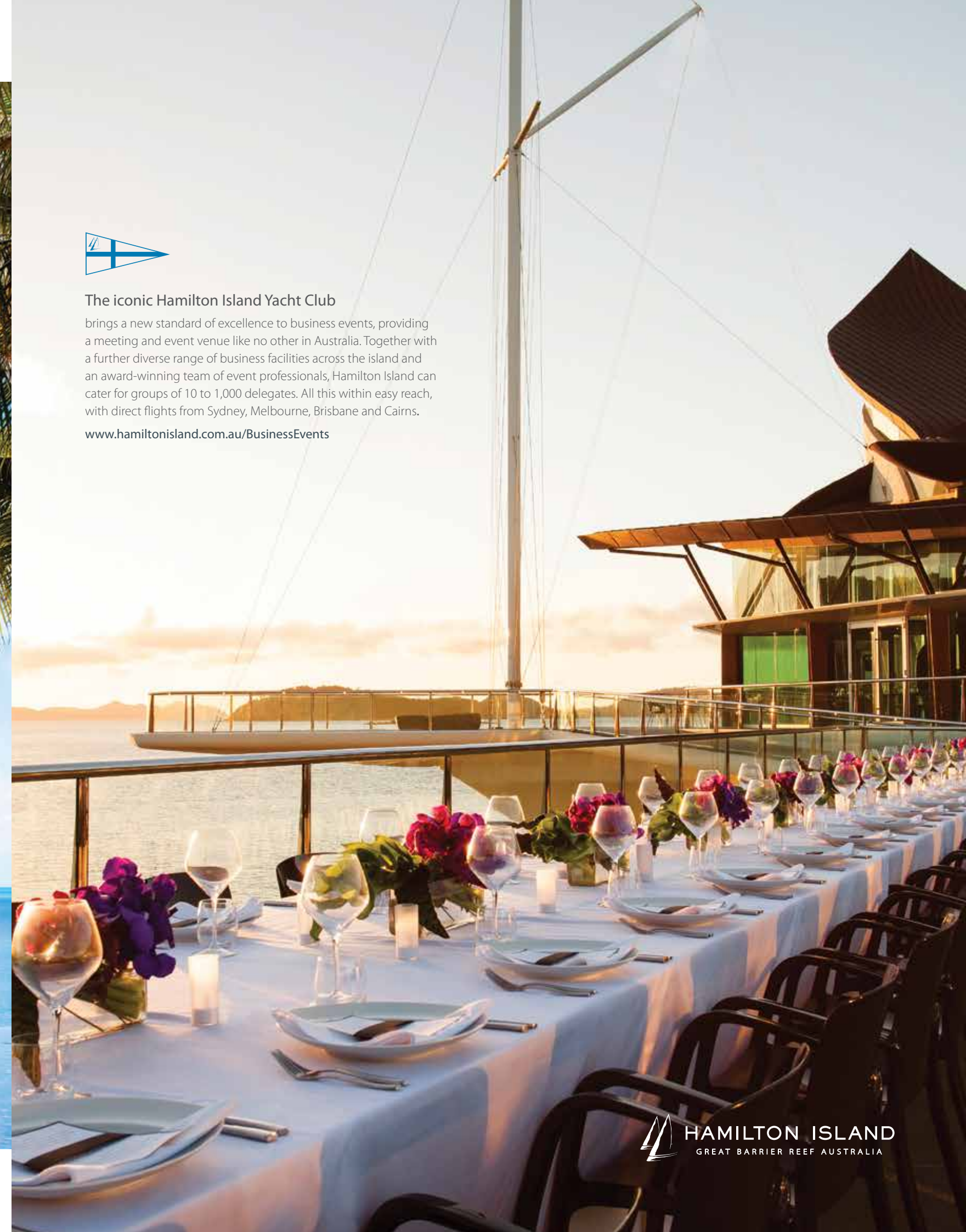
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# CONTRIBUTORS



## KARA ROSENLUND

**What do you love to do most of all on holiday?** Generally when I travel I love to get amongst it with the local community and as a "hunter and gatherer", I love to bring bits back home so the holiday keeps giving. **Ocean or pool?** Ocean, always the ocean. Love the sense of freedom. **Best sailing anecdote?** Just recently on Hamilton Island actually, I met some very friendly salty sea dogs who took me out on their boat. What I thought was a quick putter around the island actually was the beginnings of a five-hour long Audi Hamilton Island Race Week race. **Favourite on-island dining experience?** Pebble Beach at qualia. Everything from the earthenware plates to Alastair Waddell's extraordinary menus are sensitively considered and reflect the landscape. **Sundowner?** Depends on the day that was. Either a cold glass of blushing rosé or a strong gin and tonic. **Please finish this sentence: Paradise (apart from Hamilton Island) is ...** anywhere, as long as it includes a big blue sky and endless ocean. However a rooftop riad in Marrakech comes a close second.

## TRACEY WITHERS

**What do you love to do most of all on holiday?** Explore, read, (try to) speak as the locals speak, eat. Repeat. **Ocean or pool?** Ocean. **Best sailing anecdote?** True story: I once skippered a yacht to victory across the finish line of a race just off Pebble Beach at qualia. It may also be true that by "skippered" I mean "held the wheel while someone who knew what they were doing told me exactly what to do", but victory is victory. A victory is also addictive. I'm taking sailing lessons in Sydney Harbour now. When the sail's up and the wind's got you, it's glorious. It's hard graft but even that feels ruggedly fabulous. **Favourite on-island dining experience?** Pebble Beach is sexiest at sundown and coca chu does my kind of spin on spicy. Now chefs Alastair Waddell and Adam Woodfield are working their own veggie patch, I can't wait to see the island produce hit the plate. **Sundowner? G&T. Please finish this sentence: Paradise (apart from Hamilton Island) is ...** wherever I can switch my phone off and look up at night and be astonished by all the stars.



## CROSBIE LORIMER

**What do you love to do most of all on holiday?** Exploring new countries with my wife (and, if possible, sailing there too!). **Ocean or pool?** Ocean (or rock pool). **Best sailing anecdote?** Completing the race in the storm-ravaged 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, having not made it beyond the first night at sea the year before. **Favourite on-island dining experience?** Audi Hamilton Island Race Week celebrity chef dinners with Shannon Bennett and Matt Moran, or coca chu. **Sundowner?** Margaritas, made by my brother-in-law and shared with the family. **Please finish this sentence: Paradise (apart from Hamilton Island) is ...** on a yacht, turquoise water, a beautiful sea breeze and the people I enjoy being with.

## ROD MORRI

**What do you love to do most of all on holiday?** I'm the complete nerd I'm afraid. It's golf for me or I don't leave home. **Ocean or pool?** Pool. **Best sailing anecdote?** I'm not a sailor but a good friend from work had a yacht which I went on a few times. The most memorable was a summer afternoon on Pittwater 20 years ago. I'd never been in a sailing boat moving at speed but it was breezy and he had it ripping down wind while we sat around sipping Frangelico on ice. I remember wondering what the other half might be doing ... and reacquainting myself with just that the following day. **Sundowner?** Peroni. In a chilled glass. Always. **Please finish this sentence: Paradise (apart from Hamilton Island) is ...** The Old Course at St Andrews in Scotland in a two club breeze. Golf doesn't get any better than that.



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**29-31 MAY**  
**WEEKENDS OF WONDERMENT**

Creative souls and those with a fine appreciation for hand-crafted luxury, this is our kind of weekend. Artisans and creative experts are setting up workshop on the island and we are studiously signing up. A candle-crafting class with the French and deeply fabulous Elise Pioch Balzac of Maison Balzac? How divine. A float out to pull crab fresh out of the Coral Sea with Melbourne chef Andrew McConnell and marine biologist Matt Vickers. Ruggedly educational. We're calling the chance to be master-classed in floral arts with Dr Lisa Cooper a highlight. She's an extraordinary artist and sculptor combining her love of art and floristry. She holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in Fine Art - pay close attention.

**3 MAY**  
**STAMFORD FINANCIAL HILLY HALF MARATHON**

Cue a good long stretch. We're lacing up, getting pumped and kicking preparation up a notch: the starter gun on the 2015 race is going to sound before we know it. The competition, which tests seasoned distance runners and pushes casual morning joggers to the next level, includes a half marathon, corporate and open relays and a junior run for kids. Competitors will take on kilometres of uphill road, fire

trails and the bush-lined tracks of Hamilton Island's up-and-down interior on one of the most scenic courses in all of Australia. Tell us you're in training ...

**11-14 JUN**  
**GATORADE CLASH OF THE PADDLES**

The battle is on again in winter and consider this an early warning: nobody is playing around. Bring your surf ski, ocean ski or outriggering skill, bring your mental grit and do not leave home without your passion for the paddle - some of the toughest athletes on the water are expected to raise the bar this year. Better bring it.

**20 JUN**  
**GREAT WHITEHAVEN BEACH RUN**

We're not letting the lulling turquoise tide, the holiday sunshine or warm sand dazzle us into a false sense of security. Focus, everyone: this is the ultimate test and we will sweat. There's the full-throttle 21.1km half-marathon, a 10km run along the white expanse of Whitehaven Beach, or there's the shorter 5km circuit. We will be running solo. Others are teaming up with friends and even bringing the kids along for junior events. Even the spectators are winning. Really. Could there be somewhere more glorious to wait for that photo finish than on one of the



most photogenic beaches in all of the Whitsundays?

**JUL**  
**AWAY, THE ART OF PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP**

Point-and-shoot amateurs, prepare to be promoted. This four-day workshop is tailored to both beginners and experienced photographers ready to advance their know-how, sharing expert tips and techniques in one of the most stunning shoot locations in the world. Students are coached on equipment, editing, shot composition and tricks of the trade by professional photographers. Participants tour the highlights of the Whitsundays by land, sea and air in all light conditions from sunrise to spectacular sunset. Expect to learn more about the art of the image than you ever thought you could know.

**15-22 AUG**  
**AUDI HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK**

Circle the calendar now. Sailors, their families and friends are already booking their berths for Australia's favourite annual yachting regatta. Believe us, there is nowhere else you want to be this week. Into yachts? Get psyched. The 2015 competition is already gearing up to be fiercer than ever. Not so amped about the actual sailing? There's a carnival vibe to get involved with all throughout the week. The fashion, the food, the social set up on dry land will give non-sailors just as much of a buzz. But back to the water: racing will be split into a Grand Prix class for the top-end contenders; an IRC Passage class for modern, fast-

cruising yachts; performance racing, and also a sports boat competition. Cruising, corporate, bareboat, non-spinnaker and SB20 divisions will also be lining up.

**OCT**  
**PGA PROFESSIONALS CHAMPIONSHIP AND HAMILTON ISLAND AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP**

Australia's top-order club golfers and teaching professionals are already locked and loaded for the PGA Professionals Championship. Yes, the field is going to be hot. And that goes for the non-pro event, the Hamilton Island Amateur Golf Championship, too. Lock in some extra practice-hours on the green every Sunday until October. We'll be teeing off for the fourth year running and anyone who missed out on a spot last time will not be making the same mistake twice: places are limited so, golfers and enthusiasts, book early. The popular stableford event starts at the same time as the PGA and will host a Pro-Am on day one, followed by a 36-hole competition, open to both women and men, with serious prizes to be won. But, honestly, we just do it for the glory.

**20-22 NOV**  
**FUJIFILM HAMILTON ISLAND TRIATHLON AND WHITEHAVEN BEACH OCEAN SWIM**

The Whitsundays' triathlete's endurance event is back for another year and we're on the green juice and lean protein already. This is our chance to face off against professional athletes (Ky Hurst, Craig Alexander and Courtney Atkinson have all raced here) and

other amateur-but-intense athletes who come to Hamilton Island to test their mettle. It's a gorgeous course, covering the natural highlights of the island, but this is serious all the way to the beachside finish. Just crossing the line earns extensive bragging rights and, we would argue, first call on the daybeds by the pool. And if the adrenalin's still on a high, there's always the Whitehaven Beach Ocean Swim, a

2km or 750-metre race, to burn off the extra energy. Take the family: there is also a junior triathlon for athletes 15 years and under. We always do say that the family who trains together, stays together. On 16 November, we'll be taking it (a little) easier in the Dent Dash. It's more of a fun Sunday walk or run along the buggy paths of the picturesque Hamilton Island Golf Club. No pressure - it's not about prizes

and the timing is all left up to you. A few days holiday after the race is the perfect way to recover and recuperate - after all that training and exertion, we've earned it.

**27-29 NOV**  
**WEEKENDS OF WONDERMENT**  
Can't make it in May? Weekends of Wonderment is back in November, with some intimate masterclasses to feed your inner creativity.



FOR THE LATEST EVENT INFORMATION AND MORE DETAILS, VISIT [WWW.HAMILTONISLAND.COM.AU/EVENTS](http://WWW.HAMILTONISLAND.COM.AU/EVENTS)



# ISLAND NEWS

TEXT BY TRACEY WITHERS



## Jet set, go

Queenslanders, this is your backyard. Starting 28 November, and adding to the current direct flights from Brisbane to Hamilton Island with Virgin Australia, Qantas is flying direct to Hamilton Island from Brisbane four times each week during peak season. Sun-seekers and weekend-escapists, take note: that's just a 90-minute glide out to paradise (and by our careful calculations just the right amount of time for a preparatory glass of wine and the wind-down to kick in). Book through Hamilton Island Holidays on 137 333, or direct with Qantas.

## Wild Oats XI for the win

We do love an historic moment. Wild Oats XI, the supermaxi owned by Bob Oatley and skippered by Mark "Ricko" Richards, is lining up for her 10th start in the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race this Boxing Day. She's already the singular stand-out yacht in the race's 70-year history, having taken a record-equalling seven line honours, won on handicap twice and set two course record times. Having tasted more overall success in a shorter period than any other, Wild Oats XI's "Ricko" is by a long way the event's most successful skipper. And let's not forget the incredible crew. Watch Wild Oats XI in action, and all the colour and excitement from this year's Audi Hamilton Island Race Week, in the documentary airing on Channel 7 on 26 December; Sydney/Melbourne 12-12.30pm; Brisbane 1-1.30pm; Adelaide 1.30-2pm; Perth 11-11.30am.



## #hamiltonisland

We've just hit refresh on the rebooted [www.hamiltonisland.com.au](http://www.hamiltonisland.com.au) website and it's so easy to navigate. As well as being fully responsive, there's the My Island tab, where pictures posted by island-goers on Instagram and hashtagged #hamiltonisland are displayed in a gallery - no filters required. Hashtag your sunset selfies and holiday snaps #hamiltonisland and get involved. The site has received accolades already, picking up 'Best New Website' at the TRAVELtech Web Awards recently, beating other major contenders in the travel world - judges noting that it was a complex product that we had managed to present in a clear, clean and inspirational way.

## HM Awards

Hamilton Island has proudly received a line-up of gongs at the HM Awards for excellent Australian hotels and accommodation in September, with qualia noted as raising the benchmark for luxury in Australia. The resort, which commands top spot on the sunny northern tip of the island, looking out over the Coral Sea, was awarded Best Australian Resort for the second year running while qualia's Executive Chef Alastair Waddell, was named Australian Hotel Chef of the Year. The resort restaurant, Long Pavilion, was also highly commended.



## Fash de deux

The Australian Ballet came back to the starlit stage by the Pebble Beach pool at qualia in October. Principal artists Madeleine Eastoe, Andrew Killian, Daniel Gaudiello and Ty King-Wall and Soloist Robyn Hendricks danced new, contemporary works *Ostinato*, *Art to Sky* and *Halcyon* and it was all one big engulfing emotional highlight. When soloist Robyn Hendricks performed a thrilling scene from *Swan Lake* nobody could breathe. The pas de deux in paradise bill gets better every year: this one hit us all in the heart. Even Zanita Whittington (pictured right) and Amanda Shadforth, two of the stars of Fashion Bloggers, were captivated. The duo flew to Hamilton Island to watch the ballet and experience the reef, all while being tailed by cameras for the show airing on the Style Channel and E! Channel in Australia, Asia, UK and USA.



## UK Condé Nast Traveller's Best Resort

qualia has been honoured with another international award, taking out Best Resort in Australia in the UK Condé Nast Traveller's 17th Annual Top 100 Readers' Travel Awards. The luxury Brit mag asked connoisseur readers to rate their experiences at top-level hotels in some of the world's most iconic holiday spots, and qualia emerged first in the Australian field. "The Oatley family's vision for qualia has been to create an adults-only luxury sanctuary, one which pairs the beauty of its Great Barrier Reef location with understated elegance, complete privacy and a world class yet uniquely

Australian level of service. Such an accolade from our guests is testament to the team holding true and achieving this unique vision," says qualia's General Manager Matthew Taverner.





# TOP TEN TO DO, RIGHT HERE RIGHT NOW

TEXT BY TRACEY WITHERS

## 1 Whitehaven amazing

It's always tough to tear ourselves away from the sparkling silica sand, but we promise that everyone who ventures beyond the beach and deeper into the interior of Whitsunday Island, the largest in the archipelago, declares it a highlight of their holiday. Walk north, up to pristine Hill Inlet and track the history of the Indigenous Ngaro people. Stroll south through the native bush instead and find spectacular swimming and hidden snorkelling spots. It's a whole world away, although in truth we're actually just a short skip by helicopter, yacht or motorboat from Hamilton Island.



# 2

## Cruise the reef

No clock-watching. We're on island time now, and whether there's a day or a week left, there's time left to explore the natural wonders of the Great Barrier Reef. Take a day-trip out to the Reefworld viewing platform where you can snorkel and dive the brilliant, coloured coral formations. The most spectacular way to soak up the big, postcard-perfect picture? A once-in-a-lifetime scenic spin in a chopper. Taking it slower? Spend a half or full day touring around the secret spots of the Whitsunday Islands or dive and snorkel out at Bait Reef with the Explore Group experts.

## 3 Junior thrills

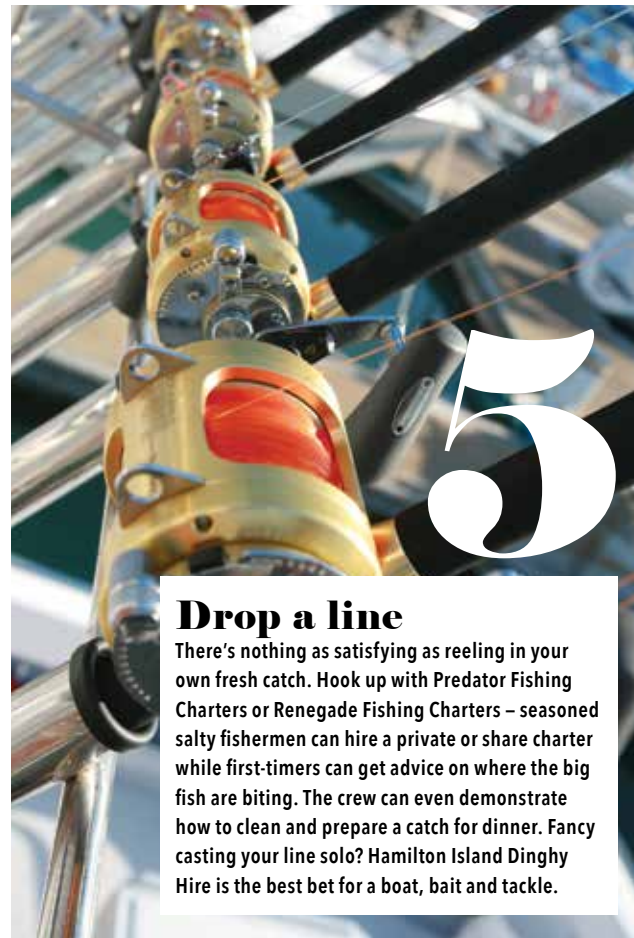
First stop: The Resort Centre to put dibs on our own Water Walker, a big blow-up bubble that we can climb inside and roll on the water with. Sports fans will also get a kick out of a few rounds of mini golf or a strike at the island's seven-lane bowling centre. Buzz-seekers aged 6-14 can take on the Quads for Kids adventure course in Palm Valley. Young ones will find new friends to hang out with in the Kids Fun Zone play area or the Clownfish Club childcare centre.



# 4

## 5 Get sporty

How does a morning yoga session sound? After a Body Pump class, weights, cardio session or game of tennis at the Sports Club, maybe? Energetic guests staying at Hamilton Island-owned accommodation can also pick up a complimentary catamaran, kayak, windsurfer or paddleboard from the Beach Sports Hut on Catseye Beach, get wet and go for it. Back on dry land, there are 20km of bushwalking tracks leading to breathtaking lookouts and photo opportunities all over the island. A free audio tour (available in various languages) will highlight the flora and fauna to spot on the way.



## 6 Drop a line

There's nothing as satisfying as reeling in your own fresh catch. Hook up with Predator Fishing Charters or Renegade Fishing Charters – seasoned salty fishermen can hire a private or share charter while first-timers can get advice on where the big fish are biting. The crew can even demonstrate how to clean and prepare a catch for dinner. Fancy casting your line solo? Hamilton Island Dinghy Hire is the best bet for a boat, bait and tackle.

# 6

## 7 Hoist sail

Some do it for the sport, some for the buzz, others just want to relax and ride the tropical breeze. Hire a skippered yacht charter; cruise the easy-to-navigate islands, beaches and bays on your own bareboat charter; or soak up the best of sea and land with a sail-and-stay package. Budding captains can book lessons with the island's expert sailing crews to earn internationally-accredited qualifications. If a quiet sail into the sunset or luxury dinner cooked on board a traditional cruiser is more your speed, we wouldn't blame you a bit.



# 7

## 8 Rev it up

Clocked up enough time by the pool for now? Hire some wheels and ride the fire trails and bush tracks on an all-terrain vehicle. It's a blast, and one of the best ways to get to rugged outlooks on the island. More of an on-roader? Why not burn around the go kart track or hire a golf buggy to get to know the island.

## 9 Green means go

Jump a ferry and float across to our fairway to heaven, the Hamilton Island Golf Club. The course was designed by five-time British Open champion Peter Thomson and throws down an 18-hole challenge to semi-pros and Sunday swingers alike. Even when it's not about teeing off, this is still the place to visit thanks to its unbeatable views. Check out the golf club lunch special, which follows up a tour of the unbelievable Dent Island scenery with a laidback lunch in the Clubhouse.



# 9

## 10 Go wild

There's a baby joey waiting to meet you at Wild Life Hamilton Island right now. It would only be polite to say g'day to Freddie the talking sulphur-crested cockatoo (he might say hi back!), Hippo the wombat or Elvis the koala and his family. Slippery lizards and snakes, creepy spiders, kangaroos, dingoes, the fierce Australian cassowary and the island's own resident crocodile are all here too. Take a guided walk to meet the animals, then stop for breakfast or lunch at the café. But under no circumstances can you leave without a cuddle and photograph with a koala.

# 10

## Zone out

Deep inside the lush gardens of the Resort Centre is that sanctuary that is Spa wumurdaylin. Check in, rejuvenate your skin, soul and body, and completely bliss out. The therapists here are intuitive and apply indigenous-inspired treatments by Waterlily and L'ITYA in customised cocoons, scrubs, rituals and facial therapies. See a nutritionist or alternative therapist for the full wellbeing experience. Need a humidity-proof blow dry, wedding upstyle or emergency spray tan? Book into Island Hair and Beauty, also right near the Resort Centre.



GUILLAUME BRAHIMI



PHOTOGRAPHY BY EARL CARTER.

# French EVOLUTION

WE LOVE A GOOD CHEF AND FRENCH BORN GUILLAUME BRAHIMI IS ONE OF THE BEST. HIS FOOD NEVER FAILS TO SEDUCE US, AND NEITHER DOES HE, SAYS ALISON VENESS, WHO CAUGHT UP WITH HIM AT HIS NEW RESTAURANT IN SYDNEY.

**ALISON VENESS: TELL ME ABOUT THE SAMSUNG GALAXY EVENT AT AUDI HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** That was fantastic. It was on an amazing boat; a cocktail party to showcase a new television. I love Hamilton Island — the racing, boats, great food and great company.

**ALISON VENESS: SO WHAT WAS IT LIKE COOKING ON THE YACHT?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** You're showcasing great seafood. It's everything that's good on a boat: people are relaxed, especially if they are not wearing shoes, you know what I mean. It's laid back. So I did my crab sandwich and salt-and-pepper lobster. I did some king salmon sashimi tartare that was beautiful in a little tartlet and some simple prawns with an aioli. I think when you are on the boat, you want to eat fresh seafood and drink a cold glass of Champagne.

**ALISON VENESS: YOUR BEST MOMENT ON THE ISLAND? WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT IT?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** Waking up there — it's so beautiful — and the view, and I was lucky to stay at qualia. I find it very relaxing. It's a good break.

**ALISON VENESS: HOW ELSE DO YOU RELAX?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** I love my gin and tonic, I'm a pretty traditional guy, so I like Tanqueray No. 10 with plenty of fresh lime in it.

**ALISON VENESS: WHAT'S UNIQUE ABOUT THE ISLAND AND AUDI HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** Well I'm in great admiration of them creating somewhere that has become an international destination. And I think it's just that you want to be invited to go there, you know? It's really a showcase event. We talk about great resorts around the world but you can leave Sydney at 8am and can be on an island and checked in by lunch time. That's priceless. I don't have to spend 10 hours on the

plane. And there's great wine, great produce, great food, and so I believe what they are doing at Hamilton Island is really unique but so Australian as well.

**ALISON VENESS: TELL ME A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR EARLY LIFE AND HOW IT INFLUENCED YOUR COOKING? DID IT INFLUENCE YOUR COOKING?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** Absolutely. Happiness, comfort, and generosity was the way I've been brought up, you can't cook if you're not happy. You can't be tight if you want to be a chef. All these things influenced my career without me knowing it, [they are] parallel to it, and are a really big part of who I am now and hopefully you can see it in my food.

**ALISON VENESS: AND WHO DID THAT COME FROM? WHO SET THOSE STANDARDS OF GENEROSITY?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** My mum and dad, my grandparents. Food has always been a big part of what we do. You know, breakfast, lunch and dinner. Monday night at home would be a three-course or four-course, but I'm not talking about fine dining, I'm just talking about beautiful fruit salad, an entree, a main course, some cheese and a yoghurt. Beautiful yoghurt.

**ALISON VENESS: HOW OFTEN DO YOU GO BACK TO FRANCE?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** Probably two times a year.

**ALISON VENESS: AND IS IT STILL A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION FOR YOU? OR IS IT JUST LIKE PUTTING MORE PETROL IN THE TANK?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** A bit of both, I think. If I go there to try to be inspired, it doesn't work. You need to be there and leave, you know? Go and do what you have to do and come back and say "I liked that time". I know it's a little bit of a cliché but think global and use local, so go and see what they are doing in the great restaurants of Paris, but not try to copy it, just

try to get a little bit inspired. But we're not doing too badly in Sydney ...

**ALISON VENESS: DO YOU HAVE ANY INGREDIENTS THAT YOU HAD THERE THAT YOU CAN'T GET HERE? IS THERE ANYTHING THAT HASN'T BEEN GLOBALISED, THAT'S UNIQUELY FRENCH THAT YOU MISS?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** Yes there are things but I'm really against export of fresh produce, I think we really need to eat what grows in the land where we live. Of course there are some cheeses I wish we had in Australia, but I'm not going to go and import fine cheese just because we don't make them here. I want to keep pushing to make them here.

**ALISON VENESS: ARE YOU DOING THAT?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** Well, we are just trying. Like with butter, I love French butter but I'm not going to help the people who are making butter in Australia by using French butter. So I need to use the Australian butter and keep telling them ... and work with them.

**ALISON VENESS: WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT THE FOOD HERE, IN YOUR NEW RESTAURANT IN PADDINGTON? IS THERE A DIFFERENCE FROM GUILLAUME AT BENNELONG?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** I think compared with where I was before, there is more connection between the food here and us than it was before, where we spent a lot of time touching the produce, cooking it and here we see it delivered as well ... there is no loading dock!

**ALISON VENESS: HAS IT MADE YOU THINK DIFFERENTLY OR INTRODUCE NEW THINGS TO THE MENU?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** That's right! There are some dishes that will always be there and there are some new dishes and then some old dishes we just keep. Do I miss the Opera House and leaving it? No, I think it was time. Twelve years is a long time in one spot and you know, there's great times, bad times. It was not always easy but the bureaucracy [means] I'm very happy



MV DE LISLE



"I LOVE THE SMELL OF FRESH HERBS, YOU KNOW WHEN THEY'VE JUST BEEN CHOPPED, LIKE PARSLEY, BASIL, CORIANDER, JUST WHEN IT HAS JUST BEEN CHOPPED."

to be in a small place now and it's all about the restaurant, there is nothing else. But I will never forget that I used to have my name in one of the sails of the Opera House. It's done. I've turned the page.

**ALISON VENESS: YOUR FOOD HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS FRENCH AUSTRALIAN FUSION. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE IT?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** French technique using Australian produce.

**ALISON VENESS: OTHER THAN FRANCE, WHICH OTHER CULTURES REALLY INFLUENCE YOUR COOKING?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** I love Middle Eastern food, North African food, I love that. I also love Japanese food. I think I like all food, you know? Like, I look at a plate of food I try to taste the flavour. I say "I like this flavour, should I try to do something?"

**ALISON VENESS: SO IF YOU WERE TRAPPED ON AN ISLAND ON THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, WHAT WOULD YOU LIVE ON?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** Fish.

**ALISON VENESS: WHICH ONE?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** Whatever I can catch.

You don't need to be too greedy if you're "buying" yourself.

**ALISON VENESS: ON THIS DESERT ISLAND, WHICH FOOD WOULD YOU MISS?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** I love the smell of fresh herbs, when they've just been chopped, like parsley, basil, coriander, just when it has just been chopped. It's beautiful. And I love the smell of vanilla beans in your hand; that's pretty special.

**ALISON VENESS: FLAVOURS, WHAT MAKES YOU SALIVATE JUST THINKING ABOUT IT?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** I love the flavour of a good stew, like a chicken stew; something like that, that when you taste it and you've got the right flavour in it, I love that. I love a great fish, when the soup is done properly and you're tasting it and it's got the right consistency and you can smell the produce of the sea.

**ALISON VENESS: ANYTHING SWEET?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** Ah it's pretty awesome when you can eat a beautiful pain au chocolat when it's just been baked. And I'm talking when you just come out of the oven and the chocolate is still soft and you bite it and you burn yourself with the chocolate.

**ALISON VENESS: WHEN I GOT MARRIED I WAS TOLD THAT YOU NEED FIVE DISHES FOR A HAPPY LASTING MARRIAGE. IT SEEMS TO HAVE WORKED SO FAR. WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** Oh maybe 10, ha!

**ALISON VENESS: WHAT WOULD BE YOUR NUMBER ONE DISH?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** A beautiful pasta with a meat stew, tomatoes and parmesan. But that's something I love, comfort food.

**ALISON VENESS: SO WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU? ANOTHER BOOK? MORE TV?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** We've got another book under way and we've finished shooting and we are contributing everything to breast cancer for this one, the first one went to RPA [Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney]. It's a beautiful book about families and friends. So we picked 10 families and we went to their houses, I asked them what they cook every day and I tried to do my own version of it. And it's good. It will be out in October 2015.

**ALISON VENESS: TV?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** Not taking away the credit from all the reality shows — I think they are fantastic — but the people that are



KING SALMON WITH AVOCADO CREAM



BERRY SORBET WITH MERINGUE AND FRESH BERRY

doing it are fantastic, so they don't need me. I'm pretty focussed on making sure we excel in the restaurant.

**ALISON VENESS: AND SO SAMSUNG, WHY?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** Well I am an ambassador. And I think what they do is amazing, from the phone to the TV to the fridge. And to have them coming to see me and saying "Guillaume we would like you to be the face of the brand". Samsung is a big company and technology wise they are just amazing and they keep trying, you know obviously in this world of phones, you can just say "Oh that's it, we are happy with whatever" ... They keep trying, trying to get better and I'm very privileged to be associated with them.

**ALISON VENESS: YOU TALKED ABOUT THE INFLUENCE OF YOUR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS. DO YOU THINK ANY OF YOUR FOUR CHILDREN WILL FOLLOW YOU INTO THE KITCHEN?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** I hope not.

**ALISON VENESS: DO THEY HAVE THE LOVE?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** I hope not.

**ALISON VENESS: WHY DO YOU HOPE NOT?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** Haha, I let them do whatever they want to do but hopefully they will do something else than be a cook, but what I like to see in them is the hospitality. They know what to do, they clear a table at home, they know how to dress a table. They know how to make it pretty. They enjoy that. And they love good food.

**ALISON VENESS: WHAT'S THEIR FAVOURITE DISH THAT YOU COOK FOR THEM?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** At home? It's pretty easy, they love my steak. Steak, salad and beautiful crispy potato. They love it. They eat grown-up food. They love Japanese but they love bolognese too, and all of that, but I make a mean bolognese pasta and I love bolognese sauce when it's made properly.

**ALISON VENESS: AND CAN ANYONE ELSE COOK AT HOME OR IS IT ALWAYS YOU?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** Well I'm the cook and

[wife] Sanchia just said to me "So what will I cook? You know, I married you and you're a cook ..." I'm not at home often so what I try to do, I always try to make dishes for the week. But I always bring some fish and we eat very simply at home. It's important to be close to them.

**ALISON VENESS: WHAT ELSE DO YOU ENJOY DOING TOGETHER? DO YOU HAVE A BOAT?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** I do have a boat. A little boat, for fun and the family. We go around the harbour.

**ALISON VENESS: CAN YOU SLEEP ON IT?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** Absolutely. I can't wait. That's what we're going to do this summer.

**ALISON VENESS: ARE YOU EVER SCARED OF THE WATER?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** I did the Sydney to Hobart last year ...

**ALISON VENESS: WHAT WAS IT LIKE?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** Scary.

**ALISON VENESS: DID YOU EVER REGRET IT WHEN YOU WERE ON THAT BOAT, THINKING "OH MY GOD"?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** Yes, for a split second when we turned right on the harbour, on the Heads, I said "What the heck am I doing this for?". And now I just signed again, so I'm doing it again! Being in the middle of the ocean during the Sydney to Hobart, makes you realise we are so small compared with the elements. When you have a big wave, we are nothing. At one stage I thought it was fun: you know, big wave ... but when I started looking at the faces of the pros on the boat, they were not laughing like me so I thought, hang on, I should start being serious.

**ALISON VENESS: AT THE FINISH LINE THOUGH, DID YOU HAVE A SENSE OF ACHIEVEMENT?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** Absolutely.

**ALISON VENESS: BEST BIT?**

**GUILLAUME BRAHIMI:** Putting food in the mouth.

TRUFFLE RISOTTO WITH PARMESAN EMULSION







ALASTAIR WADDELL,  
ADAM WOODFIELD

## Paradise TO PLATE

FROM LITTLE THINGS, BIG THINGS GROW. JUST WATCH ALASTAIR WADDELL AND ADAM WOODFIELD IN THEIR ON-ISLAND KITCHEN GARDENS, SAYS TRACEY WITHERS.

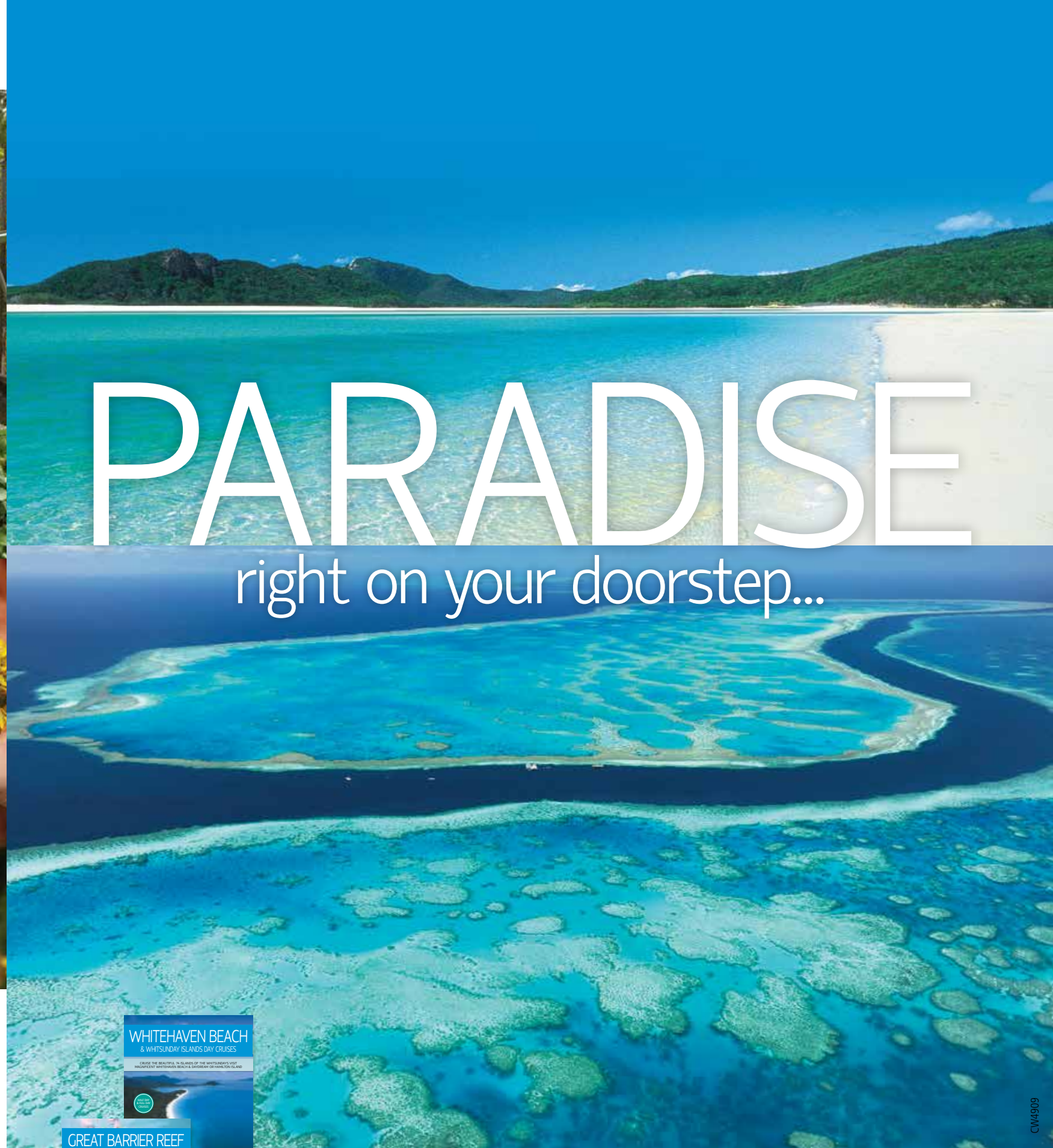


These two claim to not really know what they're doing. But wholesome things are poking up out of the dirt, all bright greens and plump reds, and looking very delicious. Exotic leaves, tomatoes, eggplants ... Phase Two of the veggie plot, co-planted by Executive Chefs Alastair Waddell of qualia and coca chu's Adam Woodfield, is looking semi-professional, actually. "We've only set up here in the nursery area recently and put the igloo up about a month ago," says Woodfield. "Everything's coming up. I can't believe it!" Phase One of Project Garden, however, began a while back. Waddell established a kitchen garden right next to Long Pavilion at qualia a little over a year ago and his beets, chickpeas, borlotti beans and even quinoa were bursting up and begging for extra space. Meanwhile, Woodfield had been foraging wild produce from the island for ages. "I'd get green mangoes from the tree above the marina; for green papaya we'd look behind the workshop," he explains. Woodfield also noticed that this tropical air created natural flavour. The two chefs got talking about stuff they couldn't find in the Brisbane markets, and spring seemed ripe for a bigger, better patch they could both mine for use in daily specials and seasonal menus.

The chefs tapped the big, green-focused brain of Hugh Clelland, the mastermind behind the flowerbeds and perfectly proportioned gardens all over the island. Clelland tweaked the traditional garden-bed idea, setting up a pot system that instead maximises the soil. "The pots have layers of recycled glass from the island crushed in the bottom for drainage. The residual wine and beer on the glass acts as a microbial food for the layer [of soil] above, which is a mix of bio-solids and green waste composted for 12-18 months," says Waddell. "After germination, mulch can be applied to help with moisture conservation and weed control, and that mulch is another by-product of the island recycling green waste." This is island organic. "The only thing that goes near the leaves is a light spray of chilli water to keep the pesky insects at bay." Even delicate leaves, such as the very interesting mini red leprechaun lettuce and royal oak leaf, which nobody expected to like the climate, are loving it. "We've also got baby radish varieties — French breakfast, black and watermelon — all with their own characteristics and we have created some remarkable dishes from these," says Waddell. Yes to a Coral Seaside-salad ... "Nasturtium leaves and flowers are in abundance right now

for a peppery addition to a salad, as are baby vegetables such as fennel, heirloom-carrot varieties and beetroot. Our tomatoes are definitely perfect for lunch at qualia's Pebble Beach — simple, with cold-pressed olive oil, freshly picked basil and burrata. If the fig tree decides to fruit this year then we may have something very special!" Next to the fat chillies of all types and kaffir lime leaves that Woodfield will turn into hot, sweet magic at coca chu, more wild things souvenired from around the island are growing. "I've found galangal, lemongrass, wild coriander and also melon," he says. "Hugh's also found some beans and berries that in Indonesia they use in sweet and savoury dishes." He's imagining next-level in the new year. "I want to try beach bananas and herbs such as cha-om, which is good for soups and curries, and rice paddy herb, which is great in salads. Both Alastair and I want to get into things that we've never tried or even tasted." All hail the fresh, organic, exciting flavours. "We'll only ever pick what will be utilised on the day," says Waddell. "In our island location, having that is a beautiful luxury. Fresh is best, simple as that." Paradise to plate.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JULIAN KINGMA.



Great Barrier Reef Adventures and Whitehaven Beach Day Cruises  
Outstanding day cruises to the Whitsundays' most iconic attractions, including the colourful outer Great Barrier Reef and world famous Whitehaven Beach. Cruises depart daily from Hamilton Island Marina. For these brochures, bookings or further information contact the Hamilton Island Tour Desk on 07 4946 8305 or visit them in the main Resort Centre. [cruisewhitsundays.com](http://cruisewhitsundays.com)





THE LATE THIERRY ROSET  
TASTING THE VIN CLAIR  
WINES AT THE CHARLES  
HEIDSIECK CELLAR



Charles Heidsieck et Cie was founded in 1851, its roots dating back to 1775 when Prussian-born Florens-Louis Heidsieck established Maison Heidsieck et Cie. Nephew Charles-Henri came on board, having converted from Lutheran to the Roman Catholic faith, married a young Catholic woman, and become a naturalised French citizen.

His son, Charles-Camille, born in 1822, was only two when Charles-Henri died, an eerie portent of premature deaths that have punctuated the history of Charles Heidsieck through to this day (albeit without inflicting damage to the business). Charles-Camille joined the family business as a young man, and was only 29 when he took the plunge to go out on his own in 1851.

He joined a select band of heads of 19th century champagne houses who revolutionised the way champagne was marketed. His gift for languages and flamboyant personality was immortalised in the Victorian music-hall song 'Champagne Charlie is my Name', with the US his major market.

We marvel at the way present-day owners, marketers or winemakers continue the tradition of regularly visiting the furthest corner of the globe (Australia), yet by some arcane magic are always at home to welcome visitors of importance. But imagine the rigours of travel for the 70 or so years before the arrival of planes made it possible to hop from Europe to the US, and a century before the era of true long-distance travel that linked places such as

Australia to the rest of the world.

The modern domestic history of Charles Heidsieck has seen the 1988 acquisition of Piper Heidsieck, and the appointment of three chefs du cave (senior winemakers) who, with the support of successive owners, have fundamentally changed the way the wines have been made, the quality soaring in consequence. The first was Daniel Thibault, who died in 2002. Tom Stevenson wrote in his 2003 World Encyclopedia of Champagne that "Charles Heidsieck's present-day extraordinarily-high-quality reputation is due to one man — the late, great Daniel Thibault. Between 1985 and 1990 he became the acknowledged maestro of master blenders... a genius winemaker." The second is Régis Camus, who became Thibault's assistant in 1994 and who (happily) remains at the helm of both Charles and Piper Heidsieck.

The third was Thierry Roset, who held various positions at Charles Heidsieck since 1985 under the direction of Daniel Thibault, and thereafter Régis Camus, before being appointed chef du cave of Charles Heidsieck in 2012.

His experience, and the exceptional skills he had developed, were recognised earlier this year when he received the London-based International Wine Challenge's Sparkling Winemaker of the Year Award. He died suddenly, aged just 55, on 5 October this year. If all three were alive today, they would (as Camus does) acknowledge that the transformation of Charles Heidsieck (and thereafter Piper Heidsieck) was only

possible thanks to the financial strength and philosophy of Remy Martin, which purchased Charles Heidsieck from Joseph Henriot in 1985, before selling it in 2011.

It provided the working capital for Thibault to dramatically build both the volume and age of the reserve wines used in making the Charles Heidsieck Brut Reserve.

The blend went from an average of two to three vintages making up 10 per cent to 15 per cent of the total volume, to a Krug-like (Remy Martin owned Krug at the time) 40 per cent with an average age of 10 years. The cost was enormous, and meant Charles Heidsieck had to savagely cut its sales from about three million bottles to one million bottles.

Roset put his own signature on the non-vintage Charles Heidsieck Brut Reserve, reducing the number of components in the reserve wine from 100 to 60, giving it greater focus, but not reducing the quality, age or volume of the reserves. It spends three years on lees prior to disgorgement, and has an average age of six years. It has a stunningly complex, gloriously rich, almost unctuous, mid-palate, yet steps up a gear with the twist of citrus peel on the finish before the lingering aftertaste takes you back over all that has gone before.

If you question the perpetual youth of the wine, try to find the Blanc des Millenaires 1983, released after 30 years' maturation. After Krug, there is no better non-vintage champagne on the market, and certainly no better value champagne than Charles Heidsieck NV.

# Charlie IS A DARLING

AMBITION, INGENUITY, INTRIGUE ... THE HISTORY OF THE HOUSE OF CHARLES HEIDSIECK IS ALMOST AS THRILLING AS THE CHAMPAGNES IT PRODUCES. IN FACT, THERE'S HARDLY A SUPERIOR FIZZ, SAYS JAMES HALLIDAY.



TEXT BY REBECCA KHOURY

# A taste OF SUMMER

COCKTAILS: ALWAYS FUN, AND BEST ENJOYED IN THE COMPANY OF GOOD FRIENDS. PLUS, NOTHING SAYS PARTY LIKE A COCKTAIL ...



## MARINERS Cocktail: Negroni

**Bevan Wilson, Team Leader, Mariners**  
“The Negroni is a great pre-dinner drink to enjoy with anyone and is a good nightcap or sundowner but typically enjoyed as an aperitif. A Negroni is really refreshing when the temperature is warm. It’s the perfect way to start your evening at Mariners — it’s not too sweet — before indulging in our legendary seafood platter. It’s been on the menu for two island summers now.”

**INGREDIENTS**  
30ml Tanqueray gin  
30ml Campari  
30ml Sweet Vermouth

**METHOD**  
Add Tanqueray gin, Campari, Sweet Vermouth and a scoop of ice into a cocktail shaker and shake. Double strain and pour over ice into a standard rocks glass, then add a squeeze of orange to balance out the taste. Garnish with a slice or twist of orange.

## HAMILTON ISLAND YACHT CLUB Cocktail: Summer Daze

**Heath Bentley, Head Bartender, Hamilton Island Yacht Club**  
“Company to drink this with? Fun loving companions who enjoy the salt air and the fruity side of life. It’s definitely a sundowner but can also be a handy “hair of the dog”. It’s best on a hot day when in need of a refreshing thirst quencher with a punch. It’s much loved here as it’s a tropical paradise in a glass and it’s been on the menu for five fun-filled fruity months.”

**INGREDIENTS**  
20ml Ketel One vodka  
20ml Midori  
20ml strawberry liqueur  
60ml apple juice  
5-6 mint leaves  
2 strawberries  
3 lime wedges

**METHOD**  
Muddle lime and strawberries in a cocktail shaker, then add Ketel One vodka, Midori, strawberry liqueur and the rest of the ingredients and shake over ice. Strain into a tall rocks glass over ice and sorbet. Garnish with mint leaves and a lime wedge.



## COCA CHU Cocktail: Original Pimms Cup No. 1 Serves 4

**Heidi Sinclair, Assistant Manager, coca chu**  
“The Original Pimms Cup No. 1 is a fun drink to share throughout the night with a group of friends or family. We serve ours in a jug so that there is plenty to go around the table. It’s traditionally enjoyed as a sundowner on Hamilton Island, and is perfect with the tropical weather while enjoying the sunset. The Original Pimms Cup No. 1 can be enjoyed at any time though; it’s a hit throughout your whole evening at coca chu. It’s very popular because it carries through the spirit of the shared-style dining with the food. The fun continues as you also get to share your cocktails. It is served with plenty of fresh fruit, which never goes amiss as the sun sets after another warm day in the tropics. It was on the drinks menu in August 2012 when coca chu first opened and although there have been many amendments to the cocktail list, this one has stayed and has been the star of the show.”

**INGREDIENTS**  
120ml Pimms No.1  
30ml Cointreau  
4 strawberries, sliced  
4 orange slices  
¼ cucumber, sliced  
8 mint leaves  
75ml ginger ale  
75ml lemonade

**METHOD**  
Mix in all sliced fruit in a jug and then add Pimms No. 1 and Cointreau. Fill the jug to ¾ with ice and pour in the ginger ale and lemonade muddled together. Stir and serve with a long mixing spoon.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KARA ROSENBLUND.



## MANTA RAY Cocktail: Watermelon Mojito

**George El-Achkar, Manager, Manta Ray**  
“It’s a versatile drink, for any occasion. Perfect to enjoy on a family outing, a friends night out or even a romantic dinner. It’s definitely a sundowner, a perfect end to a great day or an exciting start to a fun night ahead. And good for a hot day. The combination of watermelon and mint make it a great refresher to cool down with and get your taste buds tingling. It’s a hit here because it’s refreshing, so it complements the tropical weather. Put that with the amazing backdrop of Hamilton Island Marina, what more could you ask for? It made its debut on the Manta Ray cocktail list in August 2014.”

**INGREDIENTS**  
30ml Marie Brizard watermelon liqueur  
30ml Pampero Blanco rum  
4-6 watermelon cubes  
3-4 lime wedges  
5-6 mint leaves  
1 tsp brown sugar

**METHOD**  
Muddle watermelon, lime and sugar into a cocktail shaker. Add Marie Brizard watermelon liqueur, Pampero Blanco rum and ice and shake. Clap and stir mint leaves through before pouring into a tall glass. Garnish with a mint sprig and a watermelon cube.



## QUALIA Cocktail: Passionfruit Mai Tai

**Michael Frampton, Assistant Restaurant Manager, qualia**  
“A good drink can create good company just the same way good company can make a drink good. The Passionfruit Mai Tai is probably best suited to a group of friends enjoying some time off by the pool. It’s definitely a sundowner or midday type of drink and best on hot days when the colour of the sun matches the colour of the drink. It’s light, refreshing and easy to drink, especially given the view and average temperature we live in. It’s been on the menu for more than a year and we won’t be taking it off anytime soon — it’s popular.”

**INGREDIENTS**  
15ml Galliano Amaretto  
15ml Pampero Blanco rum  
15ml Cointreau  
15ml lime juice, fresh  
15ml sugar syrup  
¾ passionfruit

**METHOD**  
Combine all ingredients into a cocktail shaker with ice and shake. Serve in a rocks glass over crushed ice and garnish with the remaining juice from the passionfruit.





# Race TO WIN

WHETHER IN BUSINESS OR SAILING, DEVELOPING A WINNING TEAM REQUIRES METICULOUS PLANNING AND STRENGTH OF CHARACTER. KARL KWOK BROUGHT BOTH TO AUDI HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK IN AUGUST 2014, SAYS LISA RATCLIFF, WHICH IS WHAT LED HIS TEAM BEAU GESTE CREW TO ANOTHER PODIUM FINISH.

**K**arl Kwok, the quietly spoken 66-year-old Hong Kong businessman, appreciates the paradox of his professional sailing team contesting one of Australia's premier sailing regattas. His grandfather, Gock Chuen, started the family banana-trading business with his own brother at Sydney's Paddy's Markets back in the late 1890s. The family returned to Hong Kong in 1907 to launch the highly successful Wing On department store, the second Chinese-owned department store in Hong Kong and now one of its largest corporations, of which Karl Kwok is Chairman.

"My grandfather should be proud. He came to Australia as an illegal immigrant. I came back three generations later racing big yachts," Kwok laughs.

At the end of the Chinese Civil War, the 40-day-old Kwok left Shanghai with his parents and moved to Hong Kong Island where he spent his childhood. He opted to complete a tertiary BA degree in Minnesota, the US state known as "the land of 10,000 lakes", followed by an MBA at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. During his undergraduate study he befriended the town doctor and at his lake house the rookie Kwok dragged out a Hobie 16. Back in Hong Kong in the mid-1970s, Kwok joined the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club and bought into a 28-foot cabin-cruiser partnership.

Understanding the law of physics that dictates lighter is faster, the pair stripped the boat and the trophy haul kicked off. The experience promoted bigger dreams and eventually led Kwok to the ILC-40 World Championship in 1995 in Denmark where he met a fresh-faced champion New Zealand match racer. Gavin Brady had signed with the Irish Admiral's Cup Team but jumped ship to Kwok's ILC-40 for one race as tactician – the race they won. So began one of the most prosperous partnerships in the sport, a business relationship and friendship between the mentor and the masterful match racer spanning 19 years. "When I first sailed with Karl I was a young up-and-coming sailor ready to take on the world," recalls Brady. "The first time Karl gave me the helm I crashed the boat before the start. I was surprised when he asked me back that day. It showed trust and maybe taking a risk on his part. Putting a winning team in place requires this level of trust and you might have to take risks at times."

Kwok's foresight and loyalty has also reaped huge financial return, like his American car dealership investment that grew then contracted and was finally sold 22 years later for a significant profit. "I'm definitely not a short-term speculator. I'm very loyal to the people who are loyal to me," he says, sliding his trusted right-hand man Brady into the conversation again.

The partnership works like this. Brady dreams up the ideas and creates a schedule of races and regattas he believes suit the boat and that the owner would enjoy. Then, depending on Kwok's timetable and interest, the schedule is confirmed and the crew flown to wherever the latest Beau Geste — and there has been a revolving door of 13 either owned or chartered — is primed and waiting.

Up until recently Brady drove all the boss's boats but succession planning is vital in the sport. For the past year a new younger Team Beau Geste crew, including Kiwi match-racer and now Beau Geste helmsman, Will Tiller, have been given an opportunity to display the same talent and tenacity of their predecessor Brady, who has taken on the role of overseeing sailing master.

Owners who can also drive a boat at the professional level are rare and Kwok, often asked why he doesn't steer his own boat, sees it like this, "We are racing professionally so why spoil the fun? The aim is to win the race. If you own a racing horse you can't ride it even if you know how to ride. If you own a Formula 1 team you wouldn't drive your own car."

For Kwok it's about being part of the planning, the strategy, the talk and the morale. "Just being involved is an enjoyment for me. The other part is when you are out at sea, away from shore, you realise the world is so big and you are so

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDREA FRANCOLINI.

KARL KWOK



# SAILING



KARL KWOK  
ON BEAU GESTE

"YOU ARE SO CLOSE TO NATURE ... IT'S A VERY SOOTHING PROCESS TO BE ABLE TO SAIL, TAKE TIME OUT AND NOT BE DISTURBED."

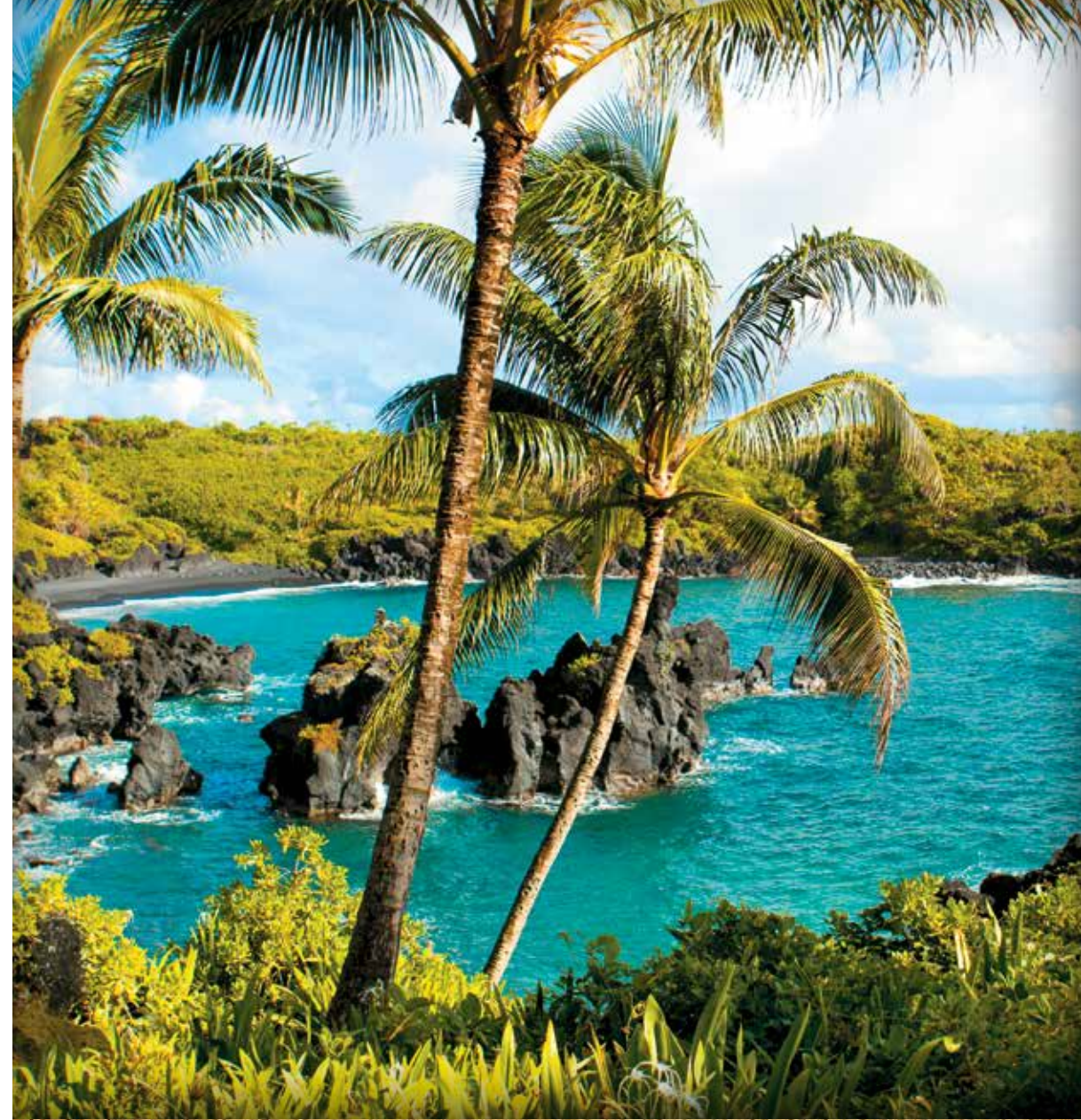
they meet Karl for the first time. Very quickly we see why Karl is successful in sailing ... because he gets and becomes one of the crew, rather than taking on the more traditional owner's role," says Brady. There's a boyish cheekiness to the skipper. He and Brady enjoy the comedy routine of initiating new crew by making them eat the Chinese delicacy, 1,000-year-old duck eggs, on the final day of a regatta. Kwok brags that at least 200 crew members have endured the gastronomic challenge over the timeline of his yachting campaigns. Kwok's succession of Beau Gestes have won most of the major races and regattas around the world. Understanding sailing's parochial nature sees Kwok and Brady keep moving the wagon on; searching out the highest level competition at their favourite destinations and never overstaying their welcome.

Winning the 1997 Sydney Hobart Yacht Race with the Farr 49 launched the month prior is the high point. Brady's "harebrained idea" to take out the blue-ribbon event on a yacht purpose-built to the ocean classic's typical weather pattern paid off when Kwok became the first owner to clinch one of yachting's most prized trophies, the Tattersall's Cup, on the first attempt. Equally Kwok's been humbled by yacht racing. During the 2012 Auckland to Noumea race, his Farr 80 cracked in the middle, triggering an emergency response. The crew motored all night, nursing the boat with the damaged side facing away from the waves, fearing she might break up in the heavy seas. An unbeatable combination of cherry-picked crew — "definitely no prima donnas among them" — and the meticulous preparation of Team Beau Geste prior to battle, runs parallel to Kwok's business mantra. "Karl runs his business like his boats and has instilled the lesson in the workers. Each item of equipment on the boat has its hours of use recorded so we know when to service and when to replace. It's preventative maintenance, and we don't suffer breakdowns." Team Beau Geste's division-A win at Audi Hamilton Island Race Week capped off an unbeaten two-year Australian program before the racy 52-footer was shipped back to Hong Kong. The wagon rolls on.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDREA FRANCOLINI.

small. You are so close to nature, you appreciate everything changing around you. It's a kind of detox from urban living. I have to live in a very crowded environment because of my roots and business. It's a very soothing process to be able to sail, take time out and not be disturbed." Yacht racing has taught Kwok a style of leadership he's adopted across all aspects of his life. Being stuck on a boat for days instilled the importance of other's privacy and the need to respect opposing views. In Grand Prix yacht racing, being at the top of the food chain affords an owner certain status. On Beau Geste there might be 15 top-notch Gen

X to Gen Y sailors on the payroll for the current TP52 bought privately from King Juan of Spain, more on his 80-footer also called Beau Geste. Once the gun goes, Kwok's just one of the boys. Kwok has ignored the omens and named a succession of boats Beau Geste — or Teng Long in Chinese, which means soaring dragon — after a much-loved standard poodle from the early 1990s. He deliberately applied for the sail number 1997, the year Hong Kong returned to Chinese rule, when no-one else would touch it for fear of bad luck. "It is funny watching new team members as



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# Eyes WIDE OPEN

KARA ROSENLUND IS A PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER, ADVENTURER, STORYTELLER AND LOVER OF ALL THINGS AUSTRALIAN. HERE SHE GIVES SOME VALUABLE ADVICE TO ENSURE WE ALL CAPTURE A UNIQUE AND AUTHENTIC ISLAND EXPERIENCE FOR OURSELVES.

**1. START THE JOURNEY AT HOME.** When are the holiday spirits the highest? Just before you begin your holiday. When I'm sharing a journey with my social media audience, I actually like to start the journey at home, just before I leave. This way it really feels as though friends and family are embarking on the trip together with me.

I have seen and photographed a lot of Australia, yet Hamilton Island is one of my all-time favourite destinations that I can't help coming back to. The island has a vibrancy to it which is balanced by a generous sense of untouched raw beauty which you can't help but want to bottle, photograph and save for later. Just between you and me, sometimes I even find the island's jaw-dropping beauty overwhelming, especially when it comes to capturing and sharing my own experiences with friends and family back home via social media. For me, the key is to capture and share your own personal travel journey, a journey unique to you. When looking back at your photographs you should be able to "feel" the holiday that was; from the small delicate details and finishes in the hotel room, to the jasmine wafting in the afternoon air while sipping a lychee martini. I like to gently encourage people to lose those cliché postcard expectations or pressures you may have about photographing the perfect holiday — you can always pick up a handful of sunset postcards on the way out — the true essence of your holiday photographs should embrace telling your own journey, your story.

*Follow Kara's Australian journey on instagram @kararosenlund*

**2. OPEN YOUR BAG.** Are you ever curious as to what your friends pack on holidays, or what's in their bags? I am and I know I'm not alone. There is nothing I love more than to see personal details and touches in shots. Somehow it feels intimate and special, like a whisper of a conversation. Open your bag and share some of yourself.

**3. FEEL IT.**

Always try to make a bit of time to "feel" the holiday. To sit in among the elements and silence your thoughts and hear the sounds of nature: the water gently lapping, the fronds of the palm trees rustling in the breeze, the tingling feeling of blushed sun-kissed skin and the cool salt water ... Ok, that's enough feeling! Quick, grab your camera now and capture the moment: you will forever be taken back to that moment in time, again and again.

**5. VISUAL FEAST.** Who doesn't love food? My gosh, I adore food and all the details that go along with sharing a humble meal. Hamilton Island offers so many diverse opportunities to try different culinary influences. Shoot and share your gourmet-grazing time with those at home, making it a true visual feast.

**7. THE BEST IS YOU.** I often get asked for advice about the best cameras on the market, or the best lenses ... everybody wants the best of everything. I always tell people the best camera is your eyes, they are unique to you, they have no budget and they see the world through your own perspective. You could have the best camera in the world, but if you don't "see" the world, then you have nothing to capture. Always be aware of what your eyes are attracted to and start capturing it.

**6. THE SMALL THINGS.**

Never be afraid to photograph the small things, as those small details help communicate the quieter and tender tone of your story. Whether it is a shot of a tabletop at qualia's Long Pavilion or a generous full frame of inviting tranquil aqua water, the small things are what linger in your mind and that you will yearn for once back at home.

**8. THE UNEXPECTED.** I won't lie, I slept in — I was on holidays, you know! — so I missed "the sunrise" from One Tree Hill. Instead I dashed out to my balcony at the Reef View Hotel to photograph this sunrise [and the cover of this issue of REEF], where unexpectedly the golden rays of sunlight danced across the sky straight into my camera. Sometimes the most unexpected vantage points give you gold.

**10. LEAD, DON'T FOLLOW.**

It's a simple statement, though it does require confidence. When everyone is shooting the glorious sunset at popular viewing spots, saying goodbye to the fabulous day that was, it can sometimes feel a little crowded. I always wonder how anyone's shots will look any different from each other's. When this happens I like to turn my back on the classic shot and instead capture my own shot. For instance, the afternoon glow in the opposite direction of the sunset. This way you will always find your photographs capture a diverse experience that's unique to you.

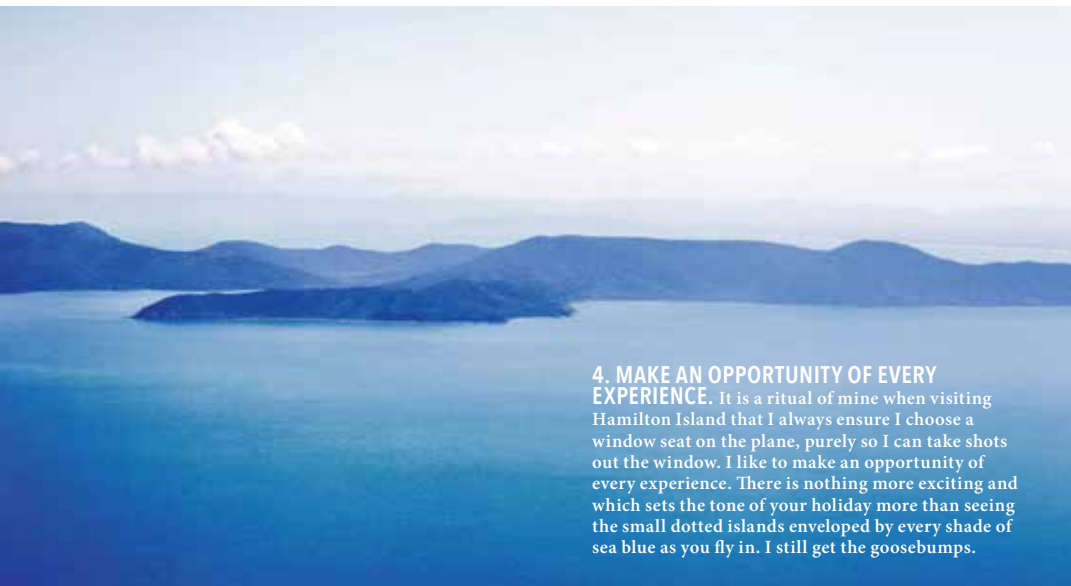
**4. MAKE AN OPPORTUNITY OF EVERY EXPERIENCE.** It is a ritual of mine when visiting Hamilton Island that I always ensure I choose a window seat on the plane, purely so I can take shots out the window. I like to make an opportunity of every experience. There is nothing more exciting and which sets the tone of your holiday more than seeing the small dotted islands enveloped by every shade of sea blue as you fly in. I still get the goosebumps.

**9. THE FLAT LAY.**

It is about documenting what you are doing at that moment in time and allowing your friends and family at home to feel part of your holiday. I like to do this by shooting some of my images from above in what the industry calls "flat lay" — lay all of your bits flat on the ground and shoot down on them. You just can't help but fall into this style of shot.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY KARA ROSENLUND.





# Journey OF THE HEART

FALLING IN LOVE IS EXCITING, BUT NOT ALWAYS PLAIN SAILING. HERE, A STORY OF PASSION, ADVENTURE AND ONE COUPLE'S COMMITMENT. BY CROSBIE LORIMER.

**O**ne of the defining traits of any successful sportsman is tenacity — set the goal, plan the journey and consider all hurdles along the way as mere road bumps en route to your objective.

So when the former Queensland state cricketer Mark Gaskell and his wife Jenny first set their hearts on acquiring Condesa, they weren't about to let a couple of serious setbacks dissuade them from their goal.

"We first tried to buy the boat seven years ago," says Mark, as he and Jenny recount the long tale that leads them to be aboard Condesa competing at Audi Hamilton Island Race Week. "When we saw the boat on the internet, we rang the owner in San Francisco, told him we were really interested in buying it and asked if we could come over and have a look."

"The owner said 'Yes, but you'll need to be quick', so we jumped on a plane the next day." "When we got there he took us to dinner," explains Jenny "and then he said 'I'm really sorry, but the boat is sold'."

Mark continues with the next phase of the seven-year saga ...

"Five years later a mate of ours on the Baja Rally from San Diego to Cabo San Lucas in Mexico took a photo of Condesa under sail and sent it to us. I just said 'Wow, there it is again'. It kept coming back to haunt me," adds Mark with a wry laugh.

So Mark asked his friend to enquire whether the owner was interested in selling the boat. The firm rebuttal was followed a month later by a call from the owner saying he was keen to sell after all.

"So we got on a plane to Mexico and bought the boat," Mark adds with a brevity that conveys something of the relief he clearly felt at the time. Objective achieved; but what was it about this particular boat that so appealed to this couple of lifelong sailors? Why did they never take no for an answer?

The design for La Condesa Del Mar — her full name, which means the Countess of the Sea — was based on the 1924 drawings of L. Francis Herreshoff, the son of legendary American yacht designer Nathanael Herreshoff, and exhibits all the trademark lines of the many elegant yachts that sprang from the drawing boards of that talented family from the late-19th to mid-20th centuries.

Despite her traditional appearance, Condesa was in fact built in the 1970s of ferrocement and discretely sports some very modern bells and whistles that permit her two owners to manage the 3,560-square-metre cloud of sail that propels her substantial 43 tonnes of displacement when fully rigged.

"The good news for us is that her rig is nowhere near as complicated as it was when she was designed in 1924," remarks Jenny, who steers the boat when racing, while "He Who Hums" — as she refers to Mark in her delightful sailing blog — trims the sails.

Everything about Condesa's hull, deck and rig recalls a sailing era long past. Words and terms that are now confined to old nautical almanacs — bumkins, bobstays, belaying pins, baggywrinkle — trip off Mark's tongue with evident pleasure as he offers a tour of the boat. But nothing about the traditional design above decks would quite prepare you for the interior that greets you as you head down the companionway.

Stained glass lamps and inserts in timber bulkheads, leather banquettes, large mirrors and illuminated cabinets containing beautiful glassware and even a ceremonial sword, create an atmosphere akin to an Errol Flynn movie set; at once romantic and homely.

While the couple changed little about this original interior, they immediately set about a number of alterations above deck as soon as they purchased Condesa, not least in adding a large awning over the cockpit to render the boat more



PHOTOGRAPHY BY LESLIE RICHIER





CONDESA DEL MAR



MARK AND JENNY GASKELL

suitable for the 7,000 nautical mile journey from Mexico to their home town of Brisbane.

That journey across the Pacific, in the company of "Super Pedro", the multi-skilled timber worker who carried out most of the alterations to the boat, involved a list of island and atoll stopovers that reads like a voyage of early discovery — the Marquesas, Bora Bora, the Tuamotus, Suwarrow, Western Samoa and Vanuatu, to name but a few.

The Pacific can generate extremely dangerous sailing conditions in a hurry, as the crew of Condesa experienced three days into the passage between Bora Bora and the remote Suwarrow in the Cook Islands.

The schooner had been making good ground in strong winds, sunshine and a lumpy sea, when the weather suddenly took a turn for the worse. Jenny takes up the story ...

"I glanced up from a giant crossword and was shocked to see gloomy weather had silently built up. Within seconds my book was down and I pranced across the bench seats and dropped the canopy plastics (roll-up windows in the awning) as quickly as I could."

"There they were again; those familiar big spots of rain that blew in the message of unease. I knew we had a serious matter when the sea changed colour from the deep violet blue to a sickly pale grey-green.... 25 to 30 – 32 – 33 – 34 knots and climbing."

Jenny wrestled the steering wheel while Mark and Pedro rushed up to the bowsprit to take down sail. With the boat pitching wildly, the two disappeared from Jenny's view as the bowsprit was submerged.

"When the bowsprit spiked skyward again, I saw a bunfight scramble out from under the sail

## "WE WOULD LIKE TO DO THE DARWIN TO AMBON RALLY AND WE ARE KEEN TO SAIL UP THROUGH THE SUEZ AND INTO THE MED."

as it was retrieved. I could see them both again," she remarks, her deep relief still palpable.

Despite retrieving and stowing the headsail, the wind continued climbing to 40 knots, forcing them to further reduce the already reefed-down mainsail.

"I knew both of the boys would have had to wrench at the mainsail together with all their might to fight against the 40 knot gusts that forged past us like a locomotive," said Jenny. "A huge amount of energy had built up in the reefed mainsail and BOOM! It blew out with a major tear."

Eventually the crew regained control, said Jenny, reflecting soberly on their experience and response to the emergency.

"We pulled together without words and knew we were each a part of Condesa's fight that

day ... we were not going to lose a piece of our puzzle to the wrath of the weather. We were a team: the vessel and crew."

For all of that frightening ordeal, the memories of their ocean-going adventures still reverberate fondly in the couple's day-to-day musings now that they are back in the real world of running businesses, caring for parents and living aboard Condesa on a permanent berth on the river, close to Brisbane's CBD. So it's no surprise to hear of new plans afoot.

"Now we're looking to go further afield," says Mark, running through some of the options currently being mulled over. "We'd like to do the Darwin to Ambon Rally and we're keen to sail up through the Suez and into the Med." And across the Atlantic perhaps?

"We'd love to, yes, but we're taking it one step at a time."

So if the old adage that a journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step, is indeed true, one suspects that Mark and Jenny are destined to share countless ocean miles with the beautiful Countess.

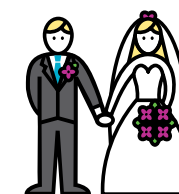
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CROSBIE LORIMER.

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# Wonder Woman

IT IS THE MORNING AFTER THE NET-A-PORTER.COM SHOW AT AUDI HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK, AND WE ARE HAVING BREAKFAST WITH LUPE PUERTA, GLOBAL HEAD OF PERSONAL SHOPPING FOR NET-A-PORTER.COM.

**W**e think we went to bed about midnight. Puerta woke up at 5am, has already swum in the infinity pool at qualia and we are now in the Long Pavilion, drinking orange juice and coffee — lots of it — while taking in the view across the water.

**ALISON VENESS: CLEVER TO PARTNER WITH AUDI HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK. WHY THIS COLLABORATION?**

**LUPE PUERTA:** Audi Hamilton Island Race Week is a special occasion for many of our customers, and we like to go where they go. So many fantastic brands have aligned this week — we all share similar values, ideas and have many of the same customers, so it's been the perfect collaboration for us from start to finish.

**ALISON VENESS: AND GOOD FOR THE SYNERGY OF THE RESORT COLLECTIONS TOO?**

**LUPE PUERTA:** Hamilton Island is absolutely beautiful; it offers the perfect setting for a runway show, and yes particularly one showcasing key resort pieces.

**ALISON VENESS: A GLOBAL FIRST FOR AN ON-ISLAND COLLABORATION - AND WILL THERE BE MORE?**

**LUPE PUERTA:** Yes it is a global first, and what a way to begin! I hope there will be more to come.

**ALISON VENESS: DOES NET-A-PORTER.COM STAGE MANY RUNWAY SHOWS?**

**LUPE PUERTA:** So far we have put on two runway shows, which includes last night's event at qualia. This is the first of its size though.

**ALISON VENESS: WE LOVED IT. WHAT WERE YOUR FAVOURITE MOMENTS?**

**LUPE PUERTA:** I hadn't seen the preparation for the event during the day and was overwhelmed when I saw the completed set. Highlights include watching

the sunset behind the huge Net-A-Porter.com sign and of course seeing Alexandra [Agoston] walking in the animal-print Roberto Cavalli dress — the movement of the dress was just stunning."

**ALISON VENESS: SHE LOOKED AMAZING. TELL US WHAT ELSE YOU LOVE?**

**LUPE PUERTA:** I also love meeting so many creative people from all walks of life, seeing the synergies of companies merge, being in a place where we can connect with our customer and learn more about her needs. Australia is one of our key performing markets and it's a focal point for us. We wanted to ensure our first event in market was exceptional, and by partnering with qualia [for the show and personal shopping styling suite] I think we've achieved that.

**ALISON VENESS: DOES NET-A-PORTER.COM DELIVER ALL THE WAY TO HAMILTON ISLAND?**

**LUPE PUERTA:** Yes we do, we offer a shipping service for \$10 — orders take up to three working days to deliver.

**ALISON VENESS: THAT'S FAST. WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT AUSTRALIAN RESORT DRESSING?**

**LUPE PUERTA:** Australia houses some of the world's leading resort designers. It's such a big season over here because of the climate and the way of life. Women wear these pieces in such an effortless way — they own them and feel confident in them.

**ALISON VENESS: YOU'RE HEAD OF GLOBAL PERSONAL SHOPPING. WHAT'S YOUR MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION?**

**LUPE PUERTA:** How to wear separates and how to mix and match pieces.

**ALISON VENESS: YOUR BEST ADVICE FOR A WOMAN LOOKING FOR A QUICK WARDROBE FIX?**

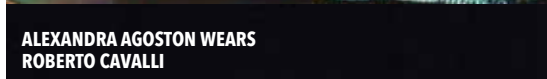
**LUPE PUERTA:** Look in your wardrobe and see



THE NET-A-PORTER.COM RUNWAY AT PEBBLE BEACH, QUALIA



NET-A-PORTER.COM STYLING SUITE AT QUALIA



ALEXANDRA AGOSTON WEARS ROBERTO CAVALLI



LUPE PUERTA FRONT ROW WITH GUEST AT NEW YORK FASHION WEEK



NATURA BISSE, OXYGEN CREAM



EVE LOM, KISS MIX



CHARLOTTE TILBURY, FULL FAT LASHES MASCARA



LUPE PUERTA WITH DONNA KARAN AT NEW YORK FASHION WEEK

where the gaps lie. Usually every woman needs to add some colour and statement pieces to her existing wardrobe to inject some new-season life into it. One of the easiest ways to do this is by investing in stylish accessories and jewellery.

**ALISON VENESS: WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT QUALIA? WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES IT UNIQUE?**

**LUPE PUERTA:** Being surrounded by nature in this way is incredibly unique. Everywhere you look is a postcard moment. You're in your own little cocoon at qualia — there's a private beach, amazing food, a spa and excellent service. Nicky Tindill and her whole team make you feel at home the minute you touch down.

**ALISON VENESS: FAVOURITE PLACE TO HANG OUT ON HAMILTON ISLAND?**

**LUPE PUERTA:** Sunset Point at One Tree Hill has become my early-morning tradition.

**ALISON VENESS: ANY PERSONAL PACKING MUSTS AS WE PRESUME YOU TRAVEL ALL THE TIME?**

**LUPE PUERTA:** My suitcase always has two sides as I often have back-to-back trips and seasons can differ, so one side will house fall products and the other summer. Or one part will hold shoes and accessories and the other side will hold clothes. I buy doubles of toiletries so I always have a bag that is packed. I take my Bose acoustic noise-cancelling headphones, my iPhone, passport, Natura Bisse's Oxygen Cream, Eve Lom's Kiss Mix balm, Charlotte Tilbury's Full Fat Lashes mascara, my iPad and a good book everywhere with me.

**ALISON VENESS: HOW DO YOU RELAX ON HOLIDAY?**

**LUPE PUERTA:** By reading, lazing around on a beach and being surrounded by good friends.

**ALISON VENESS: IT'S YOUR FIRST VISIT TO HAMILTON ISLAND. WHAT ARE YOUR IMPRESSIONS OF THE GEOGRAPHY, THE VIEWS. HAS ANYTHING AMAZED YOU?**

**LUPE PUERTA:** Yes this is the first time and I'm just amazed by how incredible it is. It really is paradise, I don't want to leave!

**ALISON VENESS: SADLY YOU HAVE TO. WHAT WILL YOU TAKE BACK TO HQ IN LONDON FROM THIS TRIP?**

**LUPE PUERTA:** An iPhone filled with pictures. It's been incredible to meet with so many customers. I can't wait to share my insights with the other teams.



# Creatures OF THE DEEP

THE GREAT BARRIER REEF IS HOME TO SOME OF THE MOST MAGNIFICENT CLAMS ON EARTH. AND THERE'S NO BETTER PLACE TO SEE THEM THAN HERE IN THE WHITSUNDAYS, SAYS RICHARD WYLIE.

**W**hen most people picture the Great Barrier Reef, they think of tropical islands, swaying palms and brilliant white beaches surrounded by luminescent blue water containing unique animals of all colours. However, without the microscopic animals called coral polyps that make up the Great Barrier Reef, this picture would not exist. What make this World Heritage-Listed area truly amazing is the sheer size, number and diversity of coral species that support the massive amount of life both above and below the water. As a marine biologist and underwater photographer, it's the equivalent to heaven on earth, particularly in the waters around Hamilton Island.

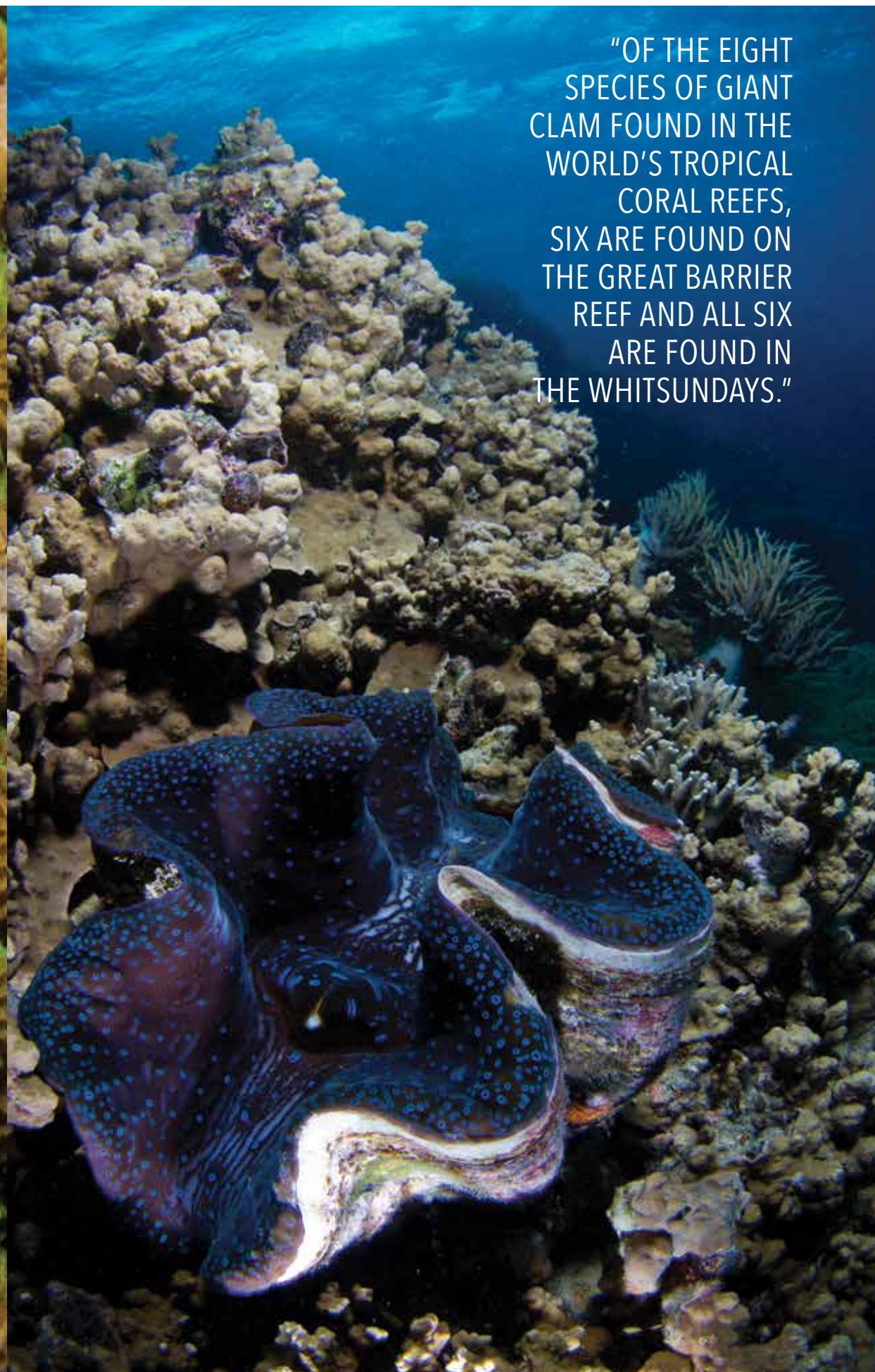
There are 600 species of corals that make up the Great Barrier Reef, which collectively stretches across 2,300 kilometres — so large, it is the largest living structure to exist on earth, visible from space. The calcium carbonate skeleton that is produced by hard coral polyps create a structure that, combined with the incredible diversity of animal and plant species housed within this enormous system, makes it one of the most complex natural ecosystems in the world. And the complexity is truly mind-boggling. It contains more than 1,625 species of fish (and that's what has been discovered so far), 3,000 varieties of molluscs, 500 species of worms, 100 different types of jellyfish and 30 different species of whales and dolphins. Scientists are discovering new species all the time. It also provides a home

to a number of protected mollusca, of which the giant clam (*Tridacna gigas*) is the largest bivalve to ever exist in our planet's history. Of the eight species of giant clam found in the world's tropical coral reefs, six are found on the Great Barrier Reef, and all six are found in the Whitsundays. The largest species can grow up to 1.3 metres in length, weigh up to 300kg and live for as many as 100 years. While smaller species of giant clams must attach themselves to the reef substrate so that sea currents or storm surge doesn't blow them away, the giant clam relies solely on its massive weight to keep it in place. They are also one of the most brightly coloured and intricately ornate animals on the Great Barrier Reef, as they use their mantles (the fleshy lips contained within the clam's shell) to draw energy from the sun. They have a mutually beneficial relationship with an algae species that lives within their mantle: the algae converts sunlight into energy-producing sugars (much like plants) which helps the clam grow, while the algae in turn are protected from predators by the clam's massive shells.

While many countries around the world have collected giant clams for food or decoration to the point of extinction, Australia has protected these beautiful creatures so that there are healthy populations all along the reef. Thankfully this means that even with just a mask, snorkel and fins, anyone can be lucky to experience the wonder of observing giant clams when visiting the reef.



PHOTOGRAPH BY RICHARD WYLIE.



"OF THE EIGHT SPECIES OF GIANT CLAM FOUND IN THE WORLD'S TROPICAL CORAL REEFS, SIX ARE FOUND ON THE GREAT BARRIER REEF AND ALL SIX ARE FOUND IN THE WHITSUNDAYS."



# Escapeology

POWER DOWN ANOTHER NOTCH. IT'S SUMMER AND WELL, THE WHOLE OF HAMILTON ISLAND IS A PERSONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING RETREAT, REALLY. SO TAKE A DEEP BREATH OUT, ALL YOU DETOXERS AND CASUAL DOWN-TIMERS ... IT'S TIME TO RELAX.

No, we don't have to be off the sugar, white-knuckling it past the bar at cocktail hour or doing official detox purges to get the best R&R out of our holiday. But if that's the case, we honestly can't think of anywhere better to do it. Why tough it out when we can luxe it out? Hamilton Island was seemingly custom-built by the wellness gods; its natural beauty and energy compels us to relax and rejuvenate. Here, the island's experts tell us how a few minutes in a few days can recharge our lives. Please switch off all mobile phones.

## YES, SWITCH OFF

Seriously, we're shutting down the mobile phone, stashing the laptop. Alright, if we can't power-off completely, we'll just have to wean ourselves off technology and check in with the rest of the world for half an hour at a set time of the day only. Any work-related email will send the mind into another space and is guaranteed to set off stress, so after 30 minutes, we'll go for a walk, take a dip, or get out on the water and recommit to the e-tox. No more devices today. What we are looking for here is peace of mind, remember — it's a holiday. Trust us, by day two we will all sleep more soundly than ever before.

## ASSUME THE POSITION

The sultry, warm summer air is already making our muscles unkink. Bend and stretch — city yoga has nothing on this tropical version. "The serene, tranquil environment, not to mention the views, really help to calm and ground you," says yoga teacher Jennifer Vinter. "The warmer climate also helps prevent injury. It's cleansing and healing for the body." Vinter leads Purna (which in Sanskrit means wholeness or completeness) classes for beginners and quasi-yogis at qualia, where she can personalise specific asanas (poses), but there are also sessions at Hamilton Island's Sports Club near the Reef View Hotel. "There are also so many superb [outdoor] locations to practice yoga alone on the island," she adds. "A great pose to start the day is the cat and cow pose — it brings movement and energy to the spine and awakens the body. All

yoga also improves your range of movement, so it's great combined with other holiday activities such as kayaking and paddle-boarding." Roll out a mat on Catseye Beach. "Begin by sitting in a comfortable seat with a nice tall posture, not straining the body in any way. Close the eyes and breathe steadily and calmly, in and out via the nose. Focus on the out breath." In 10-15 minutes we've begun to feel amazing.

## GET NOURISHED

Hamilton Island's Senior Naturopath and therapist Damien Evans only needs a few days to turn your holiday into a (painless) health overhaul that will keep paying off when you fly out. He's got skills (all the Health Science credentials) and the diagnostics (diet analysis, iridology and body analysis, which looks at fat, water, muscle and bone-density) to redesign diet or pinpoint supplements and strategies for babymooners, athletes, stressed-out insomniacs and those suffering food intolerances.

"This is the ideal place to take advantage of restoring your health and wellbeing both mentally and physically," he says, noting the full-scale support crew of staff on hand for detoxers and change-seekers.

It's all about integration. Guests at qualia can book into seminars on superfoods, acid/alkaline balance and other wellness strategies.

"I also like to encourage yoga, meditation, correct breathing techniques, relaxation, exercise routines and personal-trainer support if appropriate. We might also discuss emotional and spiritual wellbeing," Evans says.

Remember to ask which massages, island activities and even restaurant menus might give your holiday an extra health payoff. Naturopath consults are available at the island's Spa qualia and Spa wumurdaylin.

## INHALE, EXHALE

Psychic sleep. That's the kind of Zen we need. When regular snooze isn't cutting it and ignoring the mobile is not helping us switch off, Meditation Coach Fran McGowan says a restorative 30-minute meditation is as effective at recharging

a stressed mind as an extra five hours of sleep. "The goal is to get a handle on your monkey-mind — the busy, undisciplined thoughts — and calm it," McGowan says. "We usually begin by getting into body-alignment, focussing on the line of the spine, and being comfortable in that position for half an hour. We then do a breathing exercise to come inside ourselves. Then as I talk through the process, everyone in the session comes on a journey. We work on the delta brainwaves [the same wave you're on during deep sleep] and alpha waves [which calm the nervous system] and a personal resolve, or mantra." First thing in the morning and last thing at night is, of course, ideal, but McGowan says any time is a good time. And the island is covered in quiet, solo-meditation nooks. "I run sessions at qualia and through the Sports Club, and I do recommend a one-on-one or class to set up beginners, but then all you need is enough space to stretch out or sit cross-legged. I love sessions down on the beach. Being surrounded by water is very spiritual. It has a wonderful energy."

## INDIGENOUS GENIUS

A spa skin or body session turns spiritual in the healing rooms of Spa qualia and Spa wumurdaylin, where rituals tap into Indigenous Australian know-how. Jacqui Smith, who manages both spas, rattles off the unique Indigenous ingredients in the LI'TYA line, which is applied in treatments: "Cherry alder has very high levels of vitamin C and bioflavonoids; Davidson plum for cell-growth and healing; lilly pilli for tightening the skin; detoxifying Tasmanian kelp, which is an antioxidant, loaded with iodine, minerals and amino acids."

Spa wumurdaylin offers a LI'TYA Susu Dew massage and spa qualia has the Kodo, or melody, treatment. "Both entail rhythmic massage inspired by Aboriginal techniques, a combination of pressure points and spiralling movements which ground and uplift."

Then there are soul experiences like you'll have nowhere else. The "Smoking Ceremony" at the beginning of a treatment starts with a traditional

wooden coolamon tool, filled with a blend of native paperbark leaves, lemon myrtle and o'yarrang and gum leaves. "Traditionally this was for purification and creating a sacred space ... Movement of the lit smoking mix over the body [also] assists the release of held-energy. Very important for over-worked and stressed guests."

## THE ALTERNATIVES

Leah Hesse, from Spa wumurdaylin, says cupping therapy, traditionally used in Chinese medicine, is the best alternative treatment for boosting a detox or almost any wellness goal you've got. It also treats neck pains, stiff muscles, anxiety, fatigue, migraines, rheumatism and even cellulite.

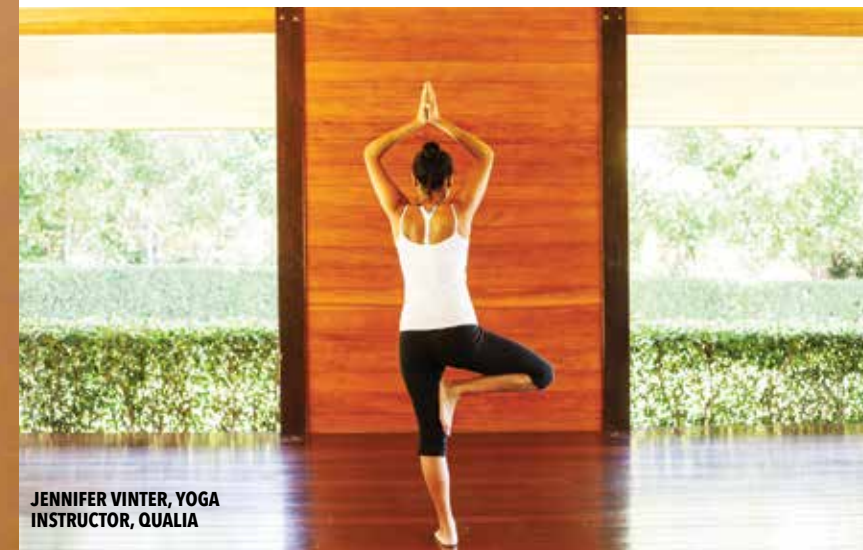
"This therapy uses small glass cups or bamboo jars as suction devices that are placed on the skin. The negative pressure provided by cupping can loosen muscles, encourage blood flow, and sedate the nervous system, which makes it an excellent treatment for high blood pressure," she explains. "Sometimes the practitioner will apply oil and glide the cups across the skin to massage — it's deeply beneficial for muscles." For athletes, it's a good time-out too. "Cupping will also help the body to restore itself after exercise."

## KEEP IT SIMPLE

And don't forget a holiday is all about simply enjoying the environment, looking across the Whitsundays from Passage Peak, having a long lie-in, or just powering down at the end of the day and enjoying the sunset from One Tree Hill.

**BOOK:** *Spa qualia has kicked-off two new wellness packages: the quick Body Rescue (60-minute naturopathic session plus a spa treatment) and the three or five day Irresistible Detox Package, which includes naturopathy, spa detox massages, yoga/meditation classes, and fresh-cleanse juices. Call 07 4946 9484.*

**BOOK:** *Spa wumurdaylin offers alternative therapies which includes naturopathy and reiki treatments great for healing and rebalancing the mind, body and soul. Call 07 4946 8669.*

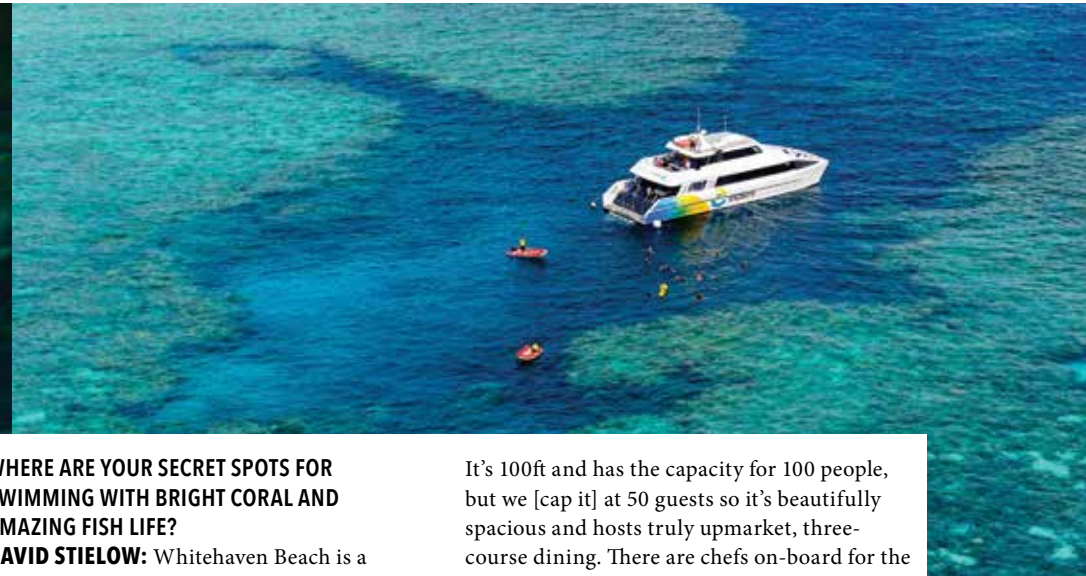


JENNIFER VINTER, YOGA INSTRUCTOR, QUALIA



# 5 minutes with...

DAVID STIELOW, SKIPPER, DIVE SPECIALIST, OWNER AND DIRECTOR OF EXPLORE GROUP, HAMILTON ISLAND. WE ARE JEALOUS.



**IF THERE REALLY WAS A TITLE FOR BEST GIG ON THE PLANET YOU'D PROBABLY HAVE IT. TELL US ABOUT WHAT YOU DO.**

**DAVID STIELOW:** Well, I own a dive business and I'm the skipper who drives the boats. I have the desk job to do but I get out and drive the boats for at least a few days of my week. I've been on Hamilton Island for 23 years — half my life — and been diving and involved with the Great Barrier Reef since I was a kid. We've had some pretty impressive moments out there recently. It's hard to pick one but we had a bunch of pilot whales that were actually snorkelling with our snorkellers the other day, which was an incredible thing to see.

**PLOT OUT A PERFECT DAY IN YOUR UNDERWATER OFFICE ...**

**DAVID STIELOW:** In a light wind, which is not great for sailing, we have amazing clarity out on the water. We've been getting 20-30 metres of clarity lately, so you can see all the way to the bottom. On that kind of day we'd go for a dive and then for a snorkel. We do three core experiences at Explore. There's the full-day snorkelling and diving out at Bait Reef on the Great Barrier Reef or half-day snorkelling around the Whitsunday Islands and the fringing reef, especially in the northern islands, where there's generally more soft corals and small colourful fish — the Great Barrier Reef is predominately hard corals, and the fish are generally bigger out there. We'd go sailing aboard On The Edge, our custom-designed day-sailing catamaran, or cruising on the Denison Star, which does a beautiful bespoke dining experience where the chefs cook on board.

**WHY DO YOU SAY YOU LOVE A NOT-PERFECT DAY ON THE WATER?**

**DAVID STIELOW:** I think the beauty of the Whitsundays is that you've always got an option to go out, regardless of weather, because the islands give us protection. At Hamilton Island, we're in the middle of the islands, so there's always something really special to show someone. If we can't get to one place, there's always another.

**WHERE ARE YOUR SECRET SPOTS FOR SWIMMING WITH BRIGHT CORAL AND AMAZING FISH LIFE?**

**DAVID STIELOW:** Whitehaven Beach is a big drawcard, but on the Reef Explorer, we also take people to the best spots on the day. My favourite around the islands is probably Mackerel Bay, which a lot of people don't know about; you need the wind to be a light northerly. There are lots of turtles and pristine coral. We have special permits to go where a lot of people don't get to go. On a full-day tour, On The Edge goes out to Chalkie's Beach on Haslewood Island, which got its name because Chalkie was David Hutchins's (the founder of Race Week's) nickname. That's for snorkelling off a beach, rather than off a boat, so it's great for people who aren't as confident. We've a special permit so we are able to feed the fish out there, so they are very used to us being around. We have a lot of yellowtail fusiliers — these fluoro-coloured fish, only three or so inches long — that feed along the top of the staghorn coral and swim in packs. Actually, out at Bait Reef, there's a very large Maori wrasse, a very well-known type of reef fish, that we call Wally and he'll come up and take the food out of your hands. That's a pretty amazing thing for kids to see.

**GORGEOUS. BUT SOMETIMES WE WANT TO STAY DRY ... WITH A DRINK.**

**DAVID STIELOW:** Sailing is my primary love. On a sunset sail we occasionally see a few dugongs, but it's really about the scenery and that spectacular sunset, a drink and the absolute serenity. The Denison Star sunset cruise highlight is we go up to a place called Cid Harbour, an isolated anchorage — people feel like they are in the middle of nowhere. If I was not on duty, I'd have a nice drink in my hand. Certainly on the Denison we have a large menu of cocktails, but I don't even know all their names. I'm a pinot-at-sunset guy.

**WORLD-CRUISERS TALK UP THE DENISON STAR. WHY IS IT SUCH A UNIQUE BOAT EXPERIENCE?**

**DAVID STIELOW:** It's a huon-pine cruiser, made from the biggest, oldest trees in the world, a traditional cruiser you won't find a lot of around. Denison's the biggest one in Australia.

It's 100ft and has the capacity for 100 people, but we [cap it] at 50 guests so it's beautifully spacious and hosts truly upmarket, three-course dining. There are chefs on-board for the evening cruise who cook to order from an a la carte menu. If you order a blue steak you get a blue steak.

**CRUISING AND CUISINE JUST HAPPEN TO BE OUR TWO FAVOURITE WORDS AND YOU'VE PUT THEM TOGETHER ...**

**DAVID STIELOW:** We try to embrace the paddock or ocean-to-plate process, so we have local suppliers, especially with seafood. We utilise Matt from HI Fishy on the island. He goes fishing himself and we buy directly from him. We cook in front of guests. I owned the Mariners seafood restaurant on the island for five years, so I've got a fair idea.

**TELL US ABOUT THE ECO-RESPONSIBILITY OF VISITING THE REEF.**

**DAVID STIELOW:** We're an eco-accredited operator and I'm very passionate about the reef. It's about finding the balance of commercialism and protecting the reef. We've been involved with the Eye on the Reef initiative by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) for seven years now, capturing data about marine life. That's what's important to science — data. Even guests on the boat can download the free app and use it to record pictures, videos and sightings. [You can report sightings of] the crown of thorns (COT) starfish, which is a natural threat. The COT issue goes up and down the Queensland coast but right now the Whitsundays are relatively clear: Bait Reef had an inspection by GBRMPA about six months ago and got a big tick.

**WHEN WE'RE OUT THERE, WHAT SHOULD WE STAY TUNED FOR IN SUMMER?**

**DAVID STIELOW:** We have coral-spawning in November and early December. The coral releases little bubbles. Summer is also egg-laying season for turtles. They usually lay them out on very isolated islands rather than near us but you'll see a lot of them, usually green turtles and loggerheads.  
[www.exploregroup.com.au](http://www.exploregroup.com.au)





# Power of THREE (and a few million of their friends)

IT WAS A FULL-ON STYLE DOWNLOAD; A FASHION INCEPTION, REALLY. WE SNAPPED THREE OF AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST SOCIAL MEDIA STARS WHILE THEY SNAPPED HAMILTON ISLAND, AS ALL THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE FLEW IN FOR AUDI HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK. #FASHIONFABULOUS, WRITES TRACEY WITHERS.

**Y**ou know what they say: if it didn't happen on Instagram, did it even really happen? Proof that this island-in-the-sun is central on the social scene and more connected than ever was the arrival of fashion and travel power-bloggers Nicole Warne of [garypeppergirl.com](#) (@garypeppergirl), Amanda Shadforth of [oraclefox.com](#) (@oraclefoxblog) and Tanja Gacic of [myempiricallife.com](#) (@myempiricallife) for Audi Hamilton Island Race Week in August. They posted. They hashtagged. We liked, everyone loved. Together these three reach an audience of almost 1.5 million just on Instagram. Don't even try to tally the escalating numbers on Facebook. Webpages are also clicked by the multimillion. Gacic, a Croatian-born ex-fashion model and contributor at [vogue.com.au](#), makes us click and scroll through styled shoots on her local beach of

Bondi, studio essays on the international trends and accessories of the season, and rethinks on beauty (she knows a good travel edit). The Oracle Fox's Shadforth is a free spirit who first started her blog simply to showcase images she found inspirational as a stylist, photographer and illustrator. Something in the mix of cool practicality and elevated styling ideas caught fire and her small-scale project picked up an international audience that started tuning in every day. She's now one of the stars of Australian reality TV show Fashion Bloggers. Warne, you could say, all but ignited the Australian fashion blogger phenomenon as we know it. She was the first blogger to walk a runway at Mercedes Benz Fashion Week Australia in 2012 and in 2013 was the first blogger anywhere to be signed by IMG, the biggest talent agency in the world. As a creative collaborator with international fashion and beauty houses, a

model, front-row fixture and e-entrepreneur, she's become a business juggernaut that still posts up street style with a real, relatable edge. So what blew the bloggers, who criss-cross from Paris to New York to the Med in first-class style (it's their job!), away about Hamilton Island. "I completely fell in love with Hamilton Island," says Gacic. "I think it's that feeling of leaving the mayhem of [the city], jumping on a short plane trip and arriving in absolute paradise. qualia is such an incredibly luxurious and special place to stay and I love how small the island is, the secret beaches and riding buggies into the sunset." Click-magnet pics and selfies can happen everywhere. They wore local labels — Gacic loves Josh Goot, Lover and camilla and marc's new

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BELINDA ROLLAND.

line of summer sandals; Shadforth packed her Dion Lee neoprene two-piece; Warne posted pics while riding a buggy with Michael Lo Sordo and at lunch for Paspaley pearls— and they saw local landmarks. They toured the Great Barrier Reef; they watched the Net-A-Porter.com show by the pool at qualia, Australia's most famed luxury island resort; they took a joyride around the glorious Whitsundays on the luxury motor yacht Andiamo. Gacic was spotted shooting for Vogue on the bright white sand. "Count your blessings," observed Warne, barefoot under a blossoming tree at Pebble Beach. This is, she posted on Instagram, "a quintessentially Australian landscape". And, actually, in Race Week, it's also planet fashion.

"What I love about Race Week is the eclectic mix of personal style of so many interesting people. We all have such distinctive styles but you can take inspiration from everyone and everywhere; it's one of the things that I love most about fashion," Shadforth says. We photographed attractive people doing attractive things in attractive places. And it was a very Slim Aarons-esque scene at the qualia pool for the Paspaley party ... complete with big blow-up ducks to ride. The hashtaggable magic just kept happening. Especially Warne's breakfast shots #foodenvy. The surreal sight of whales breaching metres from the shore where a runway is geared up? Seriously, who wouldn't humble brag that.

## ISLAND RETAIL THERAPY

THE ART GALLERY  
07 4948 9657

AUSTRALIA THE GIFT  
07 4946 9015

BREEZE RESORT WEAR  
07 4946 8221

FLORAL COLLECTIONS  
07 4946 9104

FOOT'S ARTWORKS  
07 4946 9062

HAMILTON ISLAND DESIGNS  
07 4946 8565

HAMILTON ISLAND JEWELLERY  
07 4948 9857

MARINA TAVERN RETAIL  
07 4946 8180

PRO SHOP (HI GOLF CLUB)  
07 4948 9760

QUALIA BOUTIQUE  
07 4948 9473

RESORT CENTRE LOBBY SHOP  
0427 148 952

REEF VIEW LOBBY SHOP  
0427 148 623

RESORT STORE  
0427 148 793

SWIMWEAR STORE  
07 4946 9281

THE HUT  
07 4946 8273

TRADER PETE'S  
07 4946 9409



"I TOLD MYSELF THAT EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS A LONG WAY TO GO, THIS WAS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO PROVE TO MYSELF THAT I COULD FINISH A TOURNAMENT OFF."

# Docking on DENT

FAITH, PERSEVERANCE AND PERFECT CONDITIONS ... HOW HAMILTON ISLAND'S CHALLENGING GOLF COURSE HELPED A PGA CHAMPION GET HIS GROOVE BACK. BY ROD MORRI.



MATTHEW DOCKING

PHOTOGRAPHY BY HAMILTON ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY.



Nathan King, and said he thought about that loss the night before the final round. "I told myself that even though there was a long way to go, this was an opportunity for me to prove to myself that I could finish a tournament off," he said.

"I holed a good putt on the first hole and another on the second, and after four holes I had gone from one behind to four in front and I thought I might be a chance.

"And then when I got to the 10th tee I thought about that event in Taiwan again because that's where it all started to go wrong for me that day.

"I just took a moment to step away and re-gather myself and set my goal to not make a bogey on the back nine and just play one shot at a time."

Docking knows those clichés are the easiest thing in the world to say and the most difficult to actually do, and it is one of his proudest achievements that he didn't drop any any shots on the homeward holes.

Along the way he set the course record of 65, the tournament record of four under and became the first player in the three-year history of the event on Hamilton Island to play 18 holes without a bogey.

"I've always felt that on my day I can play this game as well as anyone and what happened in Taiwan maybe dented that a bit," he said.

"But that final round at Hamilton Island was the best 18 holes I've ever played and has sort of given me that confidence back.

"I've shot lower numbers than 65 but I've never played better than I did in that final round."

Docking, forced into teaching in part because of a nagging back injury, is now trying to contain the excitement of playing the Australian PGA alongside the likes of Adam Scott at RACV Royal Pines Resort on the Gold Coast next month.

He's also contemplating a return to a playing career. "It's like an itch that needs scratching," he said, "and this might just be the opportunity I need.

"And I've got Hamilton Island to thank for it."

**H**amilton Island will always be one of Matthew Docking's favourite places because it was here the 33-year-old found professional redemption. Docking, a teaching professional from Canberra, won the 2014 PGA Professionals Championship at the stunning Dent Island course, a victory which meant much more to him than just the winner's cheque and a place in the Australian PGA Championship in December.

Those things are nice, but for Docking the victory reaffirmed something he wasn't sure he still knew: that his golf game is "good enough". It was 2011 when Docking got the opportunity to play the Taiwan PGA as a late replacement and to everyone's surprise, including his own, found himself leading on the final day. Actually, leading might be an understatement. Docking was eight shots in front with nine holes to play but, in his own words, "didn't get the job done".

"Winning that event would have been huge for me at the time," he said. "It was a difficult time and if I'd won it would have meant I didn't have to worry about money for six months." "I started to think about that on the back nine and, of course, as soon as you start doing that it all gets way from you and I ended up not winning."

Docking started the final round on the Hamilton Island Golf Club in the opposite position, one behind leader and former winner



# Training DAY

SUSIE O'NEILL, LYNETTE BOLTON AND LUKE JACOBZ TEAMED UP FOR THE 2014 FUJIFILM HAMILTON ISLAND TRIATHLON, SUSIE O'NEILL ALSO COMPETED IN THE WHITEHAVEN BEACH OCEAN SWIM. BUT IT WAS THE PRE-RACE PREP FOR OUR FAVOURITE LADIES THAT WE LOVED MOST.

**THE SWIMMER: SUSIE O'NEILL: Australia's Olympic gold-magnet, Madame Butterfly.**

**ATHLETIC STATS:** I'm 41. I try to do an hour of activity per day: swim, bike and/or run. I've just started pilates and hand weights, too.

**YOU'VE RACKED UP A FEW TRIATHLONS SINCE RETIRING FROM PROFESSIONAL SWIMMING. WHY ARE YOU HOOKED?** I like the variety of the three disciplines. I like going to the events as a family. I like that I don't have a history from when I was really fit in the sport of triathlon.

**THIS EVENT PUTS YOU UP AGAINST OTHER ELITE ATHLETES BUT CASUAL AMATEURS AND FIRST-TIME RACERS TOO - WHAT'S GREAT ABOUT THAT?** You meet a lot of interesting people from all walks of life. Generally, non-elite athletes have many different interests, hobbies and work so I enjoy meeting them. The common denominator with everyone is that when the gun goes they give 100% to the race.

**WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT RACING ON HAMILTON ISLAND?** Events like this are a great motivator to train, and also a great reward for all the hard training. If this event was in Mt Isa (no offence) I wouldn't be going!

**YOU KNOW YOUR WAY AROUND A POOL, WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT OCEAN SWIMMING?** I like getting back to basics and not having the structure of pool racing. I also like that I can't compare my times to when I was a swimmer.

**ADVICE FOR OTHER SWIMMERS?** Remember to breathe before you start, but also, when you first dive in the water, remember to breathe out! It's easy to use up too much energy at the start of the race. The best way I find to combat this is to concentrate on breathing out.

**WHAT 'LEVEL' OF SWIMMER DO YOU THINK COULD ACHIEVE THIS?** For the 2km Whitehaven Beach Ocean



SUSIE O'NEILL LEADING THE PACK AT THE WHITEHAVEN BEACH OCEAN SWIM, THE DAY AFTER THE TRIATHLON



SUSIE O'NEILL



LYNETTE BOLTON

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANDREA FRANCOLINI



SUSIE O'NEILL, LUKE JACOBZ, LYNETTE BOLTON AT THE 2014 FUJIFILM HAMILTON ISLAND TRIATHLON

Swim I think you would need to train at least once a week.

**HOW DO WE PUSH THROUGH THE HURT?** I like to say a couple of words over and over in my head like 'long and strong'. It stops me from thinking about the pain.

**WHAT'S YOUR PRE-RACE ENERGY STRATEGY - DO YOU CARB LOAD THE NIGHT BEFORE?** I just eat normally. If I'm hungry before the race I will have a sandwich. If I'm not hungry I may have a gel (which is a bit sad).

**WILL YOU TAKE IT EASY ON US OR DOES THE COMPETITIVE STREAK KICK IN WHEN YOU BREAK THE SURFACE?** I always give 100% when the gun goes off, no matter how fit I am. That's the fun, isn't it? Knowing you gave it everything.

**IT'S NOT QUITE THE OLYMPICS, BUT DO YOU STILL GET A BUZZ OUT OF THE WIN?** Yes, not quite the same, but I love competing. I prefer when I win, but that doesn't always happen these days.

**ARE YOU CELEBRATING WITH A HOLIDAY AFTER THE RACE?** We're having a four-day long weekend without the kids this time!

**THE RUNNER: LYNETTE BOLTON: TV presenter, wedding and social events planner and mother (to a very new baby).**  
**ATHLETIC STATS:** I'm 34, I'm definitely not much of an athlete and I just had a baby girl, Piper, six weeks ago and I have Siarra, who is three in January, too.

**SOME PEOPLE (NOT US) MIGHT ASK IF YOU'RE NUTS...** I know! I was approached to be part of the team a few weeks ago and started training when the baby was [about a month old]. I got the all-clear from my doctor and then I really had no excuse. It was amazing motivation to get back out there and exercise and, to be honest, it's quite nice because it gets me out of the house. I'm like, "Jude, the two-year-old's been fed, the baby is asleep, I'll be back in 40 minutes."

**YOU'RE MARRIED TO EX-SYDNEY SWAN AND ATHLETE JUDE BOLTON. DOES HE GIVE GOOD PT**

**ADVICE?** Not really! He says, "It's only 5kms, your run. You can do that in your sleep." So he's not really sympathetic [more laughing]. But I got home from a run the other day and he said, "Let's do some boxing," so we did that in the front yard. He loves exercise, obviously, and I'm pretty competitive as well. I love having this goal to work towards.

**NUTRITIONAL PLAN?** We're a relatively healthy family. And we have this great thing called My Food Bag. It's a service that delivers fresh fruit, vegies and meat and amazing recipes to our house on the weekend. I'm also eating for energy to feed Piper, so I'm focussed on eating well.

**WHAT'S YOUR TRAINING SCHEDULE LIKE?** We're up on the [Sydney] Northern Beaches at the moment so I'm just running around here and focussing on doing some big hills because I know there is that big one from the bottom of Hamilton Island past the chapel. I'm doing soft-sand running, too. I do it as often as I can.

**IS THIS A RETURN TO PRE-BABY FORM?** Well, I've never been a street-runner. I love swimming, I've always gone to the gym and I see a trainer or hit the treadmill while I'm watching TV, but it's a new thing for me to get my head around just going out and running when I don't have a distraction. So this has been good mentally as well, I think.

**YOUR RACE RUNS AROUND THE MARINA AND RESORT SIDE OF THE ISLAND. STRATEGY COULD BE TO FOCUS ON THE VIEW AND FIND YOUR ZONE.** Yes exactly. I'm looking forward to it. A 5km run is a doable goal - it's not like it's 25km. I'd never in a million years think I'd be in a triathlon but this event has options - so you can swim, cycle and run by yourself, or as part of a team, as I'm doing, and just do your bit. It's great for people who just want to dip their toe into the race circuit. And it's on Hamilton Island!

**SOUNDS LIKE AN EXCUSE FOR A HOLIDAY...** That's exactly how I'm seeing it. The race starts at 6.30am but then by 8am it's done and I'm on holiday... Straight to the sun loungers!





MORNING BARRE

## Pas de deux in paradise at qualia

The Australian Ballet returned to qualia for their seventh year performing some of our favourite pas de deux in open air. The works included *Ostinato*, *Art to Sky*, *Halcyon* and *Swan Lake*. A black tie dinner was enjoyed at Pebble Beach under the glittering stars with performances between each course. Principal Artists Madeleine Eastoe, Lana Jones, Daniel Gaudiello, Andrew Killian and Ty King-Wall, and Soloist Robyn Hendricks, captivated with their performances. Earlier in the day, guests were treated to a morning barre class in this amazing setting with its backdrop of the Whitsundays. Truly magical.



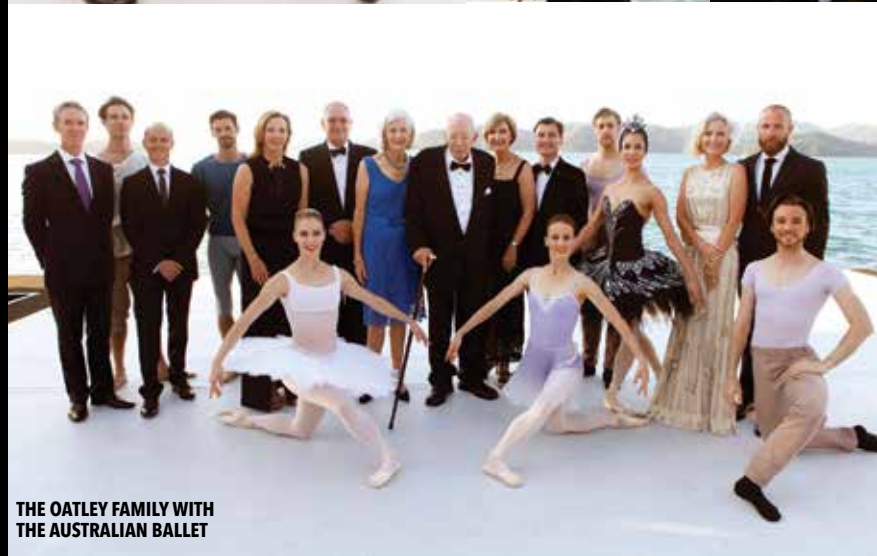
DAVID MCALLISTER, CATRIONA ROWNTREE, MATTHEW TAVERNER



DIANA ROUVAS



SANDY OATLEY



THE OATLEY FAMILY WITH THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET



TIM HARBOUR



PAS DE TROIS FROM OSTINATO



ROBYN HENDRICKS



DAVID MCALLISTER



ROBYN HENDRICKS

TROY AND NICKY TINDILL



LANA JONES



NADIA FAIRFAX



PHILIP AND JO GREADER



# R<sup>SVP</sup>

AUDI HAMILTON  
ISLAND RACE WEEK



NEALE WHITAKER,  
NICK TOBIAS



JIMMY NIGGLES



ZAC STENMARK, MICHAEL  
PELL, JORDAN STENMARK



TIM DRAXL



COLLETTE DINNIGAN, NICKY TINDILL

## Charles Heidsieck champagne lunch with Mr Porter.com at qualia

The annual Charles Heidsieck Champagne lunch during Audi Hamilton Island Race Week partnered with Mr Porter.com for the first time. The dress code for the men was coloured chinos, and we all thought they did rather well. Mr Porter.com ambassadors Nick Tobias and Nick Smith helped us all toast this award-winning online shopping mecca with a robust 'Charles' (instead of cheers) with every delicious course prepared by our favourite Executive Chef, Alastair Waddell, in the stunning Long Pavilion restaurant at qualia. Each course was matched with a different vintage of Charles Heidsieck. The roll call of stylish men (and women) in attendance was impressive - just what we expect from Mr Porter.com.



BRADLEY COCKS,  
COLLETTE DINNIGAN



CAROL AND SANDY OATLEY



JACK BEDWANI



TIAAN WILLIAMS



NEALE WHITAKER, LUPE  
PUERTA, NICK SMITH



AUDI HAMILTON  
ISLAND RACE WEEK



TROY AND NICKY TINDILL, BRADLEY COCKS, COLLETTE DINNIGAN



BACKSTAGE



ALEXANDRA AGOSTON



NICOLE WARNE, TANJA GACIC



### Net-A-Porter.com show at qualia

It was a beautiful night under the stars, poolside at qualia with great guests, gorgeous models and the scene was set for Net-A-Porter.com's debut runway show at Audi Hamilton Island Race Week. It's our favourite luxury online shopping destination and so it was great to see all the fabulous pieces in action. We were spoilt for choice and loved the bohemian island-perfect Roberto Cavalli modelled by Alexandra Agoston. It was a great front row with Isabel Lucas, Collette Dinnigan and the Oatley family all enjoying the show.



MICHAEL LO SORDO, NICOLE TRUNFIO



ISABEL LUCAS



RICHARD ROXBURGH, SILVIA COLLOCA



ALYSSA MCCLELLAND



NICOLE TRUNFIO, NICOLE POLLARD



ZAC AND JORDAN STENMARK



# R<sup>SVP</sup>

## AUDI HAMILTON ISLAND RACE WEEK

MELISSA DOYLE



### Wild Oats Wines ladies lunch

What's not to love about a ladies lunch, especially one hosted by our favourite TV presenter Melissa Doyle. The Wild Oats Wines event had coca chu buzzing with all the good company and good conversation, enjoying the vibrant sharing plates and matching Wild Oats Wines. Head Chef, Adam Woodfield, dished a delicious lunch that was another big hit in a great week.



CARLIE GRIMA



MATT MORAN

### Audi and Robert Oatley Vineyards 'Chiswick' dinner

He's one of Australia's most acclaimed chefs and an Audi ambassador and so he got his cook on for the event. His 'Chiswick' style paddock-to-plate food philosophy seduced the diners at Long Pavilion qualia and was accompanied by champagne and good company.



KYLIE SPEER



SARAH BLASKO



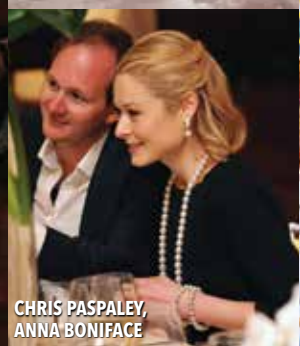
ANDREW BROWN, NICKY TINDILL, ROHAN GULL



BOB AND VAL OATLEY



ALICE QUIDDINGTON, XANTHE WETZLER



CHRIS PASPALEY, ANNA BONIFACE



TANJA GACIC



NICK SMITH, KERRIE MCCALLUM, ALYSSA MCCLELLAND



JO AND RICHARD BROUG



### Paspaley lunch

Poolside with Paspaley just seemed like the natural, and of course most glamorous, fit during Audi Hamilton Island Race Week. Guests enjoyed a menu laced with pearl meat and truffles prepared by Executive Chef, Alastair Waddell, all served at the pool at qualia's private Pebble Beach. Charles Heidsieck and Robert Oatley wines were matched with each course. Gorgeous 'pearl divers' retrieved numbered shells from the bottom of the pool for each guest and one lucky winner received a Paspaley Lavalier piece to take home. Jealous.



ELLE HALLIWELL, JUSTINE CULLEN





# My Island LIFE

## By Rohan Gull

HE HAS LIVED ON THE ISLAND SINCE HE WAS 15 YEARS OLD, AND NOW HE'S THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF HAMILTON ISLAND WEDDINGS. HERE HE SHARES HIS PASSION ... AND ALL THAT LOVE.



ROHAN GULL,  
ALL SAINTS CHAPEL

**O**n Anzac Day 1994, my mum, dad, sister and I arrived on Hamilton Island. We drove up from Noosa, with our car and my brother's Pantech truck filled with our worldly belongings. The trip over was on the Barge Samson, which still operates today as one of the primary means of getting goods to the island. A few months prior, my parents had come for a holiday. Dad was looking at the value of property, met the real estate agent and, before he knew it, we were buying Hamilton Island Weddings. It was a very small business then, mainly catering to Japanese couples

reaffirming their legal vows. But mum and dad saw potential. After many trips to Japan promoting Hamilton Island, the business started to grow very quickly. Since then we've undergone a huge transformation, now catering mainly to couples from various parts of Australia, and a smaller number from the UK, China and Europe. People often ask what the best thing is about a Hamilton Island wedding, and in my view it's two-fold: the couple's family and friends make a holiday of it and that changes the whole dynamic of a celebration. Secondly, it's the hard legwork and research we do. We have a great, hardworking

team here, who are dedicated to making each wedding a success. A fellow businessman on the island, David Stielow, has a saying: "It's the six Ps: Prior Preparation Prevents Piss-Poor Performance" and I always try to remember that! I was 15 when we moved here, so it was continue school or get a job. I decided on option two. My first official job was at Target Sports. Then I worked at the Photo Shop and when I was 17, did nights at the [old] Chinese restaurant, Tang Dynasty — there are still people on the island now that I would deliver Chinese to back in the day.

PORTRAIT BY JULIAN KINGMA.



SUNRISE WEDDING



BEACH WEDDING

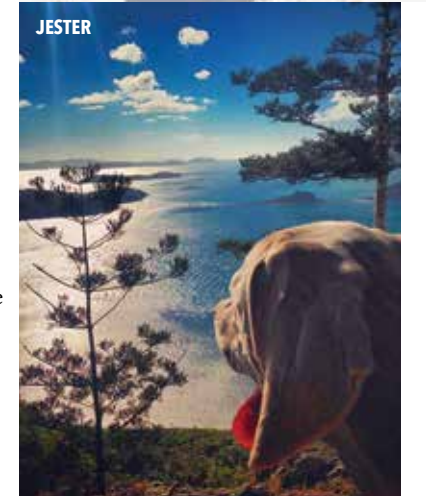
As soon as I was old enough, I started driving the wedding car, and trained up as a photographer and video cameraman. I've done just about every job in our business. I did have a year away in 2001 travelling, though. [When I came home], my parents started grooming me to take over the reins. They're in their 70s now and enjoying semi-retirement.

My parents owned a few properties on the island and I've moved four times in the 20 years I've been here. My favourite was the Spanish Villa — it was [Hamilton Island's previous owner] Keith Williams's palatial home and we lived there in the mid-to-late '90s. It's spectacular, in one of the best locations on Hamilton Island, overlooking the resort side and Catseye Bay and was built to host parties — my siblings and I made sure it didn't go to waste. Yacht Harbour Towers is a close-second: it's right between the marina and resort side, with awesome views and an open plan. I'm now living back in our original home, way up Great Northern Freeway. My family has bought and sold a few investment properties over the years, all of which have seen great returns. We still own a Coral Sea Apartment which we recently renovated and utilise as staff accommodation. Having a business here makes you personally invested in the success of the island. Significant changes began when the Oatley family purchased the island in 2003. Everything you see today is a reflection of their personal attention to every detail and passion for the community.

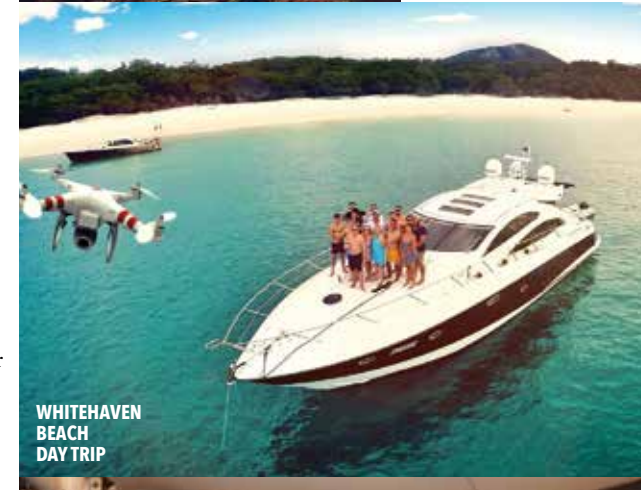
Above all though, friends are what really make this island a place I want to stay. I've met so many — I can go to almost any major city in the world and know someone I've met on Hamilton Island. The island has a way of bringing the best out in people: it relaxes them and breaks down the demographical walls that are so often set in society. It's not unusual to pop down to the Marina Tavern and find a billionaire, a TV personality or a sports star enjoying a beer and a laugh with the locals. Being such a close community, kids can feel safe here and have a freedom that doesn't exist in a lot of places. Although I don't have kids myself, I have seven nephews and nieces. My nephew

Zac grew up here. He recently graduated from university in Brisbane, and has started working for Hamilton Island's head office in Sydney. My other family was my dog, Jester. Sadly, he died of cancer earlier this year. Jester had a great life though — he had his own Instagram (@jestergull) and would get photos with visiting celebrities. He was in a hilarious scene with Edwina Bartholomew on Sunrise. Last year, Hamilton Island partnered with the show to give away a \$50,000 dream wedding. The couple were married live on air, Perfect Match host Greg Evans officiated, Kochie [David Koch] and Sam [Armytage] signed the register. Social life is a big part of living here — we take any opportunity for a celebration. Not taking full advantage would be a crime. I get up at about 5.30am and either hit the gym or take a run or walk up to Passage Peak — you never get sick of the view, or of reminding friends on Facebook or Instagram by posting pics. Anyone who sleeps in is missing the best part of the day. I have a couple of friends with boats so I've resisted the temptation to buy my own. There's no better place to be than the southern end of Whitehaven Beach, out of mobile range, with a cold beer, solving the problems of the world. Without a doubt, the best way anyone can propose is to fly over Whitehaven Beach in a helicopter — at the right moment, the helicopter will tilt and the pilot will point out "Will you marry me?" lovingly written on the beach. The [Hamilton Island] Golf Club Clubhouse is my favourite lunch spot when friends visit. It's my favourite reception venue, too — the views are second to none.

The best social week of the year is Audi Hamilton Island Race Week. I take the week off and I do get out on the water, although from a motor boat, sipping champagne and watching all the excitement rather than getting wet. I also enter the Hamilton Island Triathlon. Last year I heard Michael Klim needed a runner for his team and I couldn't resist — the fact I get to run these hills weekly gave me a bit of an unfair advantage. Needless to say, with Klim in the water, we won. I gave it a miss this year though — I'm ending my fleeting tri career on a high note.



JESTER



WHITEHAVEN BEACH DAY TRIP



ROHAN GULL WITH HIS MOTHER AND FATHER, DON AND JANET GULL



"TO SAY THIS IS A UNIQUE PLACE IS NOT AN EXAGGERATION ... THERE IS ALSO NOTHING LIKE THIS ON THE ISLAND."



## Hidden GEM

IMAGINE YOU ARE PRESENTED WITH A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY. WHAT DO YOU DO? TAKE IT, SAYS TRACEY WITHERS, IN AWE OF THE NEW DEVELOPMENT WITH IT'S MULTIPLE PROPERTY OPTIONS THAT'S COMING SOON.

**Y**ou may need to apply imagination — not many people have seen the tiny seam of sand that separates the Coral Sea from the green-covered land on the northwest edge of Hamilton Island. Even most of the islanders don't know it's there. "I've been here for 13 years now," says Wayne Singleton, Principal of Hamilton Island Real Estate and the local who actually gave Hidden Cove its name. "I'd never been down there." You can find it, if you look, down the end of a path that snakes from the development past tropical mangroves. It's something of a sanctuary. "The only other properties on the island that have private beaches are qualia resort and the Yacht Club Villas," Singleton says. "To say this is a very unique place is not an exaggeration."

This is also a rare moment, a big deal — and this is no overstatement, either. "The most recent new development on Hamilton Island was 2007, that was the last time there was an opportunity to buy a home or an investment off the plan like this," says Singleton. "There is nothing else like it on the island." There's nothing quite like Hidden Cove on any island, really. This low-impact project is set into and around one of the best spots in the Whitsundays, with award-winning building designer Burleigh Design, specialists in syncing with the Queensland environment since 1980, at its helm. "The beautiful thing about this location is not just the sense of seclusion; it's also the way

it gets that spectacular Dent Passage sunset without the intense heat some other places on the island have," says Singleton. There are only 22 homes here, on a land size that Singleton says would usually be planted with 57 units or residences. This is mid-density lifestyle at its best. Each semi is an "end" — big windows are angled to catch the light, the breeze, and invite the outside in. On the flipside, it's still all beautifully private. Each rooftop is about four metres below any behind it on the sloping land and all the views are long, uninterrupted and out across Dent Passage. Most are single-storey with 2 bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms, excepting the 3-4 bedroom homes on two levels, some with their own plunge pools. The entire property is hemmed by native gums and the rich green canopy of tropical pandanus trees, fragrant and flower-blooming. Undisturbed, original trees huddle in between homes. This place was not built to be obtrusive. There is, of course, the show-off, showcase pool which is an architect's trophy, for sure. It's huge, rather resort-glamorous with a cabana, and impressively sparkly. Perhaps to compete with all that natural blueness from sky and sea perhaps? Let's all picture ourselves in situ with a sundowner. How perfect. *Hidden Cove development is planned for completion by mid 2016. Contact Hamilton Island Real Estate on 07 4948 9101.*





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### Pavillions #22

1 Airport Drive, Hamilton Island

**FOR SALE. \$3,200,000**

Property size: 417sqm approx

This ground floor apartment is located in one of the island's most in-demand residential complexes and comprises a very private, bookend residency that offers the perfect blend of design and location, right on Hamilton Island Marina. The luxurious, modern single level apartment has three king bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms, a fourth bunk bedroom or separate office, state-of-the-art chef's kitchen, spacious living areas opening on to a sprawling terrace protected by bi-fold doors, a media room and fully ducted air-conditioning system. In addition to the luxurious interior, the apartment also boasts a private fenced swimming pool, a private 25 metre marina berth which is finite for this complex, and a four-seater buggy with private single buggy garage.

### Cooinda Gardens 1

14 Whitsunday Boulevard, Hamilton Island

**FOR SALE. \$1,295,000**

Property size: 306sqm

This sleek and contemporary townhouse is situated in a peaceful setting in the northern precinct of Hamilton Island, with a backdrop of stunning north-east Coral Sea views across to Whitsunday Island. The spacious interior is framed by large windows over two levels, promoting a seamless flow of indoor and outdoor spaces. High vaulted ceilings and a fresh, light décor enhance the sense of space throughout. On the upper level you'll find the master bedroom complete with ensuite and spa bath, a vast open plan living and dining area, and a fully-equipped kitchen overlooking one of the entertainer's balconies. Downstairs there are three bedrooms, two stylish bathrooms, an additional outdoor patio area and lock-up garage. Together with a resort side pool within the complex, the potential for holiday letting is enormous, making this an attractive choice for families or large groups travelling together.



4 🏠 3.5 🚗 1 🚗

### Barrier Reef House

6 Marina Terrace, Hamilton Island

**FOR SALE. \$2,600,000**

Property size: 474sqm land area

The modern Barrier Reef House is elevated high on Marina Terrace with panoramic views across Hamilton Island Marina and beyond. Entry via a glass foyer leads into the main expansive living area, that comprises an oversized kitchen and dining area plus cosy living room that flows to the shaded balcony area, where you can spend the days watching the boats come and go from one of the best vantage points on the island. Bedrooms are located upstairs, master with its own ensuite, all capturing the stunning views. The lower level boasts an additional sitting area or entertaining room that leads to a generous pool and patio area. This stylish and modern home provides the perfect holiday retreat.



4 🏠 5 🚗 1 🚗



2 🏠 2.5 🚗 1 🚗

### Shorelines 12

5 Acacia Drive, Hamilton Island

**FOR SALE. \$950,000**

Property size: 156sqm

Shorelines Apartment 12 is an end unit, designed in a townhouse-style with your own personal lock-up storage room. This property also comes fully furnished and with your own electric golf buggy. The vendors have kept it in magnificent condition with the presentation very pleasing to the eye, a modern design and furniture. The unit also has incredible sweeping views over Dent Passage and beyond. Consistently strong rental returns make this a wonderful opportunity for an astute investor.





2 2 1

### Frangipani 203

20 Resort Drive, Hamilton Island

**FOR SALE. OFFERS FROM \$800,000**

Property size: 127.5sqm

This recently renovated apartment is impeccably contemporary and ready for a new owner. The ever popular Frangipani complex is north-facing, single level and beachfront — all the characteristics that make for a perfect family apartment. With resort facilities at your doorstep and direct access to Catesye Beach, the location guarantees a relaxing holiday for you and your guests. The solidly constructed apartment comprises two bedrooms, two bathrooms and an open plan living/dining area that captures the summer breeze and winter sun and leads to an inviting outdoor covered balcony. Frangipani 203 is irreplaceable and sure to be snapped up by a diligent purchaser soon.

bathrooms and an open plan living/dining area that captures the summer breeze and winter sun and leads to an inviting outdoor covered balcony. Frangipani 203 is irreplaceable and sure to be snapped up by a diligent purchaser soon.

### Whitsunday Apartment CA 605

14 Resort Drive, Hamilton Island

**FOR SALE. OFFERS FROM \$320,000**

Property size: 84.36sqm

This 6th floor apartment has stunning panoramic sea and island views over Catesye Beach. North facing and located in the heart of the resort area, Whitsunday Apartment CA 605 has a grand reception area, complex pool and manicured gardens. Its beachfront position means everything you need in a holiday property is right at your doorstep. Whitsunday Apartments are all about location and simplicity. With a long term tenant looking to extend their lease for a further two years, this property is also priced to sell, so an inspection is a must.



1 1

**PROPERTY SALES: CONTACT WAYNE SINGLETON 0416 024 168**

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**Yacht Club Villa #30**

HOLIDAY RENTALS. FROM \$890 PER NIGHT

4 4 1

Maximum capacity: 8 people

This gracefully positioned villa stands in the highest point of the Yacht Club Villa complex, commanding panoramic ocean views. The design emphasis is on privacy and space and the villa includes a modern kitchen, open plan lounge and dining rooms and ducted air-conditioning. The location is quiet and private, but just a short stroll to the marina, with an array of restaurants and retail experiences. A waterfront lagoon pool, walking paths and a private buggy for guest use means it offers everything you would expect from a luxury holiday villa.



**The Edge #13**

HOLIDAY RENTALS. FROM \$630 PER NIGHT

3 2 1

Maximum capacity: 6 people

Positioned right on the edge of Dent Passage, you will find this ground floor, corner apartment, which offers its guests complete privacy and 180-degree views. The apartment also boasts a modern kitchen with Smeg and Ilve appliances, wine and bar fridge and dishwasher, as well as an expansive outdoor entertaining balcony, complete with barbecue. All bedrooms have a TV and mirrored robes, the master suite with its own private balcony and ensuite with an oversized bath. This property would suit a family or three couples looking for an executive island getaway.



**Hibiscus Lodge #203**

HOLIDAY RENTALS. FROM \$412 PER NIGHT

2 2 1

Maximum capacity: 7 people

This fully-renovated top-floor apartment is located at the sought after resort side location of Hamilton Island, directly opposite Catseye Beach. A new kitchen, bathrooms and floors makes it the perfect retreat for a couple or small family. Enter into the large open plan family area, which opens out onto a large covered balcony overlooking the ocean, lawns and complex pool area. Entertaining on the balcony is made easy, with a barbeque, outside table setting and sun lounges. A perfect location and great fresh furnishings.



**Panorama #4**

HOLIDAY RENTALS. FROM \$331 PER NIGHT

2 2 1

Maximum capacity: 6 people

This two storey property provides open plan living at its best, with a large living area opening out to a generous balcony, which captures the charming views of the Whitsunday Islands and surrounding tropical bushland. Panorama #4 is air-conditioned throughout and also boasts a fully equipped kitchen and master bedroom with its own private balcony and ensuite. Ideally located and only a short buggy ride to the Hamilton Island Marina, shops, restaurants and activities.

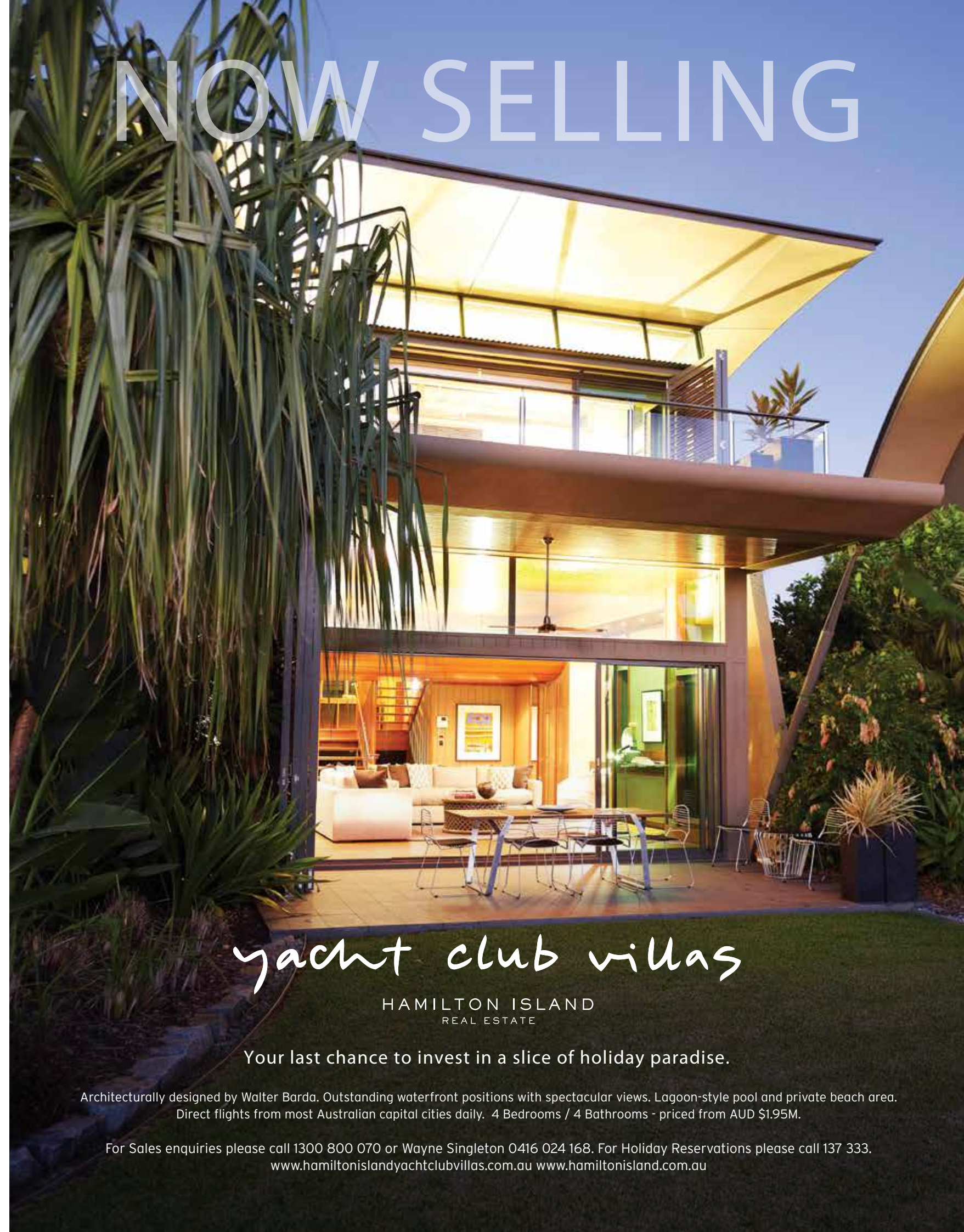
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