

travelnews

EDITED BY EMMA VENTURA

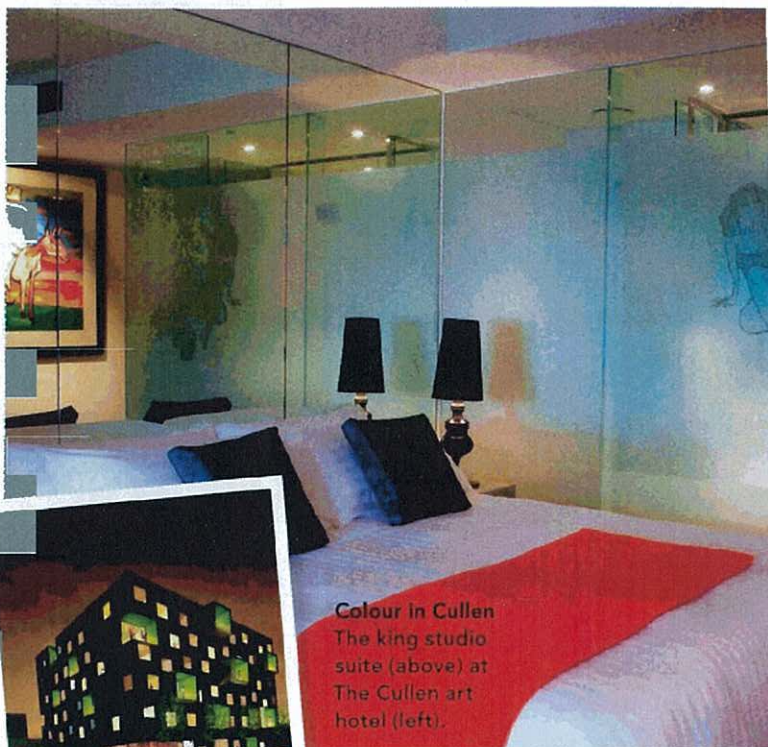
WHERE TO BE & WHAT TO SEE AROUND THE WORLD

THE NEW ARTISTS' QUARTER

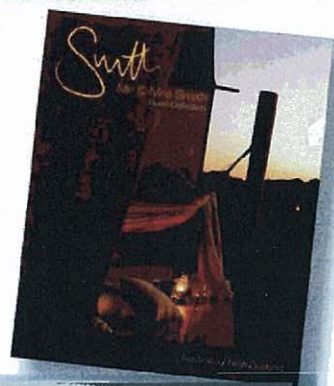
New Melbourne hotels set to paint the town... white.

MELBOURNE The venerable Australian artist John Olsen showed no hint of irony at a recent lunch when he compared the Deague family to the Borgias, the infamous art patrons of the Italian Renaissance. By developing a range of art-themed hotels honouring major local painters – and spending vast sums on collecting local talent – the Deagues were single-handedly fuelling a renaissance in Australian art, Olsen suggested. Judge for yourself this month by visiting the just-opened Cullen hotel in Melbourne's preening heartland of Prahran. Named after the Archibald-winning Adam Cullen, the 113-room hotel will be decorated with the artist's paintings and sculpture.

In March, the flagship 239-room Olsen hotel will debut around the corner in Chapel Street near Toorak Road. Architects Rothe Lowman have swathed the exterior of the 15-storey hotel with opaque white glass, like a blank canvas. The Blackman is set for a July launch on St Kilda Road, with others including The Knight and The Larwill to follow, all in Melbourne. artserieshotels.com.au KENDALL HILL



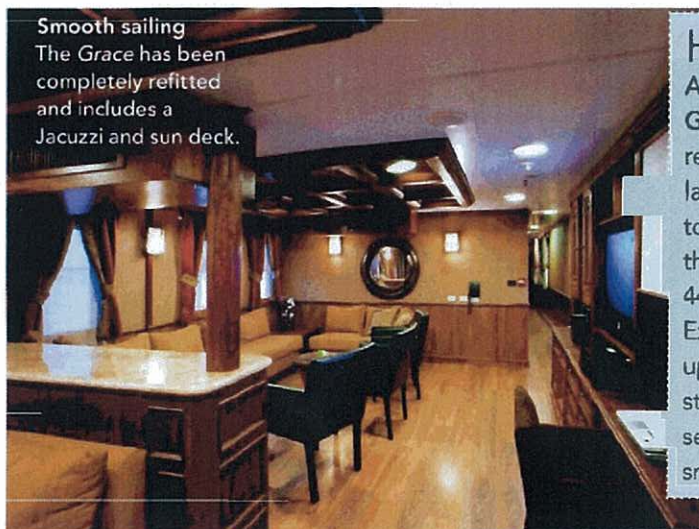
Colour in Cullen
The king studio suite (above) at The Cullen art hotel (left).



For 30 of the best boutique properties, pick up the new *Mr & Mrs Smith Hotel Collection: Australia and New Zealand*, \$45, with reviews from the likes of chef Christine Manfield and actor Sigrid Thornton and photography by Earl Carter. mrandmrsmith.com

Smooth sailing

The *Grace* has been completely refitted and includes a Jacuzzi and sun deck.



HISTORY WITH GRACE

A grand old cruiser is reinvented to honour its glory days.

GALAPAGOS Commissioned in England in 1928, requisitioned by the British Royal Navy in World War II, and later presented as a wedding gift from Aristotle Onassis to Prince Rainier III of Monaco and his bride Grace Kelly, there's no doubting the pedigree of *M/Y Grace*. Now, this 44-metre luxury yacht cruises the Galápagos with Quasar Expeditions. Totally renovated, *Grace* accommodates up to 16 passengers in nine staterooms. Voyages, starting in San Cristóbal, are from \$5400 per person for seven nights' accommodation, including all meals and snorkelling gear. galapagosexpeditions.com ED PETERS