

# QANTAS

Spirit of Australia

Made in China

The business travellers' guide to bustling Beijing

Could you cut it?

The wellness retreat that's big on tough love

A beautiful life

From Amalfi wine to the most *deliziosa* pizza in Naples



S P E C I A L I S S U E

## 52 Romantic getaways around Australia



## Longitude 131°

📍 Yulara, NT

🌐 longitude131.com.au

Watch nature's spectacular dawn show unfold in the rugged spiritual centre of Australia – without even lifting your head off the pillow. You're in one of 15 luxury tents at Longitude 131° with dress-circle views of Uluru. Before sunrise, the monolith looks like a lonely hulk sleeping in the distance but turns a mass of burning orange as soon as rays bathe its weather-beaten surface. If you want to get closer, join an early-morning excursion to learn about the sacred rock's geology and its connection to the Anangu people, the traditional owners. Back at the lodge, enjoy the dining and lounge area – with its soaring tent-like canopy and open bar – or indulge in a hot-stone massage at the Red Ochre Spa.



### Romance factor

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

**Dining** Meals are taken in Dune House and the menu incorporates modern-Australian dishes and indigenous ingredients, from fresh pastries at breakfast to a five-course dégustation for dinner. For an additional fee, you can dine at a table set up on a nearby dune.

**You'll love this...** Lie in bed with a white-fabric canopy above and the resplendent red Uluru out front. AA

## Desiderata

📍 Kangaroo Valley, NSW

🌐 desideratakangaroovalley.com.au

Can a sprawling family holiday home that spruiks its kid-friendliness tick the romance box as well? You bet. First step: remove all children. Then pour yourself a drink, light the wood fire and drop into one of two big comfy sofas that face off in the vast, warm open-plan living room. If the weather is mild, slide open the bi-fold doors and watch the setting sun perform magic tricks on the escarpment, turning its emerald-green façade ochre before fading to grey. The home sits on four lush hectares that sustain five goats, several fruit trees and a vegie patch. The main bedroom has a king bed (with 1000-thread-count Egyptian cotton sheets), a walk-in wardrobe and a dreamy wraparound rural panorama. Sure, you can feel a little friendless perched at the end of the solid 10-seater dining table but two's company, 10's a crowd, right?



### Romance factor

♥ ♥ ♥

**Dining** The home is self-catering, with an alfresco dining area housing a built-in gas barbecue, wine fridge and sink – all surrounded by remote-controlled flyscreens. It's tempting to eat in rather than drive to the village. But, having said that, The General café and restaurant (151 Moss Vale Road, Kangaroo Valley) is five minutes away and a gem (it's open Friday to Monday).

**You'll love this...** The silence is broken only by birdsong. DW

