



**GOING PLACES JOHN ROZENTALS**

**SYDNEY SECRET**

Having just stayed at Sydney's Observatory Hotel, I'm hardly surprised that it made the 2012 Gold List in America's prestigious *Condé Nast Traveler* magazine (the only Australian property to do so). A quiet residential location a few minutes from the CBD, meticulous attention to detail, an outstanding restaurant and vast heated pool add up to a memorable experience. Pay from \$365 a couple per night for a bed-and-breakfast package, including fruit platter and day-spa access. Details: 9256 2222 or [observatoryhotel.com.au](http://observatoryhotel.com.au).

**EUROPE FLIGHT DEAL**

Fly to Europe on full-service Emirates for rates from \$1862 return ex-Sydney. Book by February 17 for travel between February 1 and November 30. Includes taxes, no online booking fees. Deals are available to 24 destinations in Europe, including Amsterdam, Paris, Rome, Copenhagen, Frankfurt and Venice, and five in the UK. Details: [directflights.com.au](http://directflights.com.au).

**MACAU'S DRAWCARDS**

The tiny former Portuguese colony of Macau has packed its 2012 calendar with a feast of festivals, starting in late January

with the Chinese New Year celebrations and including such internationally renowned events such as Macau Food Festival, the Macau International Dragon Boat Races and the Macau International Fireworks Display Contest. There's also the Feast of the Bathing Buddha, the Feast of the Drunken Dragon and the Feast of Hungry Ghosts. Details: [macautourism.gov.mo](http://macautourism.gov.mo).

**GET WET IN JAPAN**

Immerse yourself in Japanese culture on one of Toursgallery's five 2012 packages that include visits to spa baths of all kinds; indoor steam rooms, waterfall-fed rockpools and rooftop spas with views over Mt Fuji. From \$5880 a person twin-share for a 10-day tour. Details: 1300 307 317 or [toursgallery.com](http://toursgallery.com).

**PHILLIP ISLAND CABINS**

Enjoy Phillip Island's summer activities basing yourself in a two-bedroom deluxe cabin at Anchor Belle Holiday Park. Cost for two adults and two children is \$1000 for five nights. The cabins are amid two hectares of bush 100 metres from the beach in the island township of Cowes. Details: (03) 5952 2258 or [anchorbelle.com.au](http://anchorbelle.com.au).



**HIDDEN GEM:** There's plenty of room to splash about in the pool in the Observatory Hotel's Day Spa in Sydney. **PICTURE: SANDRA BURN WHITE**