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Australian Traveller

HONESTLY AUSTRALIAN

SPECIAL REPORT

**HOT 2009
HOTELS**

Who made the grade?

+

**TRAVEL
IN STYLE**
Melissa Hoyer
in residence

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TASMANIA



VERDICTS ON OUR FAVOURITE 2007/08 PICKS

THE LODGE AT TARRALEAH

Last year we described The Lodge at Tarraleah as “the centrepiece of Tarraleah Village”, and a place that plays on its highland heritage by embracing a Scottish theme. (And 300 wines, 120 malts, excellent trout fishing, a lofty golf course and “highland cattle grazing out front” is what we call “embracing”). AT has since received extremely positive reports on the world-class standard of the food and service – and although it’s difficult to compete to with other Tasmanian heavyweights like Cradle Mountain Lodge when it comes to natural surrounds, it seems you definitely get more than your money’s worth at the luxury restored art deco outpost. Wild River Rd, Tarraleah, (03) 6289 1199, www.tarraleahlodge.com

BRAND NEW FOR 2008/09 D’ENTRECASTEAUX

There’s no need to spend a few thousand dollars flying to a secluded village in France just so you can stay in an exquisite château. Named after Antoine Raymond Joseph de Bruni D’Entrecasteaux, who explored Australia’s coastline in search of La Pérouse’s ill-fated expedition, this boutique hotel around 15min south of Hobart brings unsurpassed savoir vivre to the Apple Isle. Open the French doors onto the balcony and admire the wonderful views overlooking the beautiful gardens, courtyard and nearby D’Entrecasteaux Channel. Oh la la, c’est magnifique! From \$275, Howden Rd, Howden, (03) 6267 1161, www.dentrecasteaux.com

TALIA HOUSE

This luxurious country house is so exclusive, even our Kylie would be able to relax here. And the two bedrooms’ French furniture would make her feel

right at home. Organic breakfast provisions and reliable German appliances also cater to the jet set’s exclusive tastes, but at affordable prices. The private eight-acre property’s elevated positioning and wraparound verandah mean you’ll be treated to first-class Hion Valley water and mountain views.

And the country house’s high-powered in-house telescope will give you a totally different star gazing opportunity. From \$500, Airds Rd, Wartle Grove, 0400 224 836, www.villatalia.com.au

HARGATE GUESTHOUSE

The name mightn’t sound overly French, and from the outside it looks like a traditional Queen Anne Federation-style house, but this heritage-listed five star guesthouse follows the Tassie trend to French *chic à l’intérieur* – and champagne breakfast to warm you from the inside out. A personalised butler service, monthly high tea and quarterly exclusive silver service wine and dinner evenings add to the continental

feel. With only three bedrooms and stunning views over the nearby Tamar Valley and River, this is another highly exclusive Tassie property for the discerning guest that’s well worth a visit. From \$290, George St, Launceston, (03) 6334 7063, www.hargate.com.au

TARKINE HOTEL AT CORINNA

Located in an old mining town in the Tarkine wilderness, this former drinking hole for thirsty pioneers has been transformed into a retreat for relaxation-hungry citysiders – 110 years after the last pint was poured. Originally restored miner’s cottages, river cruiser *Aradia II* and 14 retreats are all tucked away in one of Australia’s last untouched wilderness regions. It’s a great spot to enjoy a self-cooked meal out on the verandah or relax in front of your own log fire. Don’t let the rustic feel fool you; you’ll find all the trappings of modern living. From \$175, Main Rd, Corinna, (03) 6446 1170, www.corinna.com.au

There’s no need to spend a few thousand dollars flying to a secluded village in France just so you can stay in an exquisite château.

LEFT // D’Entrecasteaux

LEFT // A lofty open fireplace inside the exquisitely French D’Entrecasteaux just south of Hobart.