

SCENE STEALERS

Cool cats we've got the hots for



MISS CLARA STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

Ever wondered where those ultra-chic Stockholm types – the ones with pale skin and paler hair and perfectly asymmetrical outfits – hang out? They're here. Probably with Tilda Swinton. Miss Clara, an old girls' school, applies a headmistress's sense of order to a minimalist-cool art-deco design. Elegant high ceilings, hushed lighting and neat-as-a-pin staff bring just the right amount of Ingrid Bergman grace. With dark-wood floorboards, strict leather details and oversized windows allowing the crystalline Swedish light to pour on in, the rooms are perfect for not doing your homework. Scoot down the original 1910 staircase for a Blood & Sand cocktail, then into the restaurant for a plate of toast Skagen (shrimps in dill and mayonnaise on butter-fried rye bread) or herring with olive oil and lemon. Bedtime can be whenever – Miss Clara has spoken.

BOOK IT DOUBLE, FROM £140 (MISSCLARAHOTEL.COM; 00 46 8 440 67 00). NORWEGIAN FLIES DAILY FROM LONDON GATWICK TO STOCKHOLM FROM £68 (NORWEGIAN.COM).

1888 HOTEL SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Sydney hotels tend to be either stodgy behemoths or a bit Boutique Try Hard. So a big g'day to this cheeky charmer in dockside Pyrmont, elegantly carved out of a listed one-time wool warehouse dating from... guess when? It's very industrial Victoriana – iron-and-timber beams, bare bricks, giant hoists – coolly counterpointed with trippy artwork, retro-y furniture, eff-off-huge flatscreens and iPads galore. It's groovy but grown-up, fashionable but friendly. And rather frolicsome too. Top choice is the two-level, let's-whoop-it-up Williamson Suite, with its own bar, tub big enough for 10 and private entrance. And for those whose egos need a stroke, there's a giant digital-picture frame in the lobby – stand behind it, snap a selfie and gaze at yourself gurning down from the wall. It's a scene.



BOOK IT DOUBLE, FROM £95 (1888HOTEL.COM.AU; 00 61 2 8586 1888). QANTAS FLIES DAILY FROM LONDON HEATHROW TO SYDNEY FROM £1,020 (QANTAS.COM).



BOOK IT DOUBLE, FROM £125 (ACEHOTEL.COM; 00 507 211 2000).

AMERICAN TRADE HOTEL

PANAMA CITY, PANAMA

Foreign money may be flowing into Panama's skyscraper-filled downtown faster than water through that canal (it turned the big 100 in 2014, dontcha know), but the smart visitors know the Casco Viejo (old town) is where it's at. Here, amid the French-influenced architecture, moody bars and crumbling mansions, you could be in Havana or New Orleans. And now the area has its first truly sexy place to stay, the 50-room American Trade Hotel. Set up by those clever chaps behind the Ace brand, it's housed in one of the neighbourhood's most beautiful buildings, which has served as a department store, an apartment block and even a local gang hangout. Rooms have reclaimed hardwood floors and kaleidoscopically tiled bathrooms – nab a corner suite for the best views of the city. There's a rooftop pool, a farm-to-table restaurant and a well-stocked library. And when the sun sets, you can slink off to the hotel's jazz club and spend a few dreamy hours with Panama's heppiest guys 'n' gals.