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my favourite...
FREEBIE



'You get **four free bottles of local wine** — yes, four

— in your room every day in The Guesthouse Vienna. It's **not even one of those super-pricey** all-inclusive spots; here, gorgeous rooms start at just £170, room only (the guest house, at). **Alicia Miller, assistant editor**



my favourite...
IN-FLIGHT MEAL



'**Kumara? Hapuka?**

You know you're not

on just any old faceless international airline once the food trolley comes round on an **Air New Zealand** flight. Save room for the mini Crosstown doughnuts on the leg from London: they're worth the calories (airnewzealand.co.uk). **Ed Grenby, editor**



my favourite...
GRAFFITI



'You don't need to visit a gallery in **Melbourne**

— the art is all there on the walls of buildings, right in the centre. **Pop Art, Banksy-alikes, Ganesh-meets-Bart Simpson cartoons**, psychedelic patterns... There's real talent on the city's back streets.' **Liz Edwards, associate editor**



my favourite...
TURNDOWN GIFT



'The lovely **beribboned book** in my room at the

Grand Hotel Tremezzo, Lake Como. It contains the **diaries of the great-grandmother** of the family, who writes beautifully of the hotel's early years (grandhoteltremezzo.com; doubles from £318, B&B). **Lucy Thackray, commissioning editor**



The best... Brunches

It's (sort of) the most important meal of the day. Especially in New York, where we love to head to **Clinton Street Baking** on the Lower East Side. Thought blueberry pancakes couldn't get any naughtier? Try them here with warm maple butter (below; clintonstreetbaking.com).

When it comes to weekend brunch in London, the unconventionally fabulous **Berber & Q** in Hackney pulls a slam-dunk every time. Instead of fry-ups, expect Turkish poached eggs with fresh yoghurt and paprika, *shakshuka* (eggs poached in tomato-chilli sauce) with a killer red pepper jam, and epic cocktails and lemonades (berberandq.com).

Talking of epic, just look at **Al Qasr** in Dubai: rearing gold Arabian horses guard its entrance, while blue marble and vast chandeliers lie within. Down the sweeping staircase, Friday's all-you-can-eat-and-drink spreads last into the evening, with everything from sushi to Spanish cheeses, stir-fries to

chocolate fountains. If you want alcohol included, it's £105 a head — which seems pricey, but it really is an entire day out (jumeirah.com).

In Tulum, we had the best *huevos rancheros* ever at **Zamas**. It's not just the huge portions, crunchy tortillas, perfectly seasoned beans, just-so fried eggs, zingy salsa or even the creamy avocado. What makes it special is that you can eat slowly, sitting in the shade of a wooden deck by the beach, with a lazy monitor lizard basking on the rocks for company (zamas.com).

In Prague, brunch at **Radost FX** is expat-arama — everywhere Americans scribble furiously in battered Moleskines, pretending they're the next Hemingway. The atmosphere is the best bit, but we never say no to its 'honeymooner', either — homemade waffles with fresh fruit and whipped cream, home fries on the side, and two glasses of Champagne to wash it all down (radostfx.cz).



Our big
Brilliant
hotel chains

The urban one: Ritz-Carlton The service is spookily good — the staff know your name before you've opened your taxi door — and we're *big* fans of the Club Floor. Rooms on that level get a private lounge, with food and drink, included in the rate (ritzcarlton.com).

The each-unique one: Belmond With the likes of Portofino's elegant bay-view Hotel Splendido and Mallorca's trance-inducing La Residencia being part of the brand, Belmond is a stunning collection of one-off icons, not a factory-line product (belmond.com).

The budget one: Motel One (right) Rooms may typically cost less than £75 a night, but with their stylish design and clean, fresh interiors (not to mention the spot-on locations, usually near major train stations), they feel as if they're worth far more (motel-one.com).

