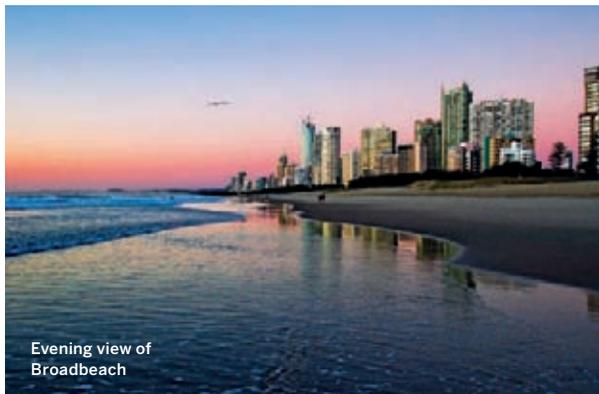


Gold Coast



Evening view of Broadbeach

INSIDER TIP

Every second and fourth Friday of the month, **Sanctuary Cove** screens free family movies on the Village Green. Grab a picnic blanket or beach towel and enjoy cinema under the stars. tel: +61 (0)7 557 7650, www.sanctuarycove.com

SHOP TALK

It's unlikely that any modern-day Beatles equivalent will ever sing about being a Kindle book writer, not least because there's something old school and relaxing about having a paperback in your hands. Home to a great range of popular and classic books, **The Village Book Exchange** is the place to buy your holiday reading... and they'll even buy it back. Cnr Connor St and Park Ave, Burleigh Head, tel: +61 (0)7 5535 9466

CHEAP EATS

It can be tough to find a truly tasty cup of java, but **Quest Organic Coffee** makes it easy. Beyond serving up organic coffee, Quest caters for your non-caffeinated needs with home-made cakes and decadent brownies. A friendly staff seals the deal. 3/20 James St, Burleigh Heads, tel: +61 (0)7 5535 2959, www.questcoffee.com.au

TOP TABLES

With a name like **Milan on Main**, it's only natural that this popular eatery serves Mediterranean-inspired meals – which complement the relaxed coastal vibe. Meals are served from breakfast through to dinner so you never have to leave. 4/14-16 Teddar Ave, Main Beach, tel: +61 (0)7 5528 3777, www.milanonmain.com.au 🍷

AT YOUR LEISURE

Does a little bit of the blues lift your spirits? Then get along to the 11th annual **Blues on Broadbeach** music festival from 24–27 May. Four outdoor stages and dozens of performers ensure that the blues fall down like rain. tel: +61 (0)7 5539 8416, www.bluesonbroadbeach.com

LATE & LIVELY

It has been around in one form or another since 1925 and these days **The Surfers Beergarden** is known for its raucous atmosphere, live music and lively crowd. Cavill Ave, Surfers Paradise, tel: +61 (0)7 5570 1322, www.surfersbeergarden.com.au

OVERNIGHT

Nestled in a range of peaks behind the Gold Coast, **Binna Burra Mountain Lodge** is a tourism icon. The famed mountain lodge has just launched 18 new luxury apartments capable of sleeping up to 10 people each. Enjoy World Heritage-listed Lamington National Park or just drink in the spectacular views from your room. Binna Burra Rd, Beechmont, tel: 1300 246622, www.binnaburrallodge.com.au 🍷

Melbourne



Riverland Bar next to the Yarra River

INSIDER TIP

Look out for **Melbourne's City Ambassadors** in their distinctive red uniforms. They're always on hand to answer your queries and can be found mainly along Swanston St.

SHOP TALK

Buckets of organic fair-trade coffee beans at the entrance, rich dark-chocolate blends from far-flung locales towards the back, and a hidden café in a narrow lane that's accessible via the side door. It should come as no surprise that people tend to spend hours at **Jaspers**. 267 Brunswick St, Fitzroy, tel: +61 (0)9 416 0921, www.jaspercoffee.com

CHEAP EATS

Burgers are all the rage at the moment and **Huxtaburger** is the latest hipster-friendly grill joint that has people queueing in the street. Five types are named after characters from '80s TV classic *The Cosby Show* including The Denise ("the hot one") with jalapeño and sriracha mayo. It's mealtime bliss in the form of hot Wagyu beef and cold beer. 106 Smith St, Collingwood, tel: +61 (0)3 9419 5101, www.huxtaburger.com.au

TOP TABLES

Look away vegetarians. Named after Buenos Aires' most colourful suburb, **San Telmo** and its 2.5m *parrilla* (char grill) has gained a reputation for grilling some of Melbourne's most succulent meats. Set in a serene laneway, this castellano-style restaurant is not to be missed. Try the slow-cooked lamb on Sundays. 14 Meyers Pl, tel: +61 (0)3 9650 5525, www.santelmo.com.au 🍷

AT YOUR LEISURE

After bursting on to the scene last year, **Good Beer Week** returns to Melbourne from 12–19 May with one-of-a-kind brews, tours, dinners, guests from across the globe and many more excuses to wet your whistle. www.goodbeerweek.com

LATE & LIVELY

Founded in 1842, the **Retreat** is one of Melbourne's best live music venues. Filled with little nooks, the front bar is ideal for folk, the large band room/restaurant for something louder and the beer garden out back for a breather. 280 Sydney Rd, Brunswick, tel: +61 (0)3 9380 4090, www.retreathotelbrunswick.com.au

OVERNIGHT

Punt Hill Little Bourke is not just about the excellent service and spacious rooms, it's also about the location. It's seconds to Chinatown, a minute to Melbourne's theatres and a short walk to the city's cosmopolitan laneways. 11-17 Cohen Pl, tel: 1300 731299, www.punthill.com.au 🍷