

CLARION HOTEL SOHO
 264 Flinders Street, Adelaide,
 South Australia. (08) 8412 5600.
www.clarionhotelsoho.com.au

Paris meets New York in a funky narrow boutique hotel. The industrial finish blends orange metallic panels, stainless-steel, mesh, timber grills and noir-ish lighting. There's a dinky plunge pool on the top, a meeting room and the fine-dining Decant restaurant at street level. It's a bit of a hike to North Terrace festival action, but well-placed for WOMADelaide, the East Rundle hip zone and the Clipsal 500 V8s. Studios from \$225; spa suit from \$295.

ALLAWAH RETREAT
 355 Marnane Road, Tolga,
 Queensland. (07) 4095 4900.
www.allawah-retreat.com.au

This is the perfect base from which to explore the historic and natural attractions of the Atherton Tableland. Four self-contained luxury lodges set amid native bush with panoramic views across to the mountains just an hour from Cairns. Explore the walking trails, spot a wallaby, soak in the spa or just relax into the serenity. From \$250 per night/couple (two-night minimum) includes daily breakfast hamper.

Clarion Hotel
 Soho, Adelaide



ask the concierge...

Kathryn Branson

Eichardt's Private Hotel, Queenstown, NZ

■ **The restaurant that best shows off Queenstown is...** Wai, on the Steamer Wharf, with great Lake Wakatipu views and the best of what New Zealand and Central Otago have to offer.

■ **For designer fashion I steer guests towards...** Angel Divine, which has the best NZ designer labels such as Karen Walker and Helen Cherry.

■ **For the perfect gift/memento I'd shop at...** Kapa for beautiful, locally handmade jewellery by Ashley Hilton and loads of other Kiwiana treasures.

■ **Couples wanting a romantic dinner for two should consider...** a private dining room with your own open fireplace at Botswana Butchery.

■ **Don't leave without seeing...** Milford Sound by helicopter, with landings at a glacier and Lake Quill.

■ **Queenstown's best-kept secret is...** Branches Station, a 36,400ha high-country station: hiking, mountain-biking, gold-panning and gourmet lunch (with Central Otago pinot).

■ **If I were a visitor with a free day I would...** take a brisk early walk up Queenstown Hill to watch the sunrise, then return to town for breakfast. Visit Arrowtown to explore local history and check out the stores, have lunch at either Saffron or The Postmaster's House. Then perhaps a round of golf at The Hills, home of the NZ Open; or return to Queenstown and sample a local boutique beer with fish and chips from Aggy's Shack. Finish with an Eichardt's Mule cocktail at Eichardt's.