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Tas you like it

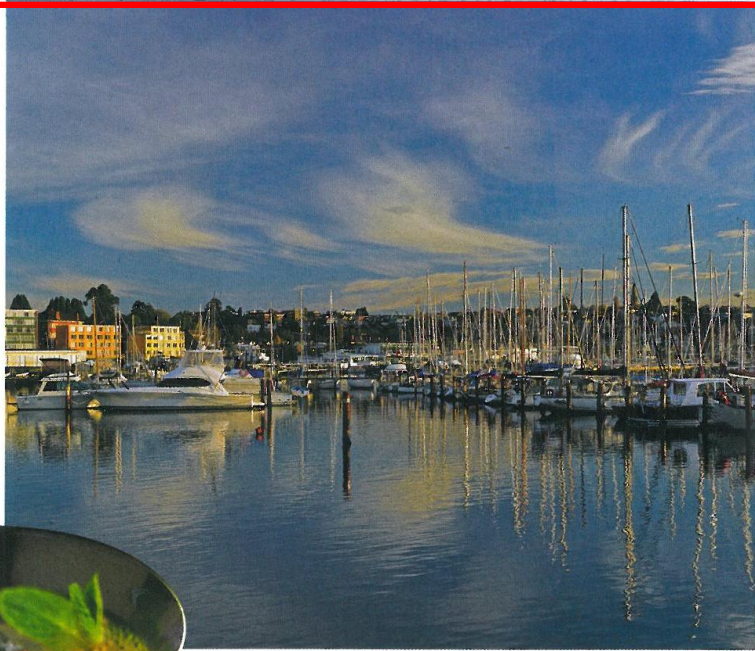
Down Under it might be – but Tasmania is very much on the up. At the heart of the buzz is Hobart, the capital. It's a city with gourmet seafood, prize-winning booze and a spectacular £113 million art museum, MONA. If you fancy heading out into the island's pure wilderness, it's an ideal base.

DO Hungry walkers will gobble up Gourmania's morning tours (www.gourmaniafoodtours.com.au; £80pp); you'll get to sample Hobart's artisan cheeses, charcuterie and wines. Head south to explore bewitching, forested Bruny Island and enjoy its famous oysters and fruity Pinot (www.brunyislandlongweekend.com.au).

EAT Hobart's hip farm-to-plate wine bar Garagistes (www.garagistes.com.au; mains around £16) makes gastronomic and oenophilic

waves from its kitchens, set within a disused garage, while the nearby Agrarian Kitchen (www.theagrariankitchen.com) can deliver bonanza day-long classes at its farm-based cooking school (from £227).

GET ME THERE Wexas Travel (020 7590 0610, www.wexas.com) can package up an eight-day 'Tasmania Food & Wine Trail' from £2,875pp, B&B, including accommodation at hotels such as the Regency-style Islington in Hobart, plus flights from Heathrow and car hire.

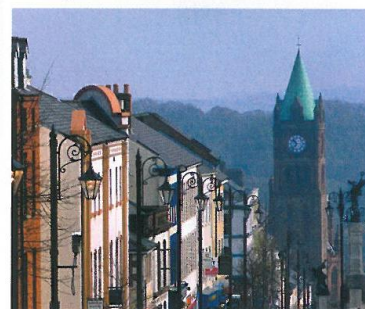


HIP SIP HOORAY

America's best bars are switching to **seasonal cocktail ingredients**. LA's farm-to-bar movement sees mixologists at Copa d'Oro (www.copadoro.com) and The Library Bar (www.librarybarla.com) seeking inspiration at farmers' markets. In NYC, The Vanderbilt (www.thevanderbiltnyc.com) has the Hudson Buck, with apple molasses, while Henry Public (www.henrypublic.com) has a Two-Cents Fancy, with pears, tarragon honey and Champagne. In London, try Ruby's (www.rubysdalston.com) and The Rookery (www.therookeryclapham.co.uk).



Piazas, smart new shops and museums by the dozen... The once-Troubled city of Derry-Londonderry is glamorously ready to step into its role as the UK's first City of Culture (www.cityofculture2013.com). Add it to your Irish wish list now...



SEE Northern Ireland's conflict-riven history is everywhere here, from the Bogside murals to the fully intact city walls, built 400 years ago to keep Catholics at bay. City Tours offers guided walks (www.derrycitytours.com; £4). A rich programme of cultural events runs throughout the year; a highlight will be the Turner Prize exhibition (Ebrington Sq; Oct 2013-Jan 2014) – the first time it's been held outside England.

EAT New cafes and restaurants are sprouting up all over. Try the seafood at town-centre Browns (www.brownsrestaurant.com; mains around £16), a cosy Champagne lounge.

STAY Try elegant Beech Hill (www.beech-hill.com; doubles from £85, B&B), just outside town.

GET ME THERE Ryanair (www.ryanair.com) has returns from Stansted from £46. >



HONESTY BARS – ISN'T SERVICE SORT OF THE POINT OF GOING TO A FANCY HOTEL?