

Comfort zone:
the Grace
Darling Hotel

WEEKEND IN MELBOURNE

THERE is a theory that culture thrives in cold places. Think London, Paris, New York and our very own Melbourne, where long winters produce a creative indoors buzz that allows art, theatre, music, fashion, bars and food to flourish.

And Melbourne really does shine in winter – there's the soft light reflecting off the high-rises that shimmers across the Yarra, big roast dinners in front of the fire in a friendly pub, glasses of rich shiraz in a cool bar surrounded by hot men.

And best of all, you get to rug up in a full winter wardrobe – there isn't a better excuse to go shopping!

FOR ARTY ACCOMMODATION

Opening in August, The Blackman on St Kilda Road is a 209-room boutique hotel inspired by figurative artist Charles Blackman, whose works are featured throughout.
www.artserieshotels.com.au/blackman

TO EAT WITH THE COOL CREW

A telltale sign that Mamasita is the place of the moment is the long queue of people trying to get into this super-stylish Mexican restaurant and bar on Collins Street.
www.mamasita.com.au

FOR FILLING YOUR SUITCASE

Vintage and op shops blend seamlessly alongside the designer boutiques of Chapel Street. Don't miss Shag and Fat Helens.
www.chapelstreet.com.au

FOR COCKTAILS AMONG THE STARS

Smack-bang in the middle of town, head up to the 35th storey of the Sofitel for the Atrium Bar and its sweeping views across the city.
www.sofitelmelbourne.com.au

FOR GLAMOURISING

Eve Bar is the ultimate spot for Melbourne's glitterati. Expect to spot hot footballers.
www.evebar.com.au

FOR A SUNDAY ROAST

Hipsters abound at the Grace Darling Hotel in Collingwood, an ultra-cool pub where you can cosy up with a hot roast by the fireplace.
www.thegracedarlinghotel.com.au

CULTURE CLUB

Melbourne is flexing its artistic muscle this winter, showing the rest of Australia why it has become the city for a weekend break.

TIM BURTON: THE EXHIBITION

Coming direct from New York's MoMA to the Australian Centre for the Moving Image, this retrospective has 700 artworks, including rare and never-before-seen photos, paintings, drawings and costumes from the legendary director. www.acmi.net.au/timburton

EUROPEAN MASTERS

All the big guns are on show at the National Gallery of Victoria. There's Monet, Cézanne, Renoir, Degas, Picasso and more. It's one of the world's finest collections of 19th- and 20th-century art. www.ngv.vic.gov.au

TITANIC: THE ARTEFACT EXHIBITION

See more than 280 pieces retrieved from the ill-fated *Titanic*, including the grand staircase, at the Melbourne Museum. Spooky and moving.
www.titanicmelbourne.com

ART AND DESIGN WALK

Down laneways, up alleys, inside galleries... this is Melbourne's quirkiest street-art tour.
www.hiddensecretstours.com

The stylish Atrium Bar; (left) retro heaven at Shag

