

Spot kangaroos from your super-luxe suite

Southern Ocean Lodge. Sigh... Just add champagne



IT'S the ultimate Bond lair: towering glass windows, sleek retro styling and awe-inspiring terrain... Yes, we're tipping Olgab Kurylenko, the gorgeous, feline, Prada-clad vixen from *Quantum Of Solace*, would feel perfectly at home at the Southern Ocean Lodge.

Designed by architect Max Pritchard to blend seamlessly with the landscape, the Lodge is perched on 40-metre limestone cliffs, with dramatic views

Five-star spa luxe and rugged remoteness... sounds to us like an excuse to buy Louboutin sneakers! Natalie Reeves visits Kangaroo Island

ROOMS WITH A VIEW

down the crashing coastline and out towards Antarctica. It's breathtaking – and demands a glass of champagne to calm the excitement butterflies while sinking into one of the butter-soft, 60s-inspired bespoke chairs (the work of Adelaide furniture designer Khai Liew).

Behind the Lodge is nothing but pristine wilderness. It's perched in the middle of nowhere. And it's fabulous.

The Lodge is situated on the south coast of Kangaroo Island, which lies 13km offshore from Cape Jervis at the tip of the Fleurieu Peninsula, 105km from Adelaide.

Visit in summer and the island is a patchwork of parched golden and butterscotch fields, contrasting with

spectacular turquoise water and blinding white sand. In winter, the countryside and fields are a lush green and the weather is all wild, woolly and *Wuthering Heights*.

It's so romantic that even in winter the Southern Ocean Lodge is a haven for elopements and honeymoons. Guests can choose from 21 guest suites, cascading down the slope of the land from the main lodge.

And each suite has heartbreakingly gorgeous views, with 180-degree panoramas of the surf – if you're lucky you can spot a humpback whale while you're in the shower.

While it's tempting to just gaze out, mesmerised, into the scenery all day, chef Jed Archdeacon's creations

are a worthy distraction. For lunch, think prosciutto and shaved pear salad with ashed chevre and cabernet vinaigrette, followed by locally-farmed marron with snow pea tendrils and lemon butter sauce, with zabaglione and marinated strawberries for dessert.

For dinner? Yabby bisque with wasabi foam, seared snapper with coriander emulsion and potato fondue, rosemary parfait with goat's cheese veloute... All served on exquisite sea foam-toned tableware by ceramicist Malcolm Greenwood.

If you can tear yourself away from the three-course meals, Kangaroo Island is an animal lovers' paradise – it's even been called Australia's answer to the Galapagos. The island

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The Lodge was designed to complement the pristine surroundings

KI calling

Regional Express operates a 35-minute flight to Kangaroo Island from Adelaide Airport (13 17 13) or drive from Adelaide and catch the SeaLink ferry. Visit in winter to see the island at its most verdant – and in summer to make the most of the beautiful beaches.

teams with birdlife, echidnas, wombats and (curiously woolly) kangaroos, especially at dusk.

At Seal Bay Conservation Park you can walk within metres of wild (and nosy) sea lions, and further west at Flinders Chase National Park you can see gorgeous whiskered dozing seals and their adorable pups. At the north of the island, near the town of Kingscote, take a guided nocturnal walk to see little penguins.

And when you've exhausted yourself with exploring you can return to a zen-like state by visiting the Lodge's Southern Spa, perched even higher up the cliff and accessed via a boardwalk. *Grazia* roadtested the Southern Ocean Signature Massage,

a blissful 75-minute combination of acupressure, Swedish and deep-tissue massage. Also rated: a Ligurian Honey and Almond Wrap, which includes an exfoliation with the island's Bay Of Shoals mineral salts. It's so good it's sinful.

Finish off your escape with a spot of stargazing, perched on bean bags, under a cosy blanket, with a glass of port in hand.

The constellations above, so far from the competing lights of a big city, are like sparkling, diamond-encrusted necklaces, so close you could touch them. Truly divine... Who needs an elopement, anyway? www.southaustralia.com www.southernoceanlodge.com.au

ISLAND EXTRAS

FOR ROMANTIC SECLUSION

Channel Miranda Otto in *South Solitary* and stay in a lighthouse keeper's cottage at Cape Willoughby, at the east of the island. It's pure romance – so much so that, according to the guest book, a Sydney couple got engaged there. Awww...08 8553 4410

FOR A GORGEOUS DROP

Islander Estate Vineyards is worth a visit for its stunning location as much as its delicious drops. Bordeaux winemaker Jacques Lurton visited the island with his wife Francoise on their honeymoon, fell in love with it and promptly returned to start his own vineyard. Treat yourself to a bottle of the 2004 Cabernet Franc-Sangiovese. www.iev.com.au

FOR PARADISE BEACHES

Pack your Zimmermann bikini because Kangaroo Island has to-die-for beaches – minus the mainland crowds. Explore the island and try Vivonne Bay, Snelling Beach or Pennington Bay for sublime turquoise waters and pure white sands.

FOR THRILLS AND SPILLS

Grab a sandboard or toboggan from Kangaroo Island Outdoor Action and

hit Little Sahara in the island's south, a spectacular area of white sand dunes surrounded by bush vegetation. Climb to the top of the ridges and whizz down. Great fun – even for grown-ups. www.kioutdooraction.com.au

FOR PASSIONATE FOODIES

Stock up on honey from the island's rare Ligurian bees at Clifford's Honey Farm – and be sure to try the scrumptious gourmet honey ice-cream.

Cheese lovers will be weak at the knees at the Island Pure Sheep Dairy with its silky feta, melt-in-the-mouth haloumi and kefalotiri.

A seafood addict? Make a stop at the Marron Café for a crustacean fix.



Sample KI's signature marron dishes