

AUSTRALIAN

HOUSES EXTERIORS

100%
Australian
FOURPS

Beaut basics
UNDER
\$50, \$100
& \$150

Family-friendly
home design

**BRUSH UP
ON COLOUR**
Palettes with
punch





Traveller

Have a ball in New Zealand

- ✦ **Christchurch** Start your tour in style at historic Otahuna Lodge, which reopens early January after post-earthquake renovations. Check out what the quake exposed, including pages from an 1889 almanac that lined the drawing room wall (pictured left). www.otahuna.co.nz.
- ✦ **Nelson** Enjoy this artistic haven while staying at Split Apple Retreat: from the fresh food to the meditation, its focus is your wellbeing. www.splitappletreat.com.
- ✦ **Auckland** Stroll the cobblestoned lanes of the edgy Chancery precinct, with its boutiques, bars and cafes. For a simulated walk-through, go to www.roadworks.co.nz/chancery/streetscroll.

Who am I?

Visitors to Sydney will easily find their feet with the new *Sydney City Style Seekers Guide*, which lists the hotspots for various personality types – hedonists, socialites, gourmands and so on. Available from hotels (three-star and above) and shops. Go to www.urbanwalkabout.com.



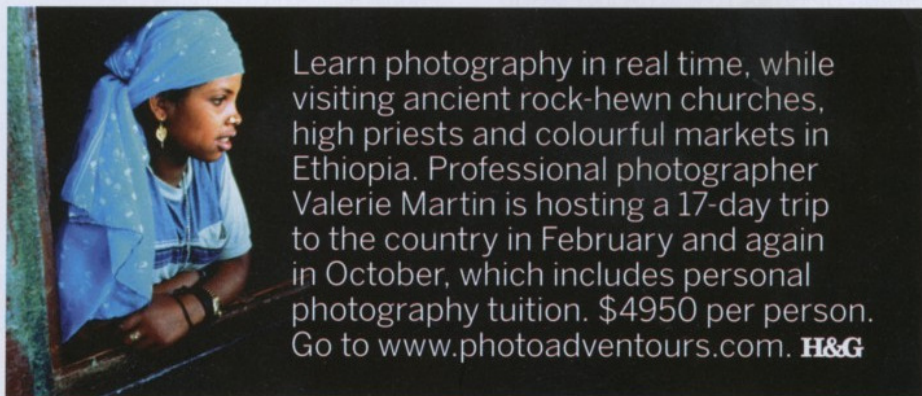
KNOW THE SCORE If you're accompanying a rugby tragic to the Rugby World Cup in New Zealand, never fear, there are cultural, shopping and food distractions aplenty. Each city is hosting a team during the pool matches (look after our Wallabies, Christchurch!) from September 9 with the final on October 23 in Auckland. And REAL NZ festivals showcasing each region's specialities are being held. For details, go to www.nz2011.govt.nz/realnzfestival. For tickets and secured accommodation packages, go to www.newzealand.com/rugby.

Set the pace

Walk off the holiday season's excesses with a nine-day self-guided inn-to-inn walk in WA's Margaret River region. Auswalk provides the itinerary, arranges 4.5-star accommodation and carries your luggage, but otherwise you're left in peace to go at your own pace. From \$1895pp (minimum two). Go to www.auswalk.com.au.

IN THE BAG

Two former Kodak executives have designed the perfect bag for adventurous and discerning travellers. The leather jill-e bag, \$399, is sturdy enough to protect equipment yet stylish enough for après-adventure hotels. Call (02) 9938 3244 for stockists.



Learn photography in real time, while visiting ancient rock-hewn churches, high priests and colourful markets in Ethiopia. Professional photographer Valerie Martin is hosting a 17-day trip to the country in February and again in October, which includes personal photography tuition. \$4950 per person. Go to www.photoadventours.com. **H&G**