

LUXURY

AUSTRALIAN STYLE

As our lives get faster and faster – is luxury only about private planes and the latest International overwater bungalow?

TAKEABREAK.COM.AU, the only independent boutique accommodation website in Australia, recently conducted a survey on luxury holidays. They found that maybe it's more about something money simply can't buy – the chance for some downtime and the opportunity to re-connect with family and friends.

The first truth: Australians mostly think of Queensland as the state to provide luxury holidays (57%).

The must haves: interestingly, high quality linen and furnishings came out on top. Naturally enough, a five star rating was considered a must – one respondent noted, "It must be clean enough to take my shoes off!" But showing the need to have a little downtime was important – a romantic, intimate setting was second on the list and privacy came in third. A place that allowed people quality time to spend with their kids also featured. The pampered pets also got a look in!

Apparently wine, fruit platters and choccies haven't gone out of style, showing us that personalised service is still a must.

For recreation, spa time was a hands down (or hands on) winner. But respondents also ranked local area tours and cruises high on their list of desired activities.

TakeaBreak also asked who best defines luxury. To most respondents, luxury was personified by wealth (the Sultan of Brunei and Richard Branson), or by sophistication (Coco Chanel, Audrey Hepburn or Nicole Kidman).

But to one respondent it was "my boyfriend, my mum and dad", proving, perhaps, that luxury is truly not about possessions but the people you get to spend time with on a holiday.

Go to www.takeabreak.com.au/luxury/ accommodation to find a boutique luxury getaway.



Cheap as chips

Canon's new entry-level digital SLR has arrived. The EOS 1000D is a great way to get involved in digital photography, and the price of DSLRs continues to fall. This time last year it was almost impossible to find a new one for less than \$1000. The new 1000D has a 10.1 Megapixel sensor with live view and is expected to retail for around \$700. It's Canon, so it's quality, and there are nearly 70 lenses from Canon that will fit. www.canon.com.au

CLICK GO THE PINES

One of AT's favourite islands, Norfolk, is hosting its first photography week. Friend of AT and all round photography guru Ken Duncan will be on hand to give tips. At packages from \$1629 ex Brisbane and \$1685 ex Sydney, AT has just enough beans to make it! The week kicks off on Sept 27, so hopefully we'll see you there. Call 1800 1400 66 for more info, and while we're on the subject, Norfolk Air will begin Gold Coast to Norfolk flights from October.