

Exotic Places • Interesting People • Intelligent Travel

JETSETTER

WINTER 2011

Magazine

**24 Hours
in Chicago**

**Taiwan's
Forgotten
Coast**

Phuket Villas
*Land of the
Eternal Sun*

Ravishing Rio

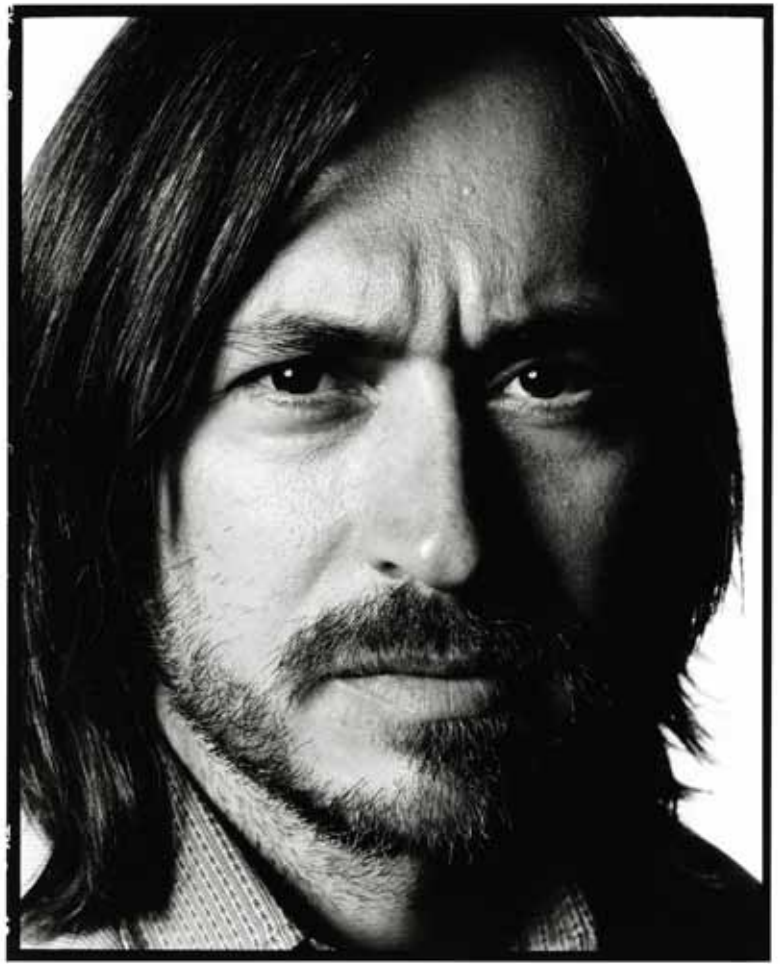
Tented Temples

*The Best in
Luxury Camping*

Adults Only Rum // Coffee Adventures // San Fran's Rock Star Chef

A Seat to Sleep In

Industrial designer Marc Newson has been busy; in addition to his work creating limited-edition bottles for Dom Pérignon, a racing bike for Lance Armstrong, concept cars for Ford, speed boats for Riva, and the interiors of future space ships, his works have been exhibited from the Groninger in the Netherlands to Sydney's Powerhouse Museum.



How often do you travel?

I travel well over 100 days a year, mostly for business.

How do you decide your destinations?

For pleasure I go to the destinations I know, where I will be with friends and have a great time. I am lucky enough to be very well travelled so by now I absolutely know where I like to be.

You're a celebrity hotel reviewer for *kiwicollection.com*; what is it about Kiwi Collection properties you love so much?

There are a great number of hotels in the collection and a large variety across the world - from the old and traditional to the new and ultra modern - so there is an incredible amount of choice.

Do you have a favorite?

I recently stayed in the King George Palace Hotel in Athens which I found to be excellent. They served one of the best breakfasts I have ever had.

How important do you think design is becoming when travelers choose a hotel or even an airline?

I think people are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of good design. Personally, I hope they are aware of the aspects of design that really matter; like improving on what went before, simplicity, comfort, efficiency, the utilization of high quality materials and fittings, and excellent service.

When coming up with the concept for Qantas' SkyBed, what did you feel was lacking in business class seating at the time?

I've always suspected that the people who design airline seats probably don't travel that much, or maybe just when they go on holiday once a year. A lot of designers' ideas of making an aircraft interior look nice is to make it look like something terrestrial, like their living room. I don't feel that is an honest approach. One of the most immediate issues for me was a poor appearance; most aircraft interiors look ugly and addressing the basic design from a visual point of view was extremely important.

For myself and the SkyBed project, I wanted that sense of privacy, I wanted the feeling of being concealed in my

own cocoon. I was mindful of the fact that people sit on Qantas flights for up to 14 hours at a time, and I think the SkyBed provides the comfort, privacy and sympathetic environment to make the experience of flying relaxing and even something to look forward to. Too many people get off flights only remembering how uncomfortable the seats were.

As a designer, what do you look for when travelling to a new city?

I look at the shapes that surround people and observe the popular culture there.

What's your recommended city for design fans like yourself?

I wouldn't call myself a design fan; I can't abide so called 'design trends' or trends of any kind. I am a fan of quality, beauty and efficiency, Tokyo is a city with a lot of these qualities for instance.

Name four things we'll find in your carry on?

My sketchbook, a pen, an iPad, and a toothbrush.

Where are you off to next?

Paris, Italy then Japan.

Count Down Companion

It's almost New Years Eve, arguably the biggest party on the calendar, and some cities celebrate the end of one year and the start of another better than others.

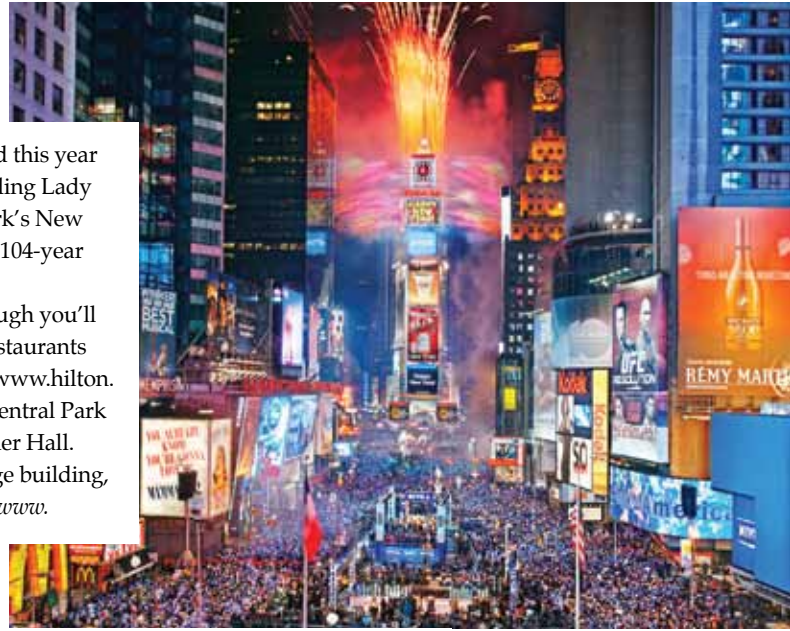


SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

What's Happening? One of the biggest parties on the planet, most of the action takes place around the city's stunning harbour. There are fireworks at 9pm and midnight so you'll have two chances to see the massive fireworks display centred on the iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge.

How Best to See It? Set up a picnic with a few bottles of local wine at the likes of Blues Point or Cremorne Point, but be prepared to stake your territory early. Afterward, take a ferry across to the Rocks for plenty of live music, Darlinghurst for clubbing till dawn, or Darling Harbour for a street party atmosphere.

Where to Stay? The new-look Star casino complex at Darling Harbour features the city's newest luxury hotel, The Darling, a 171-room house of slumber with views to boot. www.thedarling.com.au



NEW YORK, USA

What's Happening? New York has always been New Years central and this year won't be any different. Expect activities across the five boroughs, including Lady Gaga and Justin Bieber performing in Times Square as part of Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve, before the New Years Eve Ball drops at midnight, a 104-year old tradition.

How Best to See It? You can combat the crowds at Times Square, though you'll need to arrive early. Alternatively celebrate from a table at one of the restaurants surrounding Times Square, including Restaurant Above at the Hilton (www.hilton.com). Alternatively there is the Emerald Nuts Midnight Run through Central Park for fitness fans or the New York Philharmonic playing at the Avery Fisher Hall.

Where to Stay? The boutique Library Hotel, housed in a 1900s heritage building, is the ideal spot to base yourself when location is key in the Big Apple. www.libraryhotel.com



TOKYO, JAPAN

What's Happening? It's hard to know where to begin in this massive city as celebrations take place across Tokyo, especially at midnight when fireworks compete with the traditional ringing of Buddhist temple bells. The highlight of the night is usually the fireworks display, which is city wide and – true to Japanese form – very impressive.

How Best to See It? Head to Ikebukuro Sunshine City, a commercial tower in the bustling Ikebukuro precinct that boasts an open air observation deck on the 60th floor and hosts a massive countdown party every year. From this vertiginous point you should get a great view of the fireworks and the city welcoming a New Year. Alternatively you can try your luck to be one of only 80 punters allowed to watch the sun rise from the iconic Tokyo Tower, which was modelled on the Eiffel Tower.

Where to Stay? Splurge and stay at the chic and luxurious Capital Hotel, a member of Preferred Hotels. It's located close to the city's efficient subway station, which is the best way to combat the crowds. www.capitolhoteltokyo.com