

Illawarra Mercury | Wollongong – Villa Mako

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Extremely Cuban Fun

By John Rozentals

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TRAVEL

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Travel briefs

RACE TO THE V8 PARTY
It's claimed to be the Gold Coast's biggest party – the V8 Supercars Castrol Gold Coast 600, which will be held on October 23-25. Among the many packages available is a four-night Sportsnet deal including accommodation in the Marina Legends Hotel, a three-day trackside pass to the Castrol Gold Coast 600, a pit-lane walk experience, and entry to Shipwrecked – an exclusive Sportsnet Island Function. Prices start from \$785 per person twin-share.
Visit sportsnet.holidays.com.

SPACE-AGE RIVERS TRIP
Cruise for 15 days aboard a Scenic Space-Ship from Amsterdam to Budapest along the Rhine, Main and Danube Rivers in November 2016 and pay from \$6795 per person twin-share, including return flights to Europe. Price also includes butler service, complimentary laundry and beverages all day, return airport transfers, Scenic Enrich events, Scenic Freechoice activities, and all tipping and gratuities. Full payment must be received by August 31 this year.
Phone 138 128 or visit scenic.com.au.

HIGHLANDS TO NICE
Cruise Traveller's 29-night Scottish Highlands to French Riviera itinerary next May explores the backroads of Britain and France, blending luxury with charming, off-the-beaten-track experiences, and features a seven-night cruise aboard Panara's 132-cabin luxury mega-yacht Le Boreal. Hotel stays in Edinburgh, London, Paris, Lyon and Nice, and in French wine-producing regions. Prices start at \$15,999 per person twin-share, including return Emirates flights from Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth.
Phone 1800 507 777 or visit cruisetraveller.com.au.

CALLING JUNIOR CHEFS
Phulay Bay, a Ritz-Carlton property in Thailand's seaside Krabi resort precinct, is inviting younger guests to unleash their inner culinary skills with its new Petit Chef program. Offered free to resort guests, children aged 5-11 can spend a day walking in a chef's footsteps, from selecting ingredients in the resort's organic garden to whipping up a delicious meal for mum and dad. The tiny chefs will learn how to make several



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JOHN ROZENTALS



Cuba is a fascinating destination to explore by motorbike.

delicious, yet simple, dishes such as long yard bean salad, local spinach ravioli, lemongrass macaroon and a pandan butter cake.
Visit phulay-bay.com.

GOING COLONIAL IN BALI
The colonial design of Bali's Villa Mako owes much to the architecture of traditional Javanese plantation houses with the high, wooden-strutted ceilings of the villa's central hall taking their inspiration from an old college in Central Java. Guests are welcome at Hindu ceremonies in the nearby temple, which provide a unique insight into the religion and customs of Bali. Rates start at about \$600 per night.
Visit villamako.com.

FACELIFT FOR QUEEN MARY
Cunard, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, will give its illustrious flagship Queen Mary 2 a 25-day break next May for a "significant refurbishment" at the Blohm+Voos Shipyard in Hamburg. Passengers travelling with man's best friend are obviously high on the priorities list. Key developments in the refurb include the addition of 15 single staterooms, 30 Britannia Club balcony staterooms plus 10 more kennels.
Visit cunardline.com.au.

EXTREME CUBA
Extreme Bike Tours will run its first Cuban tour in 2016, with adventures choosing from a Harley Davidson, BMW 800cc or Suzuki Vstrom to ride across the exotic Caribbean island. The 13-day tours are priced at about \$8100 per rider and \$5760 per pillion passenger, including accommodation, seven dinners, three lunches, fuel and motorbike hire, with departures February 21 and March 6. The itinerary will include visits to rural villages, the museum at the Bay of Pigs and the mausoleum of executed Marxist revolutionary Che Guevara with an optional ride to Guantanamo also available.
Visit extremebiketours.com.

GO WEST TO BUSSELTON
Pay from \$149 per night this winter for a studio room at the Sebel Busseton and savour all the delights of Western Australia's south-west. Indoor activities include a large heated swimming pool, two glass-fronted squash courts, and facilities for a game of pool or table tennis. There are also regular visits from a coffee van, a French Bakery van and a curry van.
Phone 08 9754 9800 or visit thesebel.com.

Going Colonial in Bali

The colonial design of Bali's Villa Mako owes much to the architecture of traditional Javanese plantation houses with the high, wooden-strutted ceilings of the villa's central hall taking their inspiration from an old college in Central Java.

Set well away from Bali's tourist areas in the tiny village of Tiyung Tutul, Villa Mako sits amid the rhythms of agricultural life and gracefully honours Balinese culture.

Guests are welcome at Hindu ceremonies in the nearby temple, which provide a unique insight into the religion and customs of Bali.

Rates start at USD600 per night.

Visit www.villamako.com.



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