

There's something for everyone with these five dream holiday homes

SUMMER LOVIN'

OCEAN HOUSE



GREAT OCEAN RD, LORNE

WITH the magnificent Great Ocean Rd coastline as your backdrop, it makes perfect sense to enjoy all this from an equally spectacular beach house. And there is no better spot to do just that than

from the Ocean House circular sun terrace, with its open-air bath and spread of day beds.

The views also take centre stage inside, with vast banks of windows providing vistas to North Lorne's secluded beach just 100m away and beyond to the horizon.

Designed by renowned architect Rob Mills, the three-level, five-bedroom house is sculpted from concrete, timber and glass.

Sleeps: up to 10
Rate: \$1200 a night (whole house); \$600 (apartment)
Minimum stay: two nights
oceanhouse.com.au

PRUE MILLER

A SUMMER holiday is more than just a break of routine; it's a chance to kick back, recharge and take a little time to dream.

If your dream includes trying out a lifestyle rather than a hotel room, a holiday home is an ideal vacation.

A house-sized holiday offers the chance for extended family, or good mates, to join the fun — coming and going (and sharing the costs) as they wish, while you live the good life in one of the many stunning homes available for rent.

From the beach shack to the capital city mansion, there's something for everyone, and many of them are designed by outstanding architects.

Just remember, if the home isn't available for your ideal dates during the peak season, check for different dates when demand isn't so high, and the price is lower.

It's worth the effort.
prue.miller@news.com.au

FROG HOLLOW VINEYARD



THE HOUSE AT SMOKO



1691 GREAT ALPINE RD, SMOKO

AS authentic as an Akubra, and nestled in the crisp air of the high country, this home is not far from the Great Alpine valleys.

Local stone, corrugated iron and rough-hewn timber give a holiday feel. But don't be misled, this

is a carefully contrived property by architect Christopher Alexander, who has created a social space for families or groups to feel relaxed yet still treated to luxury both man made (LCD TV, air conditioning, dishwasher) and natural.

Deep picture windows offer sunny window

seat nooks, the kitchen is open and inviting, and there are a range of fireplaces.

Outside, be in the digital-free zone of nature, set against stone walls and age timber fences.

Sleeps: six
Rate: \$375 a night
thehouseat-smoko.com.au

ILLOURA



21 MATHOURA RD, TOORAK

THE coolest pad in the top street — this three-bedroom home is so bright and spacious that the idea of staying in a hotel just pales in comparison.

Generous oak floorboards hint at the history behind this 1903

residence, a sharp contrast to the fabulous hit of Calacatta marble that is the statement piece of the open-plan living area.

The entertaining space on the courtyard deck calls out for cocktails, and then there's the luxury bathrooms.

All this just steps to Toorak Village shops, the

trams, the city — all the best parts of Melbourne within a well-dressed stroll.

Too taxed from a big shop to hit the nearby restaurants? Order in and settle into the home cinema. Then go shopping.

Sleeps: six
Rate: from \$1000 a night
luxico.com.au/illoura.html

SAUCE OF INSPIRATION

A FAST-food worker trapped in a cool room for eight hours wrote "HELP ME" in tomato sauce on a piece of cardboard in a bid to be rescued.

Karlee Daubeney, 20, was in a UK Subway restaurant alone when the door swung shut. She slid her note under the door, hoping CCTV cameras would notice. She was rescued only when staff arrived for work the next day.

Qantas dodges mega lawsuit

A PASSENGER'S bid to sue Qantas for \$3.3 trillion has crashed and burned.

In a civil claim worth almost double the annual economic turnover of Australia, Seymour Kern told the NSW Supreme Court he was not given "informed consent" before boarding a Qantas flight during which one of the plane's engines exploded.

The engine failure occurred during flight QF32 from Singa-

BEN PIKE

pore to Sydney on November 4, 2010. Nobody was physically injured during the incident and the plane returned safely to Changi Airport shortly after takeoff.

Though he admitted he suffered no psychological or physical injuries, Mr Kern told the court Rolls Royce, Airbus and Qantas "knew about these faulty situations" but failed to

inform him when he bought his ticket.

Mr Kern demanded the three companies cover his personal expenses during the trial.

Justice Ian Harrison ruled that Mr Kern's initial claim for personal damages fell outside the two-year limitation period.

He also dismissed the rest of his case for being "not clear" and being directed at the wrong company. Mr Kern was ordered to pay legal costs.

BEER A BEDROOM BOOST

FOR the man who fancies a pint before heading home, it is the perfect excuse.

Far from making men a flop in the bedroom, beer can actually make them better lovers, a leading sex therapist claims.

Kat Van Kirk says that drinking beer can boost performance and stamina. Stout is particularly recommended for the vitamins it contains.

But those hoping for a night of passion would be wise to keep careful track of their intake, as one too many could leave them suffering from the dreaded "brewer's droop" and an inability to perform.

Previous research has found that to enjoy health benefits, the optimum daily amount of alcohol was just over a pint of beer which had a 5 per cent alcohol strength.