



1 CLARION HOTEL SOHO

What's not to love about a sexy New York-style boutique hotel in a great East End location? Just 30 rooms, some with balconies and spas, a minimal lobby, chic designer restaurant, little roof terrace with a jet pool and views out over the skyline to the Adelaide Hills. The interiors are sleek and luxe, with accents in Missoni fabrics, king-sized beds and iPod docking stations. The Soho offers perfect proximity to the Fringe. Stroll a few blocks to vintage boutiques and Rundle Street pubs, not to mention Chocolate Bean on Union Street for a sugar hit of cocktails and red-velvet cupcakes.



FAB FIVE

Join the lunch bunch at Petaluma in the Adelaide Hills

Fringe benefits

WHAT BETTER TIME TO VISIT ADELAIDE THAN FESTIVAL SEASON. LATE-NIGHT MUSIC, COMEDY, TWINKLING LIGHTS, ECCENTRIC COSTUMES, GOURMET MARKETS... SUSIE BURGE IS IMPRESSED

ARTY PARTY

The **Adelaide Fringe** runs until March 14, as does **The Adelaide Festival**. **Womadelaide** takes over Botanic Park from March 5-8.

The **Art Gallery of South Australia** has a fine collection of colonial, modern and contemporary art, plus the controversial new acquisition, *Big Mother* by Patricia Piccinini, is now on show.

Adelaide's iconic design hub, **JamFactory** (the place for beautiful hand-crafted homewares and art glass), has just reopened after a major refit by brilliant furniture designer Khai Liew (his work features in collections around the world, including New York's MoMA).

Interested in cultural history? A **walking tour** with Gwynne Brown of Tourabout Adelaide will orientate you in just a few hours. City sorted.

For more information, visit www.southaustralia.com
Fly with www.virginblue.com.au

2 ADELAIDE HILLS

Forget the Barossa, it's over an hour away. Head to the Adelaide Hills for your fix of fresh country air, big trees, vines laden with fruit and those enticing cellar-door tastings. A straightforward 30-minute drive (it's a great idea to hire a car when in Adelaide – you'll also want to head to the beach) delivers you to the loveliness of vineyards cultivated over the past three decades and stone villages settled by immigrant Germans in the mid-1800s.

For lunch, Petaluma offers white cloth-covered tables under shady umbrellas on a terrace overlooking the working waterwheel of the old mill, plus an innovative French-inspired menu by famed Chinese-born chef Le Tu Thai. Utterly idyllic.

4 GARDEN OF UNEARTHLY DELIGHTS

The Garden (as it's known) is the hub of the Adelaide Fringe, running through to mid March. Rymill Park transforms into a circus-like funfair come performance space. Catch stand-up comedy and live music, see famous faces and meet unknowns, or dance at the Silent Disco.

There are mismatched tables and wine barrels under gum trees lit by lanterns, quirky sideshows, food stalls, bars and a cool crowd – gorgeous on a warm summer night. Tickets are super-cheap and the scene is open late. Hot tip: buy tickets beforehand to avoid the long queues.



5 APOTHECARY 1878 WINE BAR RESTAURANT

Adelaide takes its food seriously: I can vouch for the delicious tapas at atmospheric Apothecary 1878. Love this place.

Is there anything better, more apt, than a bar constructed from antique pharmacy cabinets? With tumbled marble floor; chandeliers and bentwood chairs? On edgy Hindley Street, adjacent to the West End arts precinct? Staffed by suave, good-looking waiters in white shirts and aprons? Just add your aperitif (or digestive) of choice – Hendrick's Gin martini with a cucumber slice please. It's medicinal.

Still want more? Head to upmarket Auge for their mouth-watering desserts.

PHOTO: LONEY PLANET IMAGES



We prescribe an aperitif at Apothecary 1878



3 ADELAIDE CENTRAL MARKET

Bundles of sunflowers, hessian bags of fresh roasted coffee beans and the heady scent of baking bread. Stalls selling truffles and apricots, prosciutto, wheels and wedges of cheese...

Central Market is one of the wonders of South Australia. Started in 1870 and still going strong, it has more than 270 traders under the one roof (including the Arcade and Plaza). Go for breakfast or grab ingredients for a fabulously fresh picnic in the Botanic Gardens across town.