

JETSTAR

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EXPLORE!

Vietnam's coolest bars
The rail trails of Victoria
Weekend fun for girls on the Gold Coast

Chris Brown

The Bondi vet on love, life and travel

10 MINUTES WITH...

THE PRESETS

Who do they dance to?



EVENTS // PROFILES // FOOD // DRINKS // PLACES // STYLE



LEFT: Shop for stylish vintage wear at Village Markets

贅沢な週末の旅

ゴールド・コーストを満喫する、女性向け黄金プラン

ゴールド・コーストのイメージはどんなものがあろうか? 海濱のサーフウェア・パラダイス、オーチャード・ドライブウェイ、びっぴりとしたドレスにハイヒールの女性が、豪華なナイトクラブへと入っていく。光り輝くランドマーク。しかし、今のゴールド・コーストにはもっと違う一面がある。ゆったりとしたワインバーや美味しい料理、ミニシアター、ビンドゥーショップやカフェなど、ゴールド・コーストの魅力を、女性向けに紹介する。

SUNDAY

9.30AM After a lie-in we set out to explore Surfers Paradise on foot, heading back to "Arian Alley" for coffee at the Stairwell Café, a tiny café which literally occupies a minuscule stairwell space, with a smattering of alfresco chairs and tables, smiling baristas and ridiculously cheap AU\$1 raisin toast. Then we head back to Main Beach and watch a group of tourists learning to surf.

11AM We arrive at the colourful, open-air Village Markets (held on the first and third Sunday of the month) in the grounds of the Burleigh Heads State School. The markets were set up by two local girls Sarah Schoeller and Mariasa Bowden, and have become a platform for local designers, artists and vintage buffs to showcase their wares. We browse the stalls selling vintage fashion and collectibles, homemade cashmna, home wares and other second-hand treasures while enjoying the morning sunshine.

1.30PM We make one last pit stop at Vintage Espresso at Mermaid Beach, continuing on the day's retro theme, for a fresh fruit salad with yoghurt and one last latte served in the café's eclectic interior — having thoroughly enjoyed discovering a new side to the Gold Coast.★

TAKE ME THERE

BLACK COFFEE LYRICS
1/3131 Surfers Paradise Boulevard, Surfers Paradise, tel: +61 402 189 437

ELSEWHERE
23 Cavill Avenue, Surfers Paradise, tel: +61 (7) 5592 6880, elsewherebar.com.au

ESSENCE OF LIVING
3/52 Peerless Ave, Mermaid Beach, essenceofliving.com.au

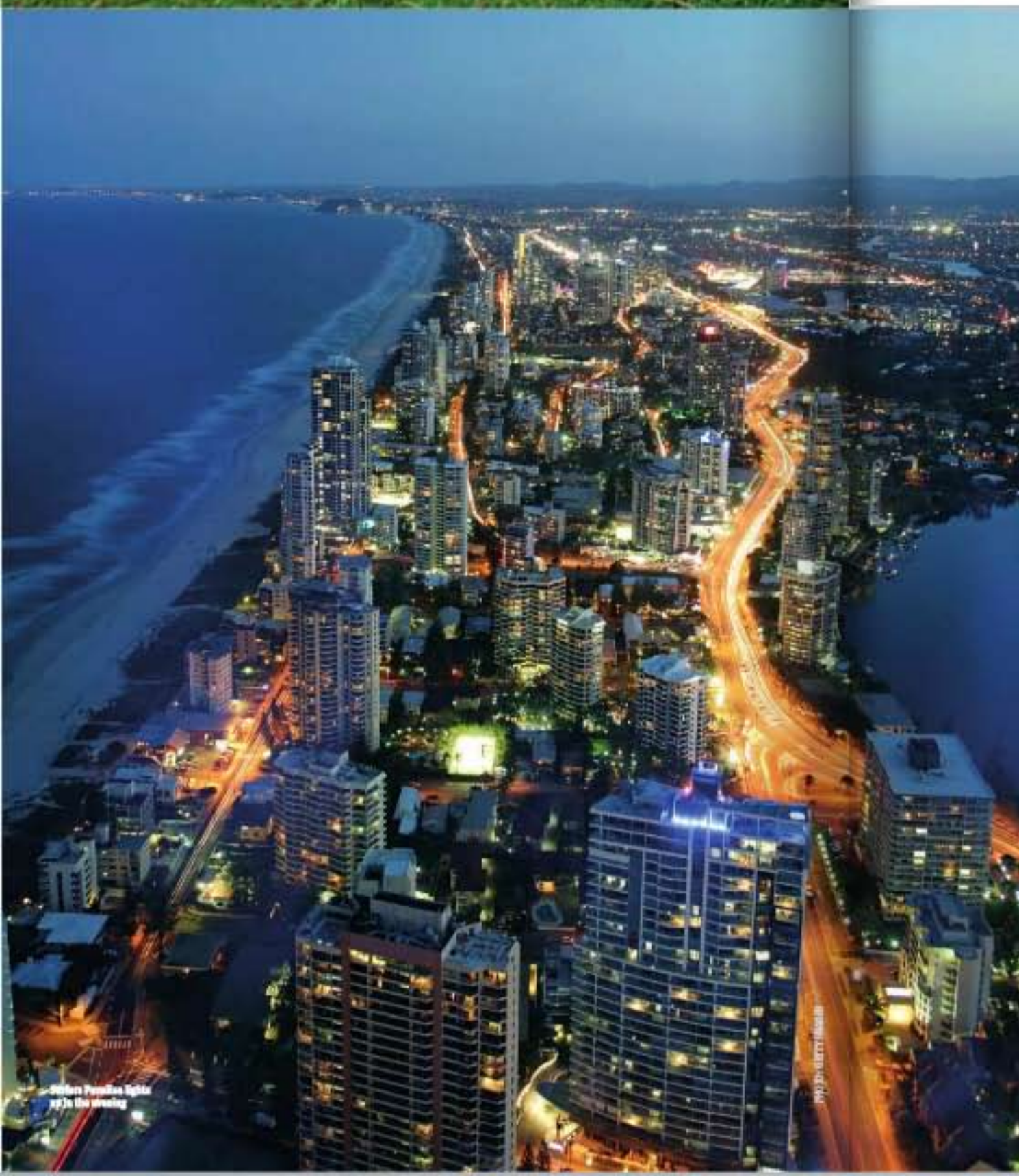
STAIRWELL CAFE
The Centre Arcade 3131 Surfers Paradise Boulevard, Surfers Paradise

JUPITERS CASINO
Jupiters Casino Rd, Broadbeach, tel: +61 (7) 5592 8443, jupitersgoldcoast.com.au

THE VILLAGE MARKETS
Burleigh Heads State School, thevillagemarket.sgc.com.au

VINTAGE ESPRESSO
1/43 Alfred Street, Mermaid Beach, tel: +61 (7) 5527 7878

Jetstar has great low fares to the Gold Coast. Visit jetstar.com to book.



GO FOR GOLD

Head north for a glamorous girls' weekend on the Gold Coast

WORDS SHERIDEN KHOBES

Like me, your perceptions of the Gold Coast might be that it's glitzy and gaudy. To have this view confirmed, you need only take a late-night stroll along the nightclub strip of Orchid Avenue in Surfers Paradise, where girls in skin-tight handglove dresses totter on impossibly high heels and heavy-set bouncers guard nightclub doorways. But the Gold Coast is much more than Surfers; look closer and you'll find a new wave of young people attempting to alter their hometown's low-brow image. That's why, believe it or not, the Gold Coast ticks all the right boxes for a glam girls' weekend away.

FRIDAY

4.30PM Having taken the afternoon off work, it's hang on 4.30pm when we land at Coolangatta Airport, and within 30 minutes we've checked into the Vibe Hotel Surfers Paradise. We drink in the heavenly ocean, hinterland and Nerang River views from our 22nd floor room, then kick back at the downstairs Dilah with a cocktail or two.

6.30PM We tuck into an early dinner of Bararamundi fillet in a steaming coconut broth with Asian vegetables at the funky hotel bar, before heading for the Arts Centre at Bundall, the Gold Coast's leading cultural facility, to take in a French film and glass of wine. It's late when we turn in; but before I do, I step out on to the balcony once more to look out at the twinkling city lights and listen to the waves crashing on Main Beach.