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HOT IN THE CITY

Sydney has a great tradition of chic boutique accommodation and a flurry of recent openings is providing an even wider range of glam options.

Words **Michelle Rowe** Photography **Prue Ruscoe**





Designer chic
A striking light feature greets guests in the lobby of the Diamant Hotel, while The Storrier's deluxe suite 472 is boldly black and white (opposite).



Sydney has always had a great tradition of boutique hotels, from the iconic Regent's Court in Kings Cross, which opened its doors in 1990, to the sexy Kirketon, the bold Medusa and the smart Establishment. While these trail-blazers are still the standard-bearers, a new and diverse crop of boutique escapes have opened their doors, from thoughtfully restored heritage-listed terrace houses to sleek city apartments with amazing views, or beachside beauties with wraparound terraces. Here's our pick of Sydney's best boutique accommodation.

The Storrier

Stay with Sydney artist Tim Storrier next time you're in town. The Storrier is a brand-new, original little hotel tucked in a laneway a couple of doors from the venerable Regent's Court in Kings Cross. As you'd expect, it's filled with work from the artist – the 3.5 x 2.5m Evening Blaze Line in the foyer is a real eye-catcher – and the brightly coloured restaurant, Red Belly, is also named after one of his pieces. Pink granite floors, a polished white marble reception desk, flamingo wallpaper and a sparkly chandelier greet you in the glitzy foyer but the 70 suites are a little more classic. Rooms come with kitchenettes, and there's an outdoor terrace at the back of the hotel. All the standard luxuries are covered: quality linens, LCD flat-screen TVs with Foxtel, video on demand, high-speed internet access, his 'n' hers robes and Molton Brown toiletries in the ensuite bathrooms. The Storrier is part of the A Hotels Group, which has recently started development in Melbourne. Look out for The Whiteley and The Olsen opening there soon.

We love Deluxe suite 472 at the front of the building, with its cute Deco-style window, or executive suite 353, with two bedrooms if you're travelling as a foursome. **Price** Superior suites \$245 per night; deluxe \$270; executive \$345. *The Storrier, 15 Springfield Ave, Kings Cross, (02) 8988 6999, www.thestorrier.com.au.*

Diamant Hotel

This is really impressive. No, it's not the massive plasma tellies or the Xbox and iPod docking stations. It's not even the fully stocked minibar, the king-sized bed, the chic interiors or the Kevin Murphy hair products in the bathroom. What *really* excites us is the huge wraparound terrace with dramatic city views in the courtyard suite on the second floor of the Diamant Hotel. Few hotels offer this sort of outdoor space – enough to host 50 – and we're betting suite 201 is going to have the party set beating a path to its door. Other rooms in the Diamant have their own charms. Harbourview rooms on the right-hand side of the hotel do everything it says on the box, while the William Street boulevard suite offers direct city views, but without the terrace. The hotel's address, at the junction of Kings Cross and Darlinghurst, where nightlife and restaurants are the big attractions, means you'll get a bit of sound should you decide to leave the windows open, but with that terrace, who cares? **We love** Courtyard suite 201 and that amazing terrace. **Price** Deluxe rooms \$188; district and harbour rooms \$228; courtyard rooms \$268; William Street boulevard rooms \$268; courtyard suites \$468. *Diamant Hotel, 14 Kings Cross Rd, Kings Cross, (02) 9295 8888, www.diamant.com.au.*



Sneak preview Evening Blaze Line hangs in the foyer of The Storrier hotel, and the hotel's restaurant, Red Belly (above), is named after another of the artist's works.

