

There's nothing like escaping your routine to reconnect with your partner. Treating yourselves is as easy as heading to an inner-city hotel for some pampering. Here are some of *Affair's* favourite getaways...

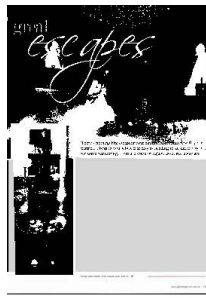
WORDS MERRYIN MCLEAN AND KURT SANDERS

Sofitel Brisbane

There are spas... and then there are spas, and it's easy to see that the folks at Sofitel Brisbane understand the term in the most luxurious sense of the word. Not only do they offer a range of rooms and suites that would make even the hardest-to-please smile, they also happen to have one of the best day spa facilities in Australia, Stephanies Spa Retreat.

This five-star facility offers a veritable plethora of sensual spa treatments and soothing hot stone massages, and to top it off you can combine different treatments to get a custom respite experience to suit your needs (your wants won't be left behind either). Culminate your treatment with a deep cleansing visit to





the spa's very own Opal Rasul Temple, the ultimate in relaxation and calm. To end your day perfectly, why not book one of the Sofitel's luxury suites and make a real night of it, your body and mind will thank you for it. ►

RETREAT AND RELAX

The Sofitel has three spa packages that incorporate indulgent treatments for guests.

Sofitel Spa Escape: includes overnight Classic Room accommodation for two, one 40-minute essential massage, a nurturing warm oil, Swedish, remedial or deep tissue treatment, and buffet breakfast for two from \$274 per night.

Sofitel Spa Revival: includes one 90-minute

Hot Stone Massage, an addictively blissful deep muscle relaxation experience with overnight accommodation for two including a bottle of sparkling wine, and two buffet breakfasts from \$344.

Couples booking the Sofitel Signature Spa will be treated to Corner Suite accommodation, a bottle of wine and chocolate-dipped strawberries on arrival, an Opal Rasul Temple treatment for two, room service breakfast, valet parking and a late check out.

This package is \$790 per night.

For reservations phone 3835 3535 or visit www.sofitelbrisbane.com.au.

Blue Ridge Manor Bed and Breakfast

Drive just an hour down the highway through the stunning Toowoomba ranges and take in the serenity of the area at Blue Ridge Manor Bed and Breakfast. Revive and re-energise as you take in the natural surroundings and fresh air overlooking the beautiful Lockyer Valley.

This luxurious setting is known for its style, comfort and privacy, and has all the facilities you need to make your time away as calming as possible. Enjoy the wonderful locally produced foods while taking in views of the valley from your private deck. Or observe the area's flora and wildlife as you stroll through the manor's private, terraced gardens. Whatever your choice, you're sure to return replenished and revitalised.


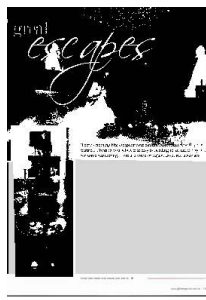


THE CHOICE IS YOURS

If you feel the need to explore, Blue Ridge Manor Bed and Breakfast is just a brief distance from Highfields' antique and craft shops, cafés, galleries, hotels, Pioneer Village, country markets, local deli supplies and other attractions. p. 0401 155 751 or visit www.blueridgemanor.com.au



Enjoy the wonderful locally produced foods while taking in views of the valley from your private deck.



Hibiscus Gardens Spa Resort, Port Douglas

From the rainforest to the sea, the far-north Queensland area encompasses all things synonymous with relaxation. This resort combines the beautiful tropical location and sublimely appointed resort with spa treatments inspired by Aboriginal Dreamtime, medicine and massage. p. (07) 4099 5315 or visit www.hibiscusportdouglas.com.au



Gwingana Lifestyle Retreat, Gold Coast Hinterland

Located in the Gold Coast Hinterland, Gwingana provides guests with a rare opportunity to explore nature, cleanse and refocus. Outstanding organic cuisine, a wide selection of activities, ocean and valley views, scenic walks and a casual relaxed atmosphere all provide a purifying experience. p. (07) 5589 5000 or visit www.gwingana.com