

# VOGUE

AUSTRALIA

**COULD  
YOU LIVE  
BAG  
FREE?**

**WISH  
YOU  
WERE  
HERE**

Taking  
a holiday  
at home

**IT'S  
TIME  
TO  
DRESS  
UP!**

**IS A  
TOY BOY  
A GOOD  
IDEA?**

**SHOP  
SMART  
100  
GIFTS**

**UNDER \$100**

\$7.95 DEC '08 NZ \$9.90

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first class



**COLOUR  
YOUR WORLD**

To view the summer range of bright and breezy fabrics from No Chintz's Chrissie Jeffery, visit [www.nochintz.com.au](http://www.nochintz.com.au). As the days get longer, you will want to be surrounded by these designs.



Megan Morton's precious birdcage came direct from Milan.



# insight

PLACES TO GO, THINGS TO SEE

Editor: Leigh-Ann Pow



At a corpulent 480 pages, there can't possibly be a recipe left off the list in *Ripailles*, Stéphane Reynaud's ode to traditional French cooking, from foie gras terrine to crème brûlée, with cute illustrations of after-dinner cigars, smelly cheeses, official French bovine breeds and essential tools when dealing with eggs thrown in for good measure. *Très bien* indeed!



## SHOP GIRL

I am adept at navigating my way around London, Paris and New York, but Milan? *Non capisco Italiano*. I'm due in Milan for the Furniture Fair to buy some booty for my job: interior stylist. In my line of work, you are only as good as your last prop, so I have come to the northern Italian city to buy up the incredible linen, glassware and the odd indulgence that Milanese stores are renowned for.

While a shopping service goes against my natural impulse – we stylists are trained like sniffer dogs to hunt down the un-findable and source the incredible – I have little time, and importantly, very little Italian. So I enlist the help of a service that gets my attention with its "shop and ship" tag line.

It's one thing to buy up big on napery, a couple of plates and those small packable items, but I'm after some big haul this trip. Not only does Worldwide Shopping Tours pick you up from your hotel, drive you around (in a discreet black Mercedes-Benz) and provide the services of a local guide (although Augusta can hardly

## first class

be called a guide, more like a walking encyclopedia of Milanese retail) so you can shop hands- and hassle-free, they can also ship up to 20 kilograms of booty back to your home (or work) address. Brief them on the nature of your guilty pleasure (vintage clothing, textiles, shoes, homewares, fashion outlets ...) and they will respond with an itinerary to suit.

Taking my first espresso of the day at Alta Moda (a shop where you can actually buy the chairs you dine on), I spot an antique Venetian birdcage with sweet etched glass inserts. It's beautiful. Really beautiful! If I was shopping solo, there is no way I would even contemplate ownership given its size and fragility. I give the nod: Augusta brokers my deal, driver George places it in the back of our

Mercedes and I continue shopping. At the end of the day, their dispatch people pack it (superbly, by the way) along with my other purchases, all of which arrive at my door before I have even recovered from my jet lag.

Now this is all well and good, but I know all too well what a slippery slope hands-free, shipped-home shopping can be (the company operates throughout Europe, Asia-Pacific, the Middle East and beyond). Who knows what I will be game enough to nab next? With a trip to France coming up, I know I'll be contemplating bigger, more elusive and much more fragile purchases, just because I can.

Megan Morton

Tel: 1300 558 203;  
[www.worldwideshoppingtours.com.au](http://www.worldwideshoppingtours.com.au).



Absolut Vodka is getting into the swing of the festive season with its latest limited-edition bottle, which comes all dressed up in its own red sequined suit.



### hitting new heights

Located in New York's buzzy Gramercy Park neighbourhood, the newly reopened Marcel hotel has been given an impressive make-over, including several new floors. Visit [www.themarcelatgramercy.com](http://www.themarcelatgramercy.com).



### VOGUE LOVES ...

The chance to venture inside the mind of British design legend Sir Terence Conran in *Inspiration* (Conran Octopus, \$70).



### THE HIPPER HOTEL

The ultra-modern, ultra-hip Mondrian LA almost single-handedly invented the hip hotel franchise that has been so prevalent in hospitality for the last decade. Now the Philippe Starck-designed establishment has been updated under the watchful eye of designer Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz, who has softened some of Starck's now legendary minimalist lines in the name of enhancing rather than eradicating. Visit [www.mondrianhotel.com](http://www.mondrianhotel.com).



### BATH BLISS

Exquisite additions to your bathroom are Mathias Paris's gorgeous little hand-blown glass containers, filled with heady rose soap petals and confetti. Visit [www.saison.com.au](http://www.saison.com.au).