

hot spots Bluewater Lodge, New Zealand

Where? Bluewater Lodge, in Wanaka, may have killer views of New Zealand's Lake Wanaka and the Southern Alps, but it's the lodge's owners, Di and Doug Purviss, who make this new property so good.

Why stay in someone's home? Bluewater Lodge is owned by the hosts but it feels more like your own home, with staff. The Purvisses are former farmers who spent two years milling the macrocarpa timber from which the house is built. As a result, Bluewater is a labour of love. The master suite has heated floors, a double shower, Bang & Olufsen electricals and a giant hot tub on the balcony for private lakefront soaking under the stars.

What is Wanaka? It is home to the Rippon Valley vineyard and the wineries of Central Otago. It also boasts the Treble Cone ski resort, with its three basins of powder snow and 550 hectares of groomed terrain, and is the gateway to hikes on the Mount Aspiring range and the infamous Rob Roy glacial walk.

What's on the menu? Two words: ginger crunch, a wicked combination of ginger, butter and biscuit. Di is a skilled cook; cream-cheese-filled muffins and her homemade muesli with popcorn and fresh yoghurt for breakfast, capered canapés with local wine in the afternoon and a four-course masterpiece of seafood chowder, venison, mousse and *petits fours* for dinner ... it's all yours.

I want to be alone: no problem. You can rent Bluewater Lodge exclusively for your party, without hosts. With three suites and a twin room, it can sleep up to eight people for NZ\$1,800 (\$8,500) a night.

What's the bottom line? The exquisite master suite costs NZ\$590 a night for lodging, full breakfast, pre-dinner drinks and canapés, while the Peninsula and Treble Cone suites cost NZ\$490. Dinner is NZ\$65 for three courses; transfers to town for wining and dining are complimentary. Call 64 3 439 4798 or visit www.bluewaterwanaka.co.nz. *Rachael Oakes-Ash*



Pictures: Rachael Oakes-Ash

Spree Stockholm

The house-proud can binge on **Ikea** when visiting Sweden, but there is the risk of never re-emerging if they enter its flagship store, in Kungens Kurva, outside Stockholm. The chain's largest outlet world-wide, it occupies 55,200 square metres – about the size of 11 football fields.

A more satisfying way to get lost is to traverse the streets of Stockholm. With main thoroughfares within walking distance of each other or short train rides away, visitors need less than a day to check out those homeware emporia likely to offer items special enough to lug back to Hong Kong.

An institution that stands on its own is **Svenskt Tenn** (Strandvagen 5, tel: 46 8 670 1627; www.svensktenn.se). A haven for fabric mavens, it sells the 1940s creations of Austrian architect and designer Josef Frank, 40 of whose cheerful, florid patterns are still in production. Overstuffed armchairs sit beside contemporary lampshades and placemats upholstered in his iconic prints, as well as Marta Friman's tray tables, which cost 450 krona (\$450) to 580 krona each.

Worlds away in approach and



Pictures: Charmaine Chan

purpose is **DesignTarget** (www.designtarget.se), a seven-outlet chain store whose slogan is "new, handpicked items". If the shop judges a product worth selling, it will give it space for weeks or years, according to customer demand. Desirables include ornate Plexiglas bedheads designed to be attached to the wall (double-bed size, 3,295 krona) and vases (110 krona) that pack flat.

Exclusive in attitude but, surprisingly, not in price is **David Design** (Götgatan 36, tel: 46 8 694 7575; www.david.se), which describes its contemporary homeware as reflective of basic Swedish values: "sufficient ... without extravagance". Classy, but lacking the zing that comes from designers striving to be much more than adequate, its best features are sleek neutral furniture and accessories such as Verner Panton's polished aluminium Pantop table lamp (3,655 krona). Cooler in the hip stakes is new store **Establish**

(Humlegårdsgatan 14, tel: 46 8 545 853 40; www.establishndg.se). In this Alexander Lervik-designed outlet, shoppers must know their brands if they are to be taken seriously. So, practise pronouncing names such as Magis, Offecct and, of course, Lervik, whose Bright-handle illuminated door handles are available for 2,249 krona each.

For students, or oldies who like collegiate lifestyles, **Stockhome** (Kungsgatan 25, tel: 46 8 230 800; www.stockhome.se) is the alternative to Ikea. Warehouse-like in ambience, the store offers quirky, inexpensive items to fill small homes. Not everything is cut-price, however. Fighting for space among the girlie odds and ends are Dutch design hero Tord Boontje's paper Midsummer lights (995 krona).

Still curious about Ikea? Then climb aboard a free bus departing every hour for the store. The service runs from 11am to 5pm from Regeringsgatan, near the NK department store. It may be wise to extend your stay should you go. *Charmaine Chan*



Pack it!

While most international travel is relatively safe, unexpected problems are not unknown. Visitors are especially vulnerable in disasters, especially when they don't speak the language. A basic travel emergency kit can make all the difference to ensuring your survival.

Standard first-aid kits, fitted with plasters, bandages and some basic medication, come in all shapes and sizes and are widely available (Watsons sells them for \$37.50). While such kits are useful, some emergencies, such as earthquakes, obviously require additional gear.

Emergency specialists in earthquake-prone regions of the United States and Japan recommend that, at the minimum, emergency kits contain a light stick (below left, available from Pro Trek, tel: 2529 6988; \$15 each), a whistle for communication (below, Pro Trek; \$10), a face mask to protect against smoke and dust (Watsons; from \$38 for 30), sterile gloves (Watsons; from \$7.50 a pair) and an emergency thermal blanket (below, Mountain Services International, tel: 2541 8876; \$40), which packs into a small, flat foil envelope and retains up to 80 per cent of body heat. It can also help to treat shock.

Although keeping the emergency kit light makes it easier to carry, other useful items can be added. The smallest Maglite torch is light, robust and powered by a single AAA battery (Pro Trek; \$89). Victorinox, maker of the Swiss Army Knife, offers knives with a wide range of accessories, including screwdrivers, from \$90 (Victorinox, tel: 2730 1847; www.victorinox.com.hk) – but remember to check in any knives you may be carrying when flying because they won't be allowed in hand luggage.

You may be incapacitated in an emergency, so important information such as contacts and medical details should be copied onto identification cards and kept in your wallet and emergency kit. The American Red Cross provides useful tips on creating an emergency health information card at www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared/healthcard.html. *Catherine Shaw*

