

# GOURMET TRAVELLER

RESTAURANT AWARDS  
MEET THE FINALISTS

## Food for the soul

*Cook up a storm:* indulgent winter baking, hot potato recipes & exotic soups  
**Plus** Sydney's best brunch

**MARTINI O'CLOCK**  
AUSTRALIAN GINS TASTED & RATED

**+**  
**SPICY STUFF**  
PERFECT BEEF RENDANG

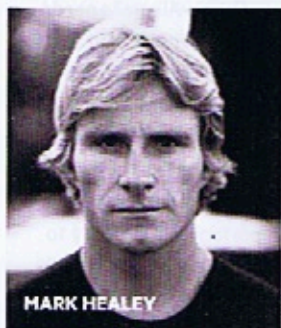


Fennel and orange sugared brioche

**RUSTIC FAVOURITES**  
*Pea & ham soup, APPLE DANISH, DUCK-FAT SCONES,*



HORSE RIDING  
ON SUMBA



MARK HEALEY

## SUMBA

### MARK HEALEY

*Professional waterman and big-wave surfer*

"What I do for a living is exactly what I love and it involves travelling about half the year. I'm mixing work and play, but also doing what I'm passionate about: big-wave surfing and the foundation of my new company, Healey Water Ops, on Sumba, an island in eastern Indonesia, about an hour's flight west of Bali and roughly twice its size.

"My first visit to Sumba was really special to me. I was there for three months straight, staying at Nihiwatu resort and basically setting up my operation.

It took me this long to get to Sumba because there's so little known about it. Once you get here you realise how rare it is: it's still intact, it's still raw, it's the real deal.

"What you learn travelling through any island chain is that the culture, language, everything can be completely different from island to island, and nowhere is that more pronounced than in Sumba.

"The culture is entirely different from anywhere else in Indonesia. The Sumbanese still have their land for the most part, so they're living in villages the same way their ancestors did. It's amazing to see a society and culture so intact and the Sumbanese have a certain amount of pride because of that.

"Traditionally, their culture isn't super ocean-oriented. The Arabs brought horses

during the early years of the spice trade and this developed into a horse culture. All the men carry swords at all times and there are more than 10 different languages on the island. Villages separated by a ridgeline and 15 kilometres can have different languages and a completely different oral history.

"Even the landscape varies wildly. I've been to a black-sand beach with a waterfall spilling into the ocean, and around the corner is a long white-sand beach with coconut trees. Then you turn another corner and there's giant rock spires and pinnacles. It feels fake sometimes, like you're on a movie lot and you're moving from film set to film set as you travel between bays."

*Mark Healey spoke to Maya Kerthyasa. He is the director of Healey Water Ops at Nihiwatu resort on Sumba island, Indonesia. nihiwatu.com*

## IN THE BAG TRAVEL CARRY-ALLS

Stow your in-flight essentials - from gadgets to beauty basics - in an elegant carry-on tote.

- 1 **SMYTHSON** Dove grey Panama East West tote with zip, \$950. [smythson.com](http://smythson.com)
- 2 **LONGCHAMP** "Le pliage" cuir bag, \$839. 1800 083 355
- 3 **TUMI** Sinclair bag in garnet with double zip, \$630. (02) 9221 4408
- 4 **LOUIS VUITTON** "Soft Lockit" calfskin tote, \$4,900. 1300 883 880. [louisvuitton.com](http://louisvuitton.com)
- 5 **CHANEL** Weekend calfskin bag, \$4,690. 1300 242 635



## NORTHERN EXPOSURE

New destinations on the relentlessly expanding Emirates route map are Brussels and Oslo. Daily flights to both cities from the airline's Dubai hub start next month. [emirates.com](http://emirates.com)

## CALIFORNIA DREAMING

Picture this: you're chatting with fellow travellers around a fireplace, settled on mid-century American sofas. A Californian food cart sails by; a crumbed-cod taco with slaw, please, and a Napa Valley syrah. There's time to freshen up in one of nine shower suites stocked with Aurora Spa products, and you're

THE LOUNGE ON  
LEVEL 5 AT LAX



on your way. The new Los Angeles Business Lounge on level 5 of the renovated LAX can already accommodate 400 passengers flying Qantas, British Airways and Cathay Pacific. By early next year that will be 600 passengers and a family zone when the business lounge is completed in tandem with a new Qantas First Lounge. [qantas.com](http://qantas.com)