

DESIGNED FOR GOOD VIBES

SUSAN BUGG

The number of hotel openings in Brisbane in the past year has been astounding – the Calile, the Fantauzzo, the Emporium, the Westin, the W, for starters. But now it's Melbourne's turn for a boom in hotel rooms.

The 46-storey Shadow Play by Peppers opened in Southbank last month, and more big names such as the W, Le Meridien and Hyatt are set to follow into 2020 and '21.

Victorians know Zagame's for its suburban hotel and restaurant venues. But now the hospitality family has turned its inner city Carlton property, once the Italian heartland's Downtowner on Lygon, into something altogether more stylish. The hotel reopens on June 2 after an \$18 million transformation as Zagame's House, a 97-room boutique stay set to be filled with local furniture and art, Cowshed organic bathroom products and, the correct flow of Qi. The owners consulted with a feng shui master to get the hotel's energy just right.

The hotel will also be home to a

private event space, a wine shop and bar, and a coffee house and kitchen. ZAGAMESHOUSE.COM.AU

IN THEIR ELEMENT

The CBD fringe is the location for another new property opening in June, this time in Richmond, along

the Yarra River, where Australia's first Element by Westin is getting its polishing touches.

The brand is eco-focused and aimed at the healthy, active traveller (it has bikes to borrow to use on the neighbouring bike paths).

Some of the 168 rooms will have kitchenettes for longer stays and pets are welcome.

The hotel has a pre-opening offer of \$188 a night for stays from when it opens on June 12 until August 31.

ELEMENTMELBOURNERICHMOND.COM

MELBOURNE MOJO

Melbourne's city fringe will also be the Australian launch place for the Ovolo Group's Mojo Nomad hotels in the middle of next year. The Hong Kong-based group's first property here will be in South Yarra, a tram ride away from the CBD, and will be design-focused and aimed at the young travelling professional who wants affordable, good looking spaces and a social atmosphere. The 100 rooms include share rooms.

MOJONOMAD.COM

HAPPY HILTON

Hilton hotels is celebrating its 100th anniversary on May 31. Meanwhile, the hotel group's flagship Hilton brand, formerly attached to the Pullman in East Melbourne and the rebranded Pan Pacific Melbourne at South Wharf, is returning to the Victorian capital by the year's end. The 244-room Hilton Melbourne Little Queen Street is under construction, preserving the facade of the 1931 Equity Chambers building that occupied the site.

TRAVEL BY NUMBERS

1000

Single-use plastic items removed or substituted from Qantas's first zero-waste flight this month.

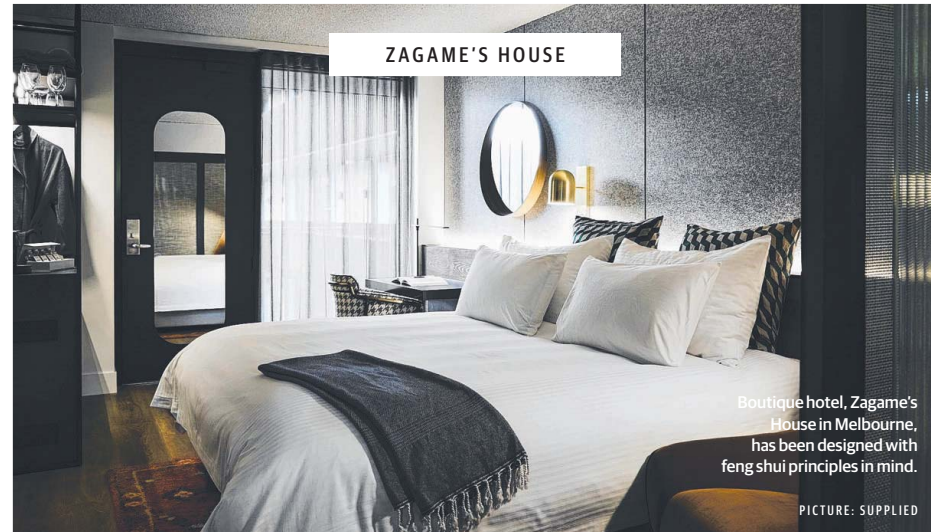


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Boutique hotel, Zagame's House in Melbourne, has been designed with feng shui principles in mind.

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