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HALCYON HOUSE AUSTRALIA



A former surf motel turned breezy boutique hideaway. That's Halcyon House in a nutshell. A little over an hour from Brisbane – via Byron Bay – you'll find the family-run pad poised perkily on Carabita Beach. A design darling at heart, its crisp white facade yields to reveal 22

well-dressed rooms offering home-from-home appeal with an eclectic edge: think bold textiles, antique furniture and vibrant paintwork, all backed by a sense of carefree, mid-century Americana meets new-wave Aussie rusticity. A vibey pool area, pretty, concise spa

complete with hammam and award-winning restaurant serving laid-back modern Australian flavours complete the picture. A choice pick for exploring the Tweed region of New South Wales. **BG.** *Doubles from £597. 00 61 2 6676 1444, halcyonhouse.com.au*

HOTEL ICARO ITALY

Leave it to a mountainscape to breathe a sense of renewal into a winter getaway. The Dolomites stands and delivers – at 1,900m above sea level, be prepared for a rocky ascent, with views to reward you. Overlooking the picturesque Alpe di Siusi is Icaro, a design-forward hotel with a sustainable ethos (it became the first climate-neutral hotel in the Dolomites more than a decade ago). From first sight, the striking larch-clad exterior and spruce, oak and elm interiors unite nature and art, all 29 rooms

championing the Alpine skyline with uninterrupted views from the balcony and adorned with bright, contemporary art. Very much a family affair, Angelika Sattler is the third-generation owner and her artist husband Hubert curates the artwork. A breakfast of Italian pastries fuels your winter adventure – the area is a skiers' paradise – and, for rest days, make a beeline for the spa and pool. It's the Alpine refuge you didn't know you needed. **MD.** *Doubles from £253. 00 39 0471 729000, hotelicaro.com*

