

CHECKING IN

MACq 01 Hotel

We take the guesswork out of local travel with our tips on where to stay, eat, drink and play. This month, *GT* heads to Hobart.

Hobart,
Tas

Ash, one of MACq 01's storytellers, is leading the hotel's signature Viewfinder tour, directing a group of guests to vantage points along Hobart's waterfront. The group is asked to observe each spot as it stands today and then look through an old-school stereoscope to see it as it once was. The first viewing point takes in the contemporary monument that is the MACq 01 Hotel, which opened in 2017. Through the viewfinder, you then see the old Macquarie 1 shipping shed on an 1820s causeway backed by the original IXL Jam factory (now Henry Jones Art Hotel) for context. Clicking through the reels, it's clear MACq 01 is a modern hotel that embraces the history it was built on. Coming inside, the story begins at Evolve Spirits Bar, where bartenders pour fine whiskies and inventive cocktails, surrounded by fossils and artefacts. Then, in the lounge, around a roaring fire, Hobart's Indigenous history unfolds amid art and design by descendants of the first Tasmanians. Keep moving to the Old Wharf Restaurant to take in found objects from Hobart's industrial era, many dug up on site. At Story Bar, old newspapers share headlines from the 20th century in a tribute to Tasmania's egalitarian watering holes. The guest accommodation is just as expressive. Every door to the 114 rooms exhibits one of Hobart's unique characters, each with a story to tell. The rooms are all kitted out with robes, games and a minibar of Tasmanian treats. Still, an upgrade to the Premium Waterfront Suite with rooftop terraces and pinch-me views is worth the splurge.

macq01.com.au

STAY

Quick
look

Where

18 Hunter St,
Hobart, Tas

Facilities

Prices from \$360 per

night for a Hunter

Street room.

Bar Yes, two

Restaurant Yes

Gym Yes

Valet parking Yes

Free Wifi Yes



Clockwise from above: the bar at The Still, Lark Distillery cellar door; Stefano Lubiana; prawn cocktail at Institut Polaire; Pooley estate. Opposite: the lounge at MACq 01.

AROUND TOWN

On foot or electric scooter (they are available to hire all around the city), Hobart is a premium sauntering destination. From MACq 01 on a Saturday, Salamanca Markets is a 15-minute waterfront wander. After an obligatory bratwurst you will be set to hit the town's tasting hubs including Lark Distillery's cellar door The Still and Glaetzer-Dixon's urban winery and tasting room.



DAY TRIP

For mainlanders, the prospect of arriving in pristine cool-climate wine country within 15 minutes of the city limits is too thrilling to ignore. To the east, Pooley, Frogmore Creek and, a little further, Bangor Vineyard Shed offer exceptional winery touring. To the north, Stefano Lubiana is the place for an excellent wine tasting experience that rolls into a long lunch. And you will still be back in the city for golden hour.



Breakfast

For hotel guests at MACq 01, **Old Wharf Restaurant** dishes up a thoughtful buffet of fresh bread, pastries and fruit along with hot à la carte dishes with a shimmering water view. Deeper in the city, **Pigeon Whole Bakers** delivers uncompromising batch brews and handcrafted carbs. Special mention to their morning bun, a sticky pastry coated in cardamon and honey.

Lunch

Thursdays through to Mondays and only at lunch, Tasmanian chef, Kurstin Berriman serves a seafood-focused menu in the dining room of new Salamanca boutique, **Becker Minty**. Meanwhile, **Peppina** is a must-try in these parts. Or jump in the car and head to **The Agrarian Kitchen** where Rodney Dunn's idyllic farm-to-table lifestyle might tempt you to sell up and move to Tasmania for good.

Dinner

The gin and wine bar Nordic dreams are made of, **Institut Polaire** gives you flexibility to stay for six courses or just a snack. Either way, it's a tentpole in your eating itinerary. **Landscape**, just metres from MACq 01, is an elegant dining affair. For a pub dinner, **Tom McHugo's** is the go-to for locals. Wine bar **Sonny** is also a fun option for. It's walk-in only and draws a crowd so get there at 5pm or risk a long line.

WORDS ANNA MCCOY

EAT