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A GUIDE FOR THE SOPHISTICATED TRAVELER HERE & ABROAD | Edited by Jeffries Blackerby

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Splendor Down Under

Capella Lodge on Australia's Lord Howe Island

FOR A FEW DECADES NOW, Lord Howe Island—a tiny slip of land 300 miles off Australia's east coast—has been a hideaway for smart Sydneysiders who've built houses here. Having come since childhood, they arrive by private plane on weekends (it's less than two hours from Sydney and Brisbane). Many Australians, however, have still never heard of Lord Howe. It has 300 residents, a small airstrip, one road, and, until recently, a few basic family-run lodges. That was before James Baillie showed up. The man behind some of the country's best resorts—including Lizard and Bedarra islands, both along the Great Barrier Reef—has opened **Capella Lodge**, a nine-suite teak-and-glass hotel overlooking Lover's Bay. In addition to luxe rooms and expert service, Capella has introduced the island's first spa, with a menu based on local basalt stones and native flora (the pepperberry foot mask is superb). It has also brought in Sydney chef