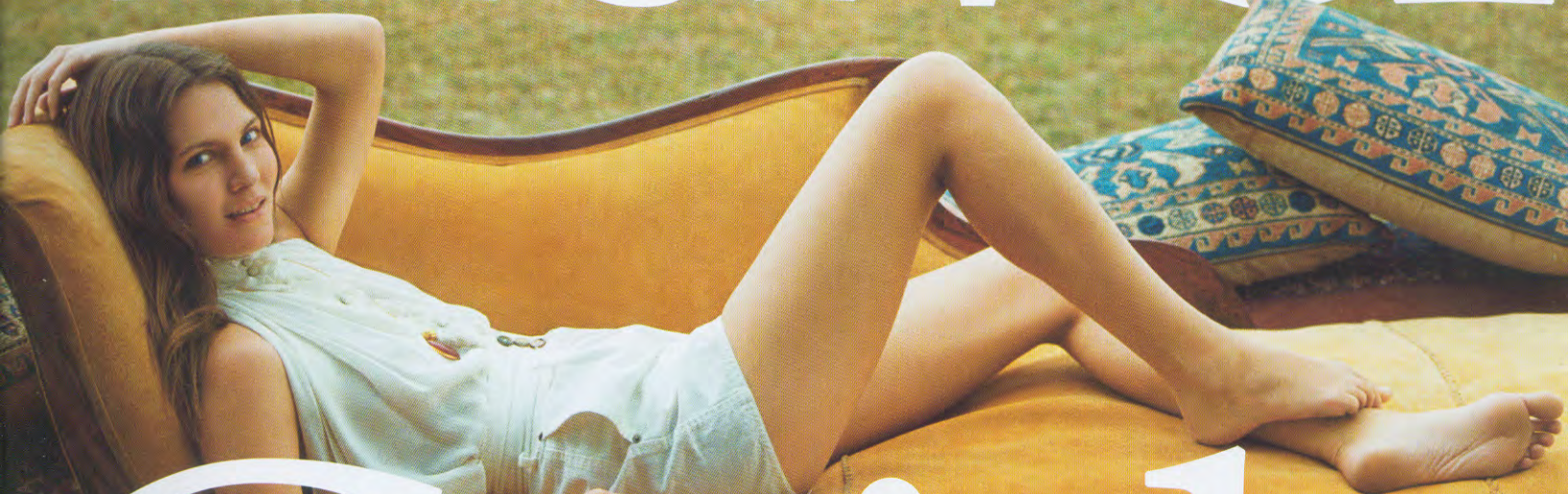


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Capella Lodge

Lord Howe Island, Australia

The couple behind Capella also opened local big guns Lizard and Bedarra Island. But this is the best and the most exclusive of the lot. The island, a World Heritage Site, is where smart Sydney own weekend houses. The nine-room lodge has a spectacular location, with reefs, mountains, surf and fabulous fishing. Plead with reservations for the Lidgbird Suite – you get a natty golf buggy thrown in, allowing for a sedate trip back from the fresh seafood supper. This is a tiny island and a world away from the over-trodden Great Barrier Reef. There are few cars – in fact you're more likely to bump into some masked boobies on the road – but Capella, basking in marine-sanctuary waters, is more than worth the short hop from Sydney. **Website** baillielodges.com.au. **UK reservations** Tim Best Travel (tel: 020 7591 0300). **Rates** Double, £365, half board, including transfers from the airport.