

december 2019

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# glam rock

Tasmanian-based hoteliers, Kerry and Alastair,  
are new to the game, but their home and  
boutique hotel speaks a different story



PHOTOGRAPHY Marnie Hawson

STYLING Inside Story

WORDS Ali Heath





### VERANDA

'We never tire of the view – dolphins, whales, fairy penguins, and a constantly changing nautical backdrop,' says Kerry.

**Exterior woodwork and trims in**  
Barely There by Haymes Paint

### MOO-NUT-RE-KER SUITE

Each suite tells a story – tales of local happenings, shipwrecks and lives lived and lost.

**Portrait** of Alastair's  
grandmother by Ulrica Burke

## FAMILY LIVING ROOM

Dark walls and the original Tasmanian pine floorboards create a relaxing retreat.

**Walls in** Seclusion by Haymes Paint. Antique **chaise**, similar from Streett Marburg. Bentwood **dining chairs**, similar from Dig Haūshizzle. Antique Tasmanian **floorboards**, similar Bert & May





## home profile

## THE OWNERS

Kerry Houston, a former HR manager-turned-hotelier, lives here with Alastair, her stonemason husband and business partner, their four girls, April, 22, Matilda, 14, Lucy, nine and Bonnie, seven, and Border collie, Floss.

## THE PROPERTY

A former pub converted into two apartments and a boutique hotel in Stanley, Tasmania. The family's apartment has a dining room, living room and kitchen on the ground floor. Upstairs is a master bedroom, four-bed bunk bedroom and bathroom.

C

hristmas is hotting up in Tasmania and this year the Houston family will be celebrating in style, having completed an 18-month renovation transforming a derelict former pub into a chic boutique

hotel and home at the foot of The Nut – a sheer rocky volcanic plug overlooking the picturesque harbour of Stanley.

Their new home and business venture began life as a pub in 1849, built by Michael Lyons, grandfather of the former Australian Prime Minister, Joseph Lyons. The stone walls have seen pub owners come and go, along with an infamous 1880s roller-skating rink, a crowd-pulling billiards and skittles room, and a cold room that doubled as the local doctor's morgue, before falling into disrepair and standing empty for more than a year. If walls could talk, these would have tales to tell.

Five years ago a much anticipated tropical holiday failed to meet expectations and the family decided to explore closer to their Hobart home. Despite growing up in the southern hemisphere, Alastair's English family owned homes in Norfolk and the Isle of Skye, and as a child, he would visit regularly. 'Discovering Stanley evoked fond memories of Skye for Alastair,' says Kerry. 'We wanted our children to enjoy the same rural freedom and decided to buy and renovate a holiday cottage – which we also offered occasionally as an Airbnb.'

Falling for the simple charms of Stanley, the family took a leap of faith. 'I wanted to follow my passion for interiors and Alastair was keen to carve a future away from the arduous rigours of stonemasonry,' says Kerry. The former pub caught their eye and they decided to make a permanent move to open their first boutique hotel, the Ship Inn.

With the help of the Australian design duo Lynda Gardener and Belle Hemming of Inside Story, Kerry and Alastair have transformed the distinctive ochre-painted landmark into seven self-contained guest suites, along with two separate apartments for themselves and Kerry's parents. With colour and style templates agreed, Lynda and Belle were given free rein to work their magic, combining stone and wood with soft linens, contemporary fittings, antique furniture and one-off decorative finds. The elegant interiors, decorated in earthy greys and muddy greens that reflect the local vernacular, are immensely welcoming – comfortable sofas, battered leather chairs, natural weave rugs and treasured collections of ancestral portraits, oils and sketches add a sense of time-worn nostalgia. Bespoke cabinetry features throughout, along with a hand-carved fireplace and stone garden walls, designed and built by Alastair, from the surrounding volcanic lava.

With the festive season approaching, the tree waits patiently until Christmas Eve. 'It's a family tradition – Dean Martin plays on repeat, decorations are lovingly unpacked, the kids spend ages deliberating over which gift to open early and the turkey is prepped,' smiles Kerry. 'This year we will be very thankful for our new home and the life it has given us. It's a winter wonderland indeed, even if it is midsummer!'

x

Find out about the Ship Inn at [shipinnstanley.com.au](http://shipinnstanley.com.au)



## KITCHEN

A former barrel store was knocked through to create a light-filled family kitchen, with views out to the bay.

**Kitchen design and accessories,** Inside Story. **Cabinetry,** Alec Blacklow, Smithton Joinery





## home truths

### HOLIDAY ATTIRE - SPARKLY OR COSY?

It's warm here, so definitely sparkly!

### BEST CHRISTMAS SONG?

*Walking in a Winter Wonderland*  
by Dean Martin.

### FESTIVE TIPPLE?

Ice-cold Moët & Chandon, before lunch.

### TURKEY OR LOBSTER?

Turkey every time - a definite nod to my  
Sheffield-born parents.

### CHRISTMAS PUD OR ICE-CREAM?

Both! We make a delicious frozen bomb  
every year - crumbled Christmas pudding,  
mixed with ice-cream, frozen, then covered  
in melted chocolate and refrigerated.

### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE?

Be kind, it's not hard.

### MOO-NUT-RE-KER SUITE

Decadent dark-hued walls are  
mixed with luxurious layers of  
cane, wood, linen and wool.

**Bedding**, Cultiver; try Piglet for  
similar. **Artwork** and **furnishings**,  
Inside Story. **Walls** in Minimalist 1,  
Haymes Paint





## LYONS RETREAT SUITE

Suites combine original artefacts, art, soft linens and bespoke fittings.

**Bedhead**, The Upholstery House.  
**Bedding**, Cultiver;  
try Larusi for similar.  
**Lamp**, find a similar  
style at Loaf

## WILDWAVE SUITE

A rich floral wallpaper nods to the rugged landscape beyond.

Raphaël Black  
**wallpaper**, Sandberg.  
**Bedhead**, The  
Upholstery House.  
**Bedding**, Cultiver;  
try Piglet for similar.  
**Bedside table**,  
Inside Story



## MOO-NUT- RE-KER EN SUITE

Contemporary meets antique for a distinctive vibe in each space.

**Towels**, Loom Towels.  
**Tiles**, similar from  
Tile Boutique. **Stool**,  
similar from The Fig  
Store. **Mirror**, similar  
from Made.com

