

WHO VISITS: BON SOL



bon Sol is just a 50-minute drive from Byron Bay.

It's no secret Queensland's Gold Coast has evolved from the days when it was best known for Meter Maids, theme parks and the Surfers Paradise glitter strip.

With exciting culinary and cultural scenes, a plethora of small bars, designer markets and new micro breweries, the southern Gold Coast has become one of Australia's hottest holiday destinations.

While there is an abundance of holiday accommodation and upscale hotels in this surf city, luxury boutique accommodation has been harder to find – until now.

Tucked away in an apartment block on The Esplanade in the hip beachside locale of Burleigh Heads – often described as the new Byron Bay or a more low-key Bondi Beach – is the luxurious home-hotel bon Sol.

Described as an end-to-end accommodation experience, this hotel – the brainchild of creative director Annette Tesoriero – epitomises beachside luxe and offers an unrivalled holiday experience.

I arrive on a gloriously sunny Queensland winter day and do a double-take as I pull up in front of the three-storey, orange brick, 1960s-style apartment block and wonder, briefly, if I'm in the wrong place.

A sign at the building's front door reading bon Sol (French for "good sun"), confirms I am indeed at the right address.

I'm greeted by my smiling host Bec, who leads me up a flight of stairs and into the apartment, which transports me to Europe.

Famed interior designer Anna Spiro – of Halcyon House fame – was responsible for transforming the original light-filled, spacious apartment into a romantic oasis that

looks like the set of a Hollywood film.

In true Spiro style, there's an inspiring mix of colours and textures, custom-made furnishings and bespoke art works and wallpaper.

Sunlight is spilling into the master bedroom, which has ocean views, a king-size bed and an ensuite.

In the main bathroom there are the softest cotton towels from Moss River, Grown Alchemist toiletries and a boxed Fragonard soap – thoughtful touches I appreciate.

There's also a second bedroom with twin beds, a laundry and a fully equipped kitchen and dining area, which leads to a balcony overlooking The Esplanade and ocean.

We decide to venture out to one of Burleigh's hip bars and enjoy a pre-dinner margarita and cheese board at Rosella's, an Australian-themed bar with a chic twist. The following morning after a sleep in, we pop into Borough Barista for a flat white and get our breakfast to-go. We stroll to famous Burleigh Head, sit on the grass and watch surfers ride the waves at the iconic surf spot.

In the summer months, bon Sol offers an indulgent beach club service, where the property manager sets up beach lounges, umbrellas and a cool box with drinks on the chalk-white sands of Burleigh Beach.

For more info, visit bonsol.com.au



Enjoy a day in the sun at nearby Burleigh Beach.



Interior designer Anna Spiro is behind bon Sol's look.

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