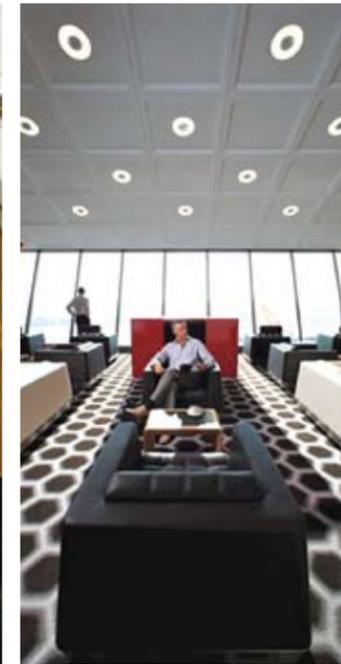


# Qantas First

New First Class lounges in Sydney and Melbourne combine style with relaxation and pleasure while setting a higher standard of comfort and service.



In May this year, Qantas opened its new First Class lounges in Melbourne and Sydney. If you think you've seen it all when it comes to airport waiting rooms you're mistaken. These two lounges raise the bar on quality of service and design, for, as David Libeau, the airline's Auckland-based Marketing and Business Development Manager told *World*: "They are the ultimate in luxury and comfort."

First Lounges, as they are known, were developed for First Class passengers, however Qantas Platinum frequent flyers can access them as well. They were designed by internationally acclaimed Marc Newson, known for his interiors of the new A380 airbus. Qantas begins flying the new aircraft in August 2008. Newson's team included Paris-based architect Sebastien Segers, who has collaborated with him on Hotel Puerta America in Madrid and designer boutiques in Tokyo and Paris.

Leather lounge chairs, recliners and sofas were imported from Paltrona Frau, the world-renowned Italian leather manufacturer. The lounges employ Italian marble, Swiss quartzite, American oak joinery, and carpets manufactured by Tai Ping, the company that has become synonymous with the prestigious interiors of many five-star hotels, private jets, and luxury yachts.

The form and shape of the layout of each lounge is considered and, well, first-class, as their features have been designed in a way that conform to the principles of Feng Shui. Especially eye-catching at each lounge is the vertical garden created by French botanist Patrick Blanc. The garden features at the entrance to each lounge and in the spa.

First Lounges offer guests complimentary pre-

flight spa treatments that pamper away the stress of everyday life – the perfect preparation for longer flights. The spa includes skin and beauty products by Payot, the Parisian company founded by Dr. Nadia Payot that, coincidentally, share more than a passion for excellence with Qantas. Both were founded in 1920.

For doing business while you wait, Melbourne has five work stations, Sydney has 11, each with complimentary broadband internet connection, email, Microsoft Office and document binding and shredding facilities. Guests can work in total seclusion or, if they wish, each lounge has wireless internet access throughout.

The dining menu was created by Neil Perry, the head chef and founder of Rockpool restaurants in Sydney and Melbourne. Perry is known for his use of only the finest fresh produce and his menus cater for all tastes. Guests can enjoy à la carte dining in the restaurants or they can choose to be more casual and order direct from their chair. Dine at the bar if you wish and watch a theatre of chefs working from an open kitchen.

These days, when arriving early at an airport is the sensible thing to do, spending time here is as good as being in a five-star hotel in the city. Indeed, staff are trained by Sofitel so every aspect of the guest experience here is better and parallels a five-star hotel rather than the normal airport lounge. First Class passengers are greeted at curbside and escorted through dedicated check-in and immigration lanes. 🌿

For more information or to book your Qantas flight contact our travel partner Voyage Affaires.

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