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Ten Chairs A designer/makers mission • Hinterland Bliss Byron Calls

Travel

California Dreaming

Situated on Bundjalung land, this eco-lodge presents the best of the Byron Bay hinterland. **opposite** Independently owned by a group of 13 mates, the design direction references their global travels, sourcing vintage furniture along with local artist works.





While looking out across the Pacific for its fabulous inspiration, Byron's newest eco-lodge stays very close to home.

text: **Monique Kawecki**

photography: **Jessie Prince, Chris Searl and Monique Kawecki**

top Bespoke handmade lighting by Lana Launay hangs above French linen-clad beds. **bottom** Sage is used to refresh every room with good energy before each group of new guests stay.

“Before we let you into your room, we just need to quickly sage it,” the staff tell me. To purify and cleanse the space before the next guest, it’s a ritual for all guestrooms and one that I am indeed down for. Small considerations have all been made by Ashwood and Blakey in the design and operations of the property. Through their global travels (Ashwood stills runs her travel blog, *The Vista*) and keen eye for anything colourful and quirky, they’ve curated a design identity which references 1970s California ranches, Quentin Tarantino and iconic Australiana. Sourcing artworks from local makers and going abroad for custom tiles, vintage furniture was scouted both globally (Los Angeles and Spain) and locally (from SODA Objects in Adelaide). Bespoke handmade lighting found in all rooms is by Lana Launay, and custom artworks found throughout the property are painted by Jedda Daisy Culley. Bringing an authentic and original feel to the property, the carefully curated blend of natural materials (the timbers used throughout the Rambler Long House are all recycled French oak from an old winery floor) and vibrant colours have enabled the property’s personality to shine.

It’s an all-women team on-site at the Sun Ranch, bar Micko the humble groundskeeper. The property has a strong feminine energy, co-owner Ashwood told us during our visit. Before beginning construction work, the property was doused by a practitioner to locate its energy centres and a dominating feminine aura was found. Even the largest tree on the property, the Moreton Bay Fig, is said to bring fertility.

Chef Pip Sumbak and a revolving calendar of great chefs work the Field House outdoor dining space, equipped with an Argentinian barbecue, alfresco kitchen pit and long table. Currently only available for custom bookings, the best of the region’s farm produce can be tasted each morning at the complimentary hotel breakfast and tasty PoolClub snacks, which treats guests to local organic delights.

The highly curated offering at Sun Ranch ensures guests are transported to a completely new destination – one on home turf they can easily return back to. From the moment they check-in at the Cowboy Bar to watching the sun gracefully set over the hinterland, a stay at Sun Ranch feels a world away from anywhere. 🌿

sunranch.com.au

