

A Private Island

Enjoy the romance of Glen Isla House

In decades past, the best way to treat yourselves at Phillip Island was to rug-up and see the penguins, then fall asleep in the car while dad drove home. If you were lucky, you might even get to stay in a fibro holiday shack or some forlorn motel for the night.

Things have changed for most, but not for the penguins. The formally-attired birds are stuck with their local Sunset Boulevard-style homes and regurgitating fish for their young. Visitors can opt for something decidedly more appealing.

Glen Isla House is located on the edge of the touristy Cowes township, but drive in through gates and the first thing you'll notice is the vast expanse of gardens and mature European trees. At

the end of the driveway is historic Glen Isla homestead, built in 1870 and on the National Trust register. Guests, unfortunately, don't get to stay here — they've got something a little newer, with one significant exception. More on that later.

Owners Ian and Madeleine Baker opened Glen Isla House about eighteen months ago and word is finally getting around that this is *the* place to go for a little romance. It's just been nominated as a five-star retreat, and while you can't buy romance, this has got to be the next best thing.

Ian says he planned to provide Glen Isla with the elements that make a short break from the rat-race seem like a holiday for guests — supremely comfort-

able accommodation, refined dining, landscaped gardens, a touch of history, a three-minute stroll to the beach, and relaxed hosting.

The main guest lodgings are built as two wings separated by the guest lounge and dining room. There are six rooms here, all similarly sized, but individually decorated; each has a bedroom, dressing room and ensuite. Of course all the expected things like air-con, tea making and so on are there, but most noticeable is the attention to things like side tables, chairs and fabrics — all top quality and tastefully executed. You get the feeling you're staying in a classy place.

If you want to really indulge, Anderson Cottage is the ultimate private

