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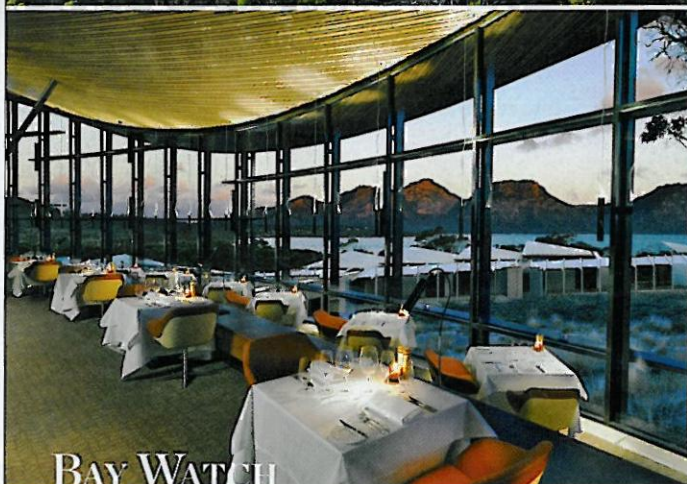
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BAY WATCH



THE FREYCINET PENINSULA on Tasmania's east coast has long been known as a place of spectacular natural beauty—the area became a national park in 1916—but until recently few accommodations in the area exceeded the campground category. The June opening of Saffire Freycinet—a \$29 million resort with 20 lavish suites and a manta ray-shaped main lodge—marks a dramatic departure for this pristine Australian outpost.

Located two-plus hours by car from Hobart International Airport (helicopter is also an option), Saffire Freycinet

emphasizes its views of the park throughout. The main lodge's restaurant and lounge feature floor-to-ceiling windows, and Saffire's comfortably contemporary suites have motorized blinds that open to reveal the Hazard mountain range and Great Oyster Bay.

While guests at Saffire can witness the setting's wonders from their rooms, those who desire a closer look may wish to hike in the park, whale watch in the Tasman Sea, or wade into the bay in search of oysters. *Saffire Freycinet*, +61.3. 6256.7888, www.saffire-freycinet.com.au —MARGOT DOUGHERTY

The first luxury resort on Tasmania's Freycinet Peninsula, Saffire Freycinet boasts a manta ray-shaped main lodge and views of Great Oyster Bay.