



totally majestic



ADELAIDE'S East End is one of the most charming of the city's precincts where footpaths are crammed with al fresco diners and popular pubs sit cheek by jowl with fashionable boutiques and wine bars. Hub for all manner of events from the Festival Fringe to the Jacobs Creek Tour Downunder cycling race, this is a great place to stay if you want to feel at the heart of things. Set on Frome Street just around the corner from Rundle East, the Majestic Roof Garden is that rather wonderful thing – a very stylish hotel with five star attitude – at four star prices. The 120 guest rooms (including six one-bedroom apartments) feature king size beds with crisp linen, all mod cons (including broadband internet access) and elegant Italian marble-clad bathrooms with sliding cherry wood Japanese screens that allow you to watch television from the deep, deep tub. This is a very well designed hotel with little escaping owner/developer John Culshaw's attention. Rooms and balconies are double-glazed to ensure absolute quiet, even in this busy downtown locale; and while interiors tend towards the minimalist, the use of rich rosewood timber on the floors, and Hawkesbury River sandstone on both the

exterior and interior walls, ensures a sense of warmth, almost clubbiness. And there are charming touches like the litter of hand-cast leaves on each guest door denoting the room number. The ground floor lobby is small but sleek with marble floors, a lounge at one end and the highly regarded Culshaw's Grill at the other. Open for breakfast and dinner this very elegant eatery, with slim black chairs and glass doors opening onto the pavement, is famous for its steaks and quality meat. Think grain-fed Coorong Angus Beef, free range Hay Valley lamb and hormone- and antibiotic-free cambrai pork. Chef Gareth Grierson presides over a small but well balanced (and very well priced) menu and if steak's not your thing try the duck and shitake pie or scampi ravioli. The hotel's pièce de résistance is the roof top garden on the seventh floor set below a suspended wavelike canopy ceiling (a striking addition by architect Ken Woolley). Designed by award-winning landscape architect David Baptiste, the small garden features broad views to the Adelaide Hills, great pots of ficus and succulents and a fun water feature topped with large metallic fish. Dotted among the greenery are tables and chairs including an enormous red gum slab

from Quorn in the state's north, west-facing to ensure brilliant sunset vistas. Bring a bottle of wine from your mini bar or telephone down to Culshaw's for a steak (there's 24 hour room service). The friendly staff are so obliging they'll even order take-out for you from a range of Rundle Street's excellent restaurants. And that's the best thing about staying at the Majestic. Its location, within walking distance of all the city's major attractions and only seconds from Rundle Street East where restaurants range the culinary gamut from Japanese to Greek (the very elegant Eros is a favourite of mine). Have drinks at the famous Universal Wine Bar, then trawl the boutiques (don't miss the legendary Miss Gladys Sym Choon, nor stylish Bauhaus). Add to this the Mary Martin bookshop, the Palace and Nova arthouse cinemas and the new-look Stag Hotel with chic eatery and you have city living at it's most stylish. With many Fringe events spilling onto Rundle Street, the Majestic is the perfect Festival bolthole. Rooms start from \$149 per night; apartments with full kitchen from \$259. Summer packages available. For further details and bookings, (618) 8100 4400; [www.majestichotels.com.au](http://www.majestichotels.com.au)