

BUSINESS CLASS



MELANIE GRANT

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Facialist, skin expert for Chanel Australia

Where do you travel regularly for work?

"Melbourne, Paris, London and New York. I love these cities, so I feel very lucky."

How often are you away?

"I travel to Melbourne weekly from Sydney. I'm overseas four or five times a year."

Suitcase of choice?

"Samsonite, the really lightweight ones – so I have more weight allowance for shoes. Also my Chanel XXL carry-on; my husband calls it 'the mothership'."

Pre-flight routine? "I have a hydrating facial the day before I leave on a long-haul flight. And always a gin and tonic the night before I leave, because I don't drink on the flight."

Essential cabin baggage?

"Laptop, Kindle, skincare (a lot of skincare), a black silk eye mask, compression stockings, a humidifying breathing mask and

earplugs. And copies of French, Italian and Australian *Vogue*.

On-board routine?

"For long-haul flights I change into pyjamas straight away and then cleanse my face with a micellar water and apply a serum underneath a hydrating cream mask. I love Sisley Black Rose Cream Mask. Last, I apply an oil on my face, hair and body to ensure supple, hydrated skin when I land – Chanel's new Jasmine oil is just beyond. I try to get my work completed first so I can read magazines, watch movies and relax, and I always try to time my sleep to sync with my destination time zone – but, honestly, I'm yet to master that. Ninety minutes before landing I like to have a shower (which is why I love Emirates) and apply a rich, heavy moisturiser with a little mascara and lip balm."

Favourite airline lounge?

"I don't love lounges to be honest. I do anything to ensure minimum time is spent in them. Having said that, I do like Virgin Atlantic's London Heathrow Clubhouse; it's like a scene from *The Jetsons*."

Favourite hotels for business?

"I love boutique hotels where the staff know your name. Le Burgundy in Paris, The Crosby Street Hotel or The Mercer in New York, and St Martins Lane in London."

How do hotels get it wrong for business travellers?

"Dodgy WiFi, limited room-service menus and bad coffee are all deal-breakers for me. And no bathtub – a tub is non-negotiable."

Melanie Grant is the founder of Melanie Grant Skin Health and a skin expert for Chanel Australia.

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Roll or fold?

"I fold most things and then when I'm running out of room I roll smaller garments and squeeze them into the gaps."

Which airline do you fly most often for work?

"Qantas and Emirates. I love Qantas for the great people and service. And Emirates for the great in-flight experience, the showers and the privacy."

Aisle or window seat?

"Window for sure. I love flying from Paris to Dubai and looking down over continental Europe and the deserts of the UAE on a clear night."



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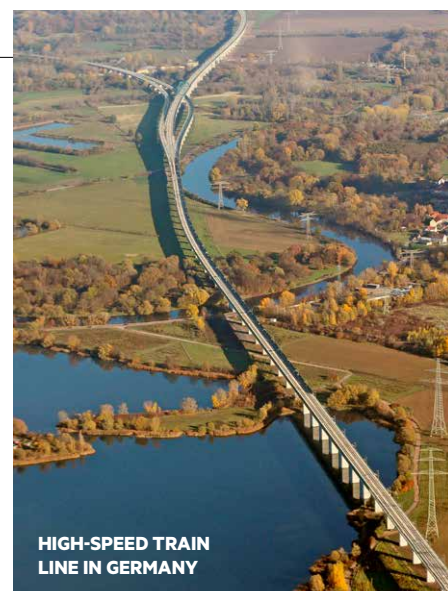
IS A GREAT MONTH TO...

Sydney lights up at the ninth annual **Vivid Sydney** festival (26 May to 17 June), when city streets fill with light shows and performers. A zero-waste natural-wine bar will pop up at the Opera House, where the sails bear nightly light shows. In Melbourne, Indigenous artists, filmmakers and performers from across Australia celebrate

Aboriginal culture at the **Yirramboi First Nations Arts Festival** (5-14 May). Fans of jazz and jambalaya gather at the **New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival** (until 7 May) to hear the likes of Stevie Wonder and George Benson. Need a break from dancing? One cannot live on music alone, so head to the Balinese hinterland for the **Ubud Food Festival** (12-14 May) for dinners, discussions and market tours that highlight the deliciousness of Indonesian cuisine, the diversity of South East Asian food and the stories behind the flavours.

SPEED IN TRAIN

Four new high-speed train services are set to make travel in Europe even more accessible, fuelling a steady rise in international ticket sales by Rail Europe. Ready for spring in France, a new service between Paris and Rennes will reduce travel time by half an hour, linking the cities in 85 minutes. From mid-year, a new Paris-Bordeaux high-speed service slices an hour off the current three-hour trip. In December, travellers between Berlin and Munich will arrive in about four hours, at a speed that lops about two hours off the ride. And next year in Spain, the world's third deepest tunnel will link Madrid and Asturias. raileurope.com.au



HIGH-SPEED TRAIN LINE IN GERMANY

SMALL GESTURES This portable Bluetooth speaker, designed in collaboration with British weavers Marton Mills, has rugged good looks and gesture control – you can play and pause with the wave of a hand. Yoyo (S), \$299. synergyaudio.com