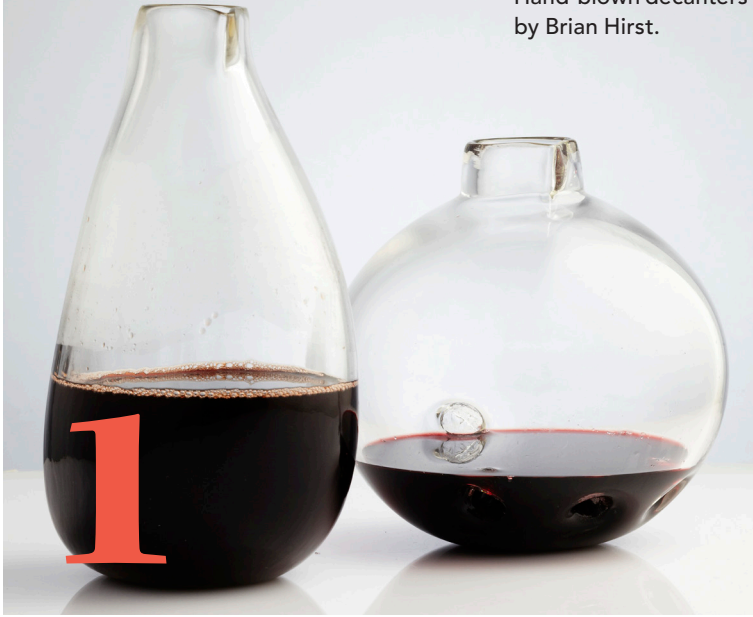


## HOT 100

More than a feeling  
Hand-blown decanters  
by Brian Hirst.



**1 ORGANIC WINE (VESSELS)** With designs inspired by “the asymmetrical shape, the organic feeling” and “an old-fashioned big electrical bulb and the ergonomics of a bowling ball” these hand-blown glass decanters by Sydney’s Brian Hirst, designed with the help of 121BC’s Giorgio De Maria, are adorning the tables of many a thirsty taste-maker. [brianhirst.com](http://brianhirst.com)

### 2 NEW VENETIAN CLASS

Two irresistible reasons to put La Serenissima on your itinerary prontamente. Uno: Venice’s most exalted address, the Gritti Palace, has reopened after a 15-month “handcrafted restoration” during which Italy’s most talented artisans brought its interiors back to their original, breathtaking grandeur. The Gritti’s Redentore Terrazza Suite is our idea of heaven on earth, with its spiral staircase leading to a private rooftop terrace equipped with daybed, plunge pool and heart-stopping views of Venice. Due: Resort supremos Aman have nabbed two five-storey palazzi on the Grand Canal near the Rialto Bridge and transformed them into the 24-suite Aman Canal Grande Venice. All rooms have canal views or equally winning aspects overlooking one of the hotel’s two private gardens. Expect protected frescoes, friezes and architectural flourishes alongside Aman’s intuitive and exceptional service. [thegrittipalace.com](http://thegrittipalace.com); [amanresorts.com](http://amanresorts.com)

### 3 DRINKING TASMANIA

Tassie is the hottest cool-climate centre of booze production in Australia right now. The best sparkling wines in the

country come from here (Arras, Radenti); the artisan cider scene is rockin’ (Red Sails, Willie Smith’s); the whiskies get better and better each year (Lark, Sullivan’s Cove); and serious mainland wineries are investing big-time in Tassie vineyards (Brown Brothers, Shaw and Smith).

### 4 GOOD MORNING, AFTERNOON AND EVENING, VIETNAM

While conflict will forever be part of Vietnam’s history, we’re more interested in its future and the growing value of tourism to the country’s economy. Food is, naturally, a major draw, but beyond the country’s countless banh mi carts and street-side pho lies an enthralling land to discover. From Sapa in the rugged, mountainous north to beachside resorts such as Da Nang and Phu Quoc island, the country’s 58 provinces are

blessed with culture and natural beauty. Sweeten the deal with affordable luxury options such as Anantara’s first Vietnamese property in Mui Ne and the country’s appeal to travellers becomes all too clear. [anantara.com](http://anantara.com)

### 6 IN DE WULF

“Dranouter, Belgium: it seemed about as likely to be a home to cutting-edge cuisine as Copenhagen, São Paulo or Ripponlea did, but it’s happening and in a big way,” says Garagistes chef Luke Burgess. “Transforming the family farmhouse into a Michelin-starred restaurant takes more than asking Mum for permission; it takes vision, skill and drive. After eating at In De Wulf you can’t help but feel that chef Kobe Desramauts has these attributes in spades. You can feel the undercurrent of that Nordic aesthetic drifting south, but you certainly taste the authenticity of Flanders and Kobe’s take on nature through well-travelled Flemish eyes. The food’s delicious (smoked and roasted pigeon! Mussel juice and cabbage!), the service professional and the ambience seems as effortless as the rolling fields that unfold this little hamlet. Kobe is definitely one to watch.” See our calendar column on page 28 for details of the Belgian’s visit to Tassie this month. [indewulf.be](http://indewulf.be)

### 7 MOST ANTICIPATED GOTHIC REVIVAL

The United Artists building in downtown Los Angeles is famous for myriad reasons, two of which were the “Jesus Saves” signs that glowed from the top of the renowned structure until recently. We imagine the religious sentiment will be echoed in a heavenly cocktail when the building reopens this autumn as the dazzling new Ace Hotel Downtown LA. The Ace is known for reconfiguring landmark buildings in Palm Springs, New York and beyond, yet this might be their most ambitious project to date. The Spanish-gothic building was established in 1927 by Charlie Chaplin, Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford as offices and a theatre for their maverick film studio. Fast-forward to 2013 and the new hotel will feature 180 handsome rooms and a restored 1600-seat theatre. [acehotel.com](http://acehotel.com)

### 8 CHENIN BLANC AND CABERNET FRANC

Not content with gargling on stunning wines made from these two varieties in France’s Loire Valley, we’re also developing a thirst for local examples such as Jauma’s apple-tarty chenin blanc from McLaren Vale and Jamsheed’s berry-sappy cabernet franc from the Yarra Valley. [jauma.com](http://jauma.com); [jamsheed.com.au](http://jamsheed.com.au)



Bijoux in Peru  
Hotel B in  
Lima, Peru.

**5 LIMA TO THE LIMIT** Australians are flocking to Peru, and it’s not just the altitude that’s got them panting. Lima has upped the cultural ante with the opening of contemporary art gallery LiMAC; it follows the launch of MATE, a permanent exhibition of works by photographer Mario Testino. And Hotel B spells the capital’s first luxury boutique hotel. [li-mac.org](http://li-mac.org); [mate.pe](http://mate.pe); [hotelb.pe](http://hotelb.pe)