



AT HOME ON THE HARBOUR

THE WHARF BIRCHGROVE IS AN EXCLUSIVE WATERFRONT RETREAT IN SYDNEY FAVOURED BY VISITING CELEBRITIES AND OTHER PRIVACY-CONSCIOUS A-LISTERS. JUSTINE TYERMAN REPORTS.

Secluded, private and secure, the sumptuous three-bedroom, four-bathroom home of a well-known Sydney entrepreneur is part of Sydney-based Luxe Houses' portfolio of top-end villa rentals and comes with VIP

concierge services to rival the most star-studded hotel.

Guests are met at the airport and driven to Birchgrove, to be welcomed at The Wharf with Dom Perignon Champagne. An in-house butler is at your disposal for up to six hours a day and celebrity chef Clancy is on hand for gourmet entertaining, from an intimate dinner party in the formal dining and lounge area to a sophisticated soirée outside on the balcony by the infinity pool.

Located directly above the largest private wharf in Sydney, the spacious, two-level home has spectacular views of that rather famous bridge and the ferries and ships that ply the harbour waters. I found the panorama mesmerising, especially the city lights reflected at night in the crumpled-taffeta waters of the harbour.





A sumptuous Sydney home on the harbour, The Wharf Birchgrove combines luxurious interiors with panoramic water views. It even has its own 15m launch.

Moored a few paces along the historic wharf was the 15-metre *MV Birchgrove*, a Norwegian-built sports cruiser. Yacht director Luke Magennis donned his captain's hat and whisked us away on a two-hour sunset cruise on the harbour that took in all of Sydney's iconic sights. He also poured the Moët.

Housekeeping and turn-down services are included, along with exquisite Appelles spa products in all bathrooms, and exclusive Cocolux scented candle.

Also on the menu (at an additional cost) are private charter jets and helicopters, bespoke spa and beauty treatments, professional nannies and personal trainers.

Blending discreetly into the landscape, the house is almost invisible from the water. Privacy-conscious celebrities can lounge in the 6.5m heated infinity pool secure in the knowledge they are unseen: guests have included A-list celebrities, international CEOs, film and music industry VIPs, and a Middle Eastern prince.

Apart from the stunning harbour panorama and the no-expense-spared opulence of the home, the other huge advantage of staying at The Wharf Birchgrove is its proximity to the city – just 3.7 kilometres from the CBD and with access to several ferry terminals. But once we started to explore the villages of Birchgrove and neighbouring Balmain, with their thriving boutique, café and restaurant scenes, we seldom ventured into the city centre.

The Wharf Birchgrove costs from A\$3,000 to A\$5,000 a night – a snip compared to the price of a two-bedroom harbourside suite in a five-star Sydney hotel. And it's all yours. **W**

Justine Tyerman was a guest of Luxe Houses.
www.luxehouses.com.au