



Blue yonder

Be enchanted by these south Pacific island holidays beyond Fiji **P10**

BEN GROUNDWATER

On the elephant
next to the room

P7



TRACEY SPICER

I spy and other great apps
for kids on the move

P23



MICHAEL GEBICKI

All your travel
questions answered

P28



Takeoff



TOUR

Soak it up

Soak in hot tubs looking out to Mount Fuji and travel to historic gardens in Nagasaki (pictured), Kyoto and Nara. The 17-day Best of Japan Tour is a small-group adventure that offers some unusual highlights. You'll meet some fascinating locals as you travel off the tourist trail to remote lakeside villages, bubbling volcanic mud paths, ancient samurai residences and, of all places, an owl farm! Accommodation is in traditional ryokan guest-houses as well as top-class hotels. The tour starts on May 12, costing \$8518 a person ex-Tokyo. See toursgallery.com or phone 1300 307 317.

FOOD

French temptation

I'll have what he's having ... Manu Feidel, of *My Kitchen Rules*, is hosting a lunch at the historic Merrick's General Wine Store on Victoria's Mornington Peninsula on Wednesday, April 2. The two-course meal will feature food from Manu's tasty new book *French for Everyone*, and be matched with local wines. Tempted? There's an irresistible deal for an overnight stay at the Tuscan-style Tussie Mussie Vineyard Retreat and tickets for two to Manu's lunch from \$580.

To book the accommodation offer phone 0408 976 410, or to get tickets only for \$75 from the wine store phone (03) 5989 8088.



ACCESSORY

Smart move

Planning a road trip? Drop your Android phone into this clever car mount and it will automatically turn on the navigation function (or any other apps you choose). Saves all that fiddling around with settings every time you get in or out of the car. The Strike Alpha Smartphone mount can also charge your phone (including iPhones) at twice the usual rate and increase call reception on those long country drives with its built in antenna. You will need a Bluetooth unit if your car doesn't have it built in. \$149, strike.com.au.