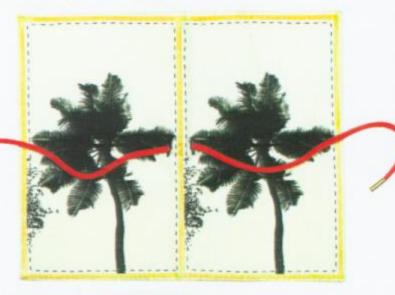


SMALL MERCIES

The daintily named 1 Week Ailleurs Autrement Undergarment Bag is a chic way to store your intimates when you're away from home. \$120. Visit: plumevoyage.fr.



retreat, The Siam Hotel (above), is a plush base for a stay in Thailand's bustling capital.

Visit: thesiamhotel.com.

 Melbourne's Gramercy Bistro is dishing up Manhattan bistro chic at breakfast, lunch and dinner in the form of a cafe, restaurant and bar. Try their New York-style Reuben sandwich or baked cheesecake. Visit: gramercybistro.com.au.

 Make a trip to Bay St, Port Melbourne for a moreish pie - think free-range butter chicken - from ABC delicious. Produce Awards 2012 winner The Little Pie Shop's outlet. Visit: purepie.com.au.

chef's table

Alain Ducasse, chef, Le Louis XV, Monte Carlo

What's Louis XV known for?

My food interprets the changing seasons. It's always a concentration of flavours, aromas and colours.

Describe the dining experience? Every detail makes the experience perfect, from the Belle Epoque-style dining room to the service.

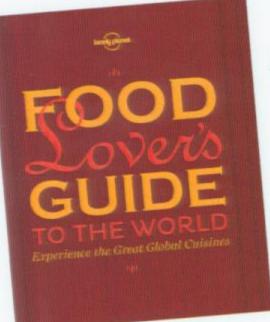
What's your favourite ingredient to cook with? Love.

Describe your signature dish?

For our 25th anniversary, we served San Remo prawns from Liguria with a delicate rockfish gel and caviar.

What's your favourite restaurant nearby? My best addresses in Monaco and on the French Riviera are in my book J'aime Monaco. Visit: alain-ducasse.com.





FAR AND AWAY

With recipes, tips and destination info, you can take a culinary tour around the globe with Lonely Planet's new hardback, Food Lover's Guide to the World. \$49.99. Visit: lonelyplanet.com.

DON'T MISS

- Head to the Brisbane Good Food &
- · WA's Margaret River Gourmet Escape
- · Annabel Crabb returns to ABC2 in a second season of Kitchen Cabinet.