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## Nihi Oka Spa Safari, Nihiwatu: surf and turf on the island of Sumba

THE AUSTRALIAN | 12:00AM JULY 2, 2016



**Susan Kurosawa**  
Travel Editor  
Sydney

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A turtle off the main beach at Nihiwatu, Sumba, Indonesia.

Images

It is the spa at the edge of the universe. A simple, open-sided and thatched bale is perched cliff-high on the east Indonesian island of Sumba. Soft white curtains are lightly whisked by a breeze, my feet are soaking in a big, shallow bowl scattered with hibiscus and scented with lime and lemongrass oils. I move to the massage bed, lie facedown and, thanks to the ingenuity of an angled mirror beneath, the view is reflected in miniature. It is a vision of intense blue as the horizon merges with the Indian Ocean; even a misty haze this May morning shimmers with salty speckles the colour of aquamarine. A monitor lizard ambles past, briefly fixing me with a hard, cold eye.



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#### And this passes for journalism?



**JAMES JEFFREY**  
There you are, chatting with fellow drinkers, when someone glares over their schooner and demands, 'And your point is?'

#### Cups runneth over



**SUSAN KUROSAWA**  
Australians are coffee snobs, and proud of it. Don't try to palm us off with weak espressos or too-milky cappuccinos.

#### Boom to bust



**BERNARD SALT**  
Boomers got the Pill, free love, free education, cheap houses and easy jobs. Gen X got AIDS, HECS and the GFC.

#### That disconnected feeling



**JEREMY CLARKSON**  
Even if I wasn't preoccupied with a phone meltdown, I'd still have nothing exciting to say about this Holden Astra.

#### Sleeves, knits and heady footwear



**GLYNIS TRAILL-NASH**  
This week's style dilemmas and tips: the right way to bare arms, rugging up and getting high on heels.

