

Irish Independent 

WEEKEND

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TV GUIDE

10 October 2009

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48 hours
in Athens

SILVER

SEPARATORS

The women
who walk away
from marriage
after the kids
are reared

ANNA NOLAN

'Dearbhla is
away two
nights a week
... and I miss
her so much'

IN MY OWN SKIN

How plus-size model
Crystal Renn nearly starved
to death for catwalk fame

↗ Suite talk

OPPOSITE HOUSE, BEIJING, CHINA

The Chinese capital's most talked-about hotel of the year is Opposite House, which has been dazzling critics with its ultra-cool design, painstaking service and spacious guest rooms.

Sitting opposite (hence the name) a traditional guesthouse in the heart of Beijing's thriving new shopping district, Sanlitun, it's a restful sanctuary from the frenzy of the crowded city.

Many of the guest rooms, which feature glass walls, underfloor heating and

deep-soaking bath tubs, overlook a rare, leafy part of town with low-rise buildings and high-rise trees.

The normal nightly rate comes in at around €500, but a staggering new offer has seen it drop to about €120, thanks to a 'third night free' promotion running until December 31.

The offer includes breakfast, use of the steel-lined swimming pool, a cultural tour of the city, and complimentary mini-bar (beer, sodas and water) and internet.

For more details visit theoppositehouse.com or call 0086 106 417 6688.



↗ WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

Insider knowledge is your best friend when you land in a new city, which is why you should take a look at rentallocalfriend.com, a website that sets you up with your very own unofficial tour guide.

From Sao Paulo to Shanghai, the service varies according to the visitor's tastes. You simply fill in a booking form, give a description of yourself and your hobbies, and they organise the rest. The site was the brainchild of Lisbon journalist Alice Moura, whose lively London blog left her inundated with requests from tourists. Prices start from €15.