

ETIHAD

By Sue Wallace

FLIGHT NUMBER: EY450
ROUTE: Abu Dhabi – Sydney
AIRCRAFT: A380
CLASS: Business Class
SEAT: 22K
DURATION: 13 hours

Arabic baklava or baked cookies and madeleines – it's a toss-up as I press my call button for a sweet treat while watching a movie cocooned in my business 'studio'. The baklava is excellent, as is dinner – Malabar grouper served with warm lentils and quinoa, green beans and capers, followed by sticky toffee pudding and butterscotch sauce.

But it's not only the anytime dining and slick service that starts at check-in and the chic departure lounge that



gets a big tick from me. What's really impressive is the studio design – there's a place for everything with compartments and two large storage bins for hand luggage and shoes, two USB ports and power points.

Later I binge on a TV mini-series on the impressive entertainment system that offers more than 750 hours of on-demand entertainment. Paid Wi-Fi is also available.

The hardest thing is staying awake: as the fully flat bed extends I snuggle under the cosy duvet, adjusting the inbuilt massage and pneumatic cushion

control system until it's perfect. The configuration of 1-2-1 provides unimpeded aisle access so fellow flyers aren't disturbed as I venture to the lounge with its comfortable seats and order a drink with a friend.

The brightly patterned Lux amenity bag features an eye mask, socks, toiletries by Scaramouche & Fandango and a Luxe guide that inspires me to fly to New York in the next year or so – with Etihad, of course.

The verdict: Absolutely brilliant on all levels. etihad.com

LATAM

By Dan Avila

FLIGHT NUMBER: LA804
ROUTE: Santiago – Melbourne
AIRCRAFT: Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner
CLASS: Business Class
SEAT: 3L
DURATION: 15 hours 10 minutes

After an action-packed South American adventure with a couple of connecting flights to get to Santiago, it's time to make the long-haul back to Australia. Thankfully, it is now direct thanks to the new non-stop Santiago–Melbourne route just introduced by LATAM. As this was the return leg of my trip, I knew what to expect and LATAM's crew didn't disappoint.

There were no concerns about the long flight ahead flying on the latest and greatest 787-9 Dreamliner. Once I take my seat, which offered more than ample privacy, storage, space and comfort, LATAM's crew address me by name and make a note about my dining and beverage preferences to ensure the best bespoke flight experience. A stand-out



is the wine list, which features mostly South American wines that are expertly matched to meal choices, or available anytime a quaffing may be called for.

Although smaller than the A380, The Dreamliner is my favourite plane. It is whisper-quiet and offers the latest in passenger comforts such as cabin humidity management and fully reclining massage chairs and dimming windows. Pro-tip: try to get a window seat on this route. I was treated to an epic view of Antarctica with the clear blue skies lighting up the ice sheets below. There's

a view from both sides, but the left side of the plane offers the best position.

After a South American-inspired meal with beautiful wines, the crew sets up the seat as a fully reclined bed with mattress and premium bedding to ensure a wonderful sleep, which all but eliminated any required recovery time and jetlag.

The verdict: One of my best Business Class experiences with unbeatable dining and service. Wonderful crew. latam.com/en_au