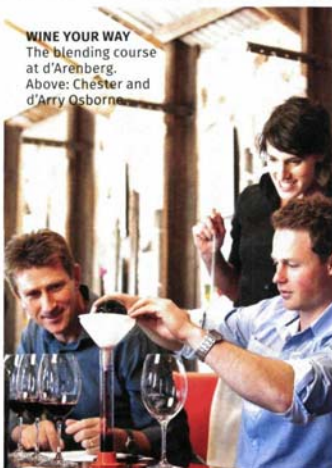




1 Blending at d'Arenberg

Want to try your hand at wine-making? d'Arenberg offers a range of experiences for you to gain an insight into the fascinating world of wine. At **The Blending Bench**, \$70/90 mins, you will blend your own wine – perfectly tailored to your palate. It's informative and fun and you will take home a bottle of your favourite blend. They also offer shiraz masterclasses, winery tours and tutored tastings. Finish with lunch at d'Arry's Verandah Restaurant.

TONI PATERSON MW
Osborn Rd, McLaren Vale, SA,
(08) 8329 4822, darenberg.com.au



WINE YOUR WAY
The blending course at d'Arenberg. Above: Chester and d'Arry Osborne



NO ORDINARY PUB
The Exeter Hotel in Adelaide.

2 Krug at the Exeter Hotel

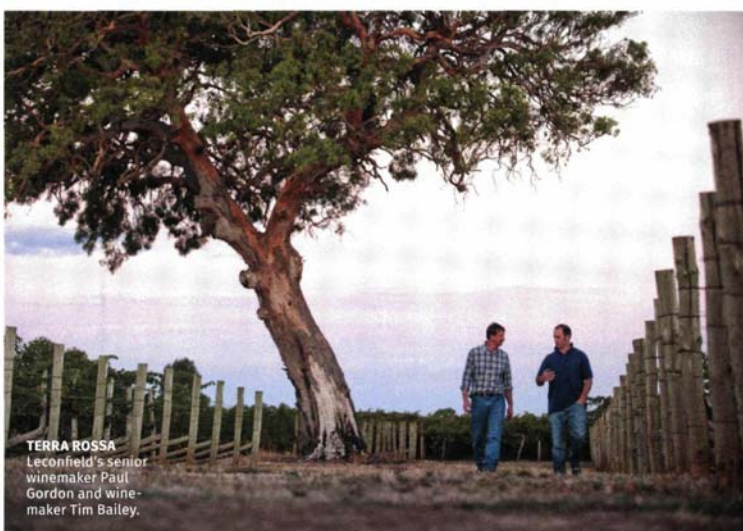
A life in wine has many rites of passage and one of its most idiosyncratic is undertaken at the story-drenched bar of Adelaide's **Exeter Hotel**. The 'Ex' is an Adelaide institution, a gently dishevelled establishment that has long lured wine folk like moths to an amber flame. The beers pour well and the wine list chalked above the old dart board is littered with gems but it's the copious amounts of Krug this place goes through that makes it special. **Krug** sits comfortably on the finest tables in the world, but at the Exeter it takes its place on the bar, alongside the pints of pale ale and the Twisties. But knock back the flutes you'll be offered upon ordering and insist on butcher glasses (7oz) instead. That's the true Exeter way. NICK RYAN

Exeter Hotel, Rundle St, Adelaide, SA, (08) 8449 6716, exeter.com.au

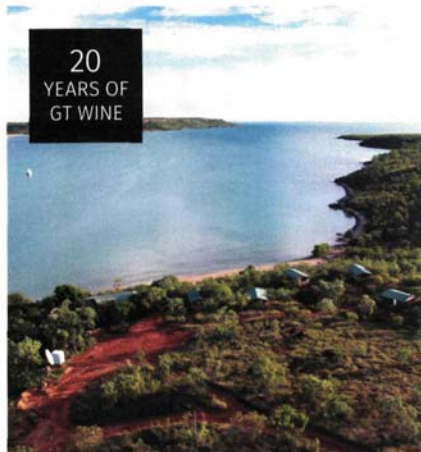
3 Tour Coonawarra

Coonawarra is a must-visit region, its soul is as rich as the terra rossa soil it is famous for. Start with a visit to **Wynns Coonawarra Estate** to sample their world-class wines before lunching across the road at **Fodder** (best to book). Head into Penola and learn about local history on the **Heritage Trail**, including a stroll down Petticoat Lane, before an afternoon of wine tasting and buying at Rymill, Balnaves, Leconfield and Bowen Estate. Journey to Mount Gambier for dinner at **The Barn Steakhouse**, which has an outstanding wine list showcasing the region's finest wines. TONI PATERSON MW

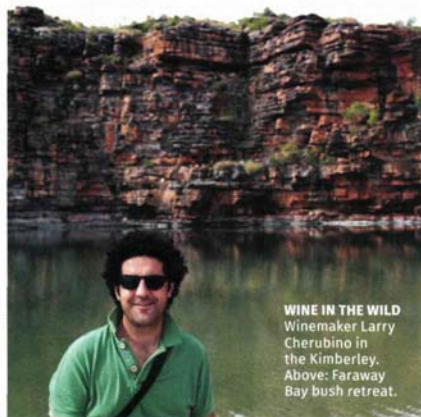
coonawarra.org



TERRA ROSSA
Leconfield's senior winemaker Paul Gordon and winemaker Tim Bailey.



20
YEARS OF
GT WINE

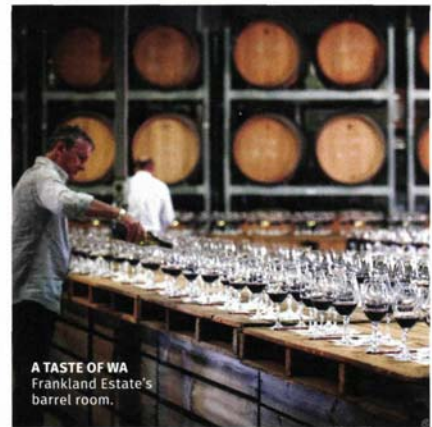


WINE IN THE WILD
Winemaker Larry
Cherubino in
the Kimberley.
Above: Faraway
Bay bush retreat.

4 Faraway Bay

Drinking the bounty of some of the world's most fastidiously cultivated vineyards in a landscape as ancient as it is rugged does wonders for how you see the wines and the environment in which you're enjoying them. Every year winemaker **Larry Cherubino** takes his finest bottlings, as well as international benchmarks for the styles he produces, and holds a series of tastings and dinners at the **Faraway Bay** bush retreat in the remote **Kimberley** region of WA. There's simply no experience like it anywhere in the wine world. Price approx \$6,100pp, all inclusive. **NICK RYAN**

Australia's Diamond Coast, Kununurra, WA, 0419 918 953, farawaybay.com.au

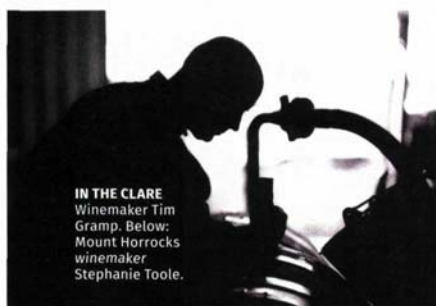


A TASTE OF WA
Frankland Estate's
barrel room.

5 Frankland River

It is a surreal experience to feel farther from home in your own country than in any other you've been to. I was in the Frankland River in WA, experiencing firsthand the aptly named Isolation Ridge vineyard of iconic Aussie producer **Frankland Estate**. When I set out I was warned by more than one person to be "careful of the roos" of which I thought "how many of them can there be?" To say that I underestimated their numbers would be a huge understatement. Never will you encounter such raw and rugged Australian beauty. It is as though you have been transplanted into a Dorothea Mackellar poem. This unique landscape produces some of our country's best riesling and cool-climate shiraz and is well worth the detour. Just be careful of the roos! **KAVITA FAIELLA**

Frankland Rd, WA, (08) 9855 1544, franklandestate.com.au



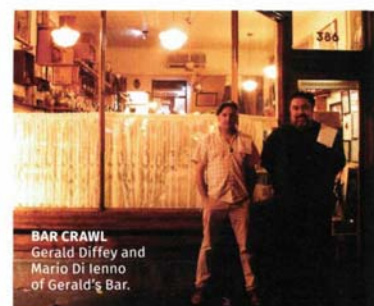
IN THE CLARE
Winemaker Tim
Gramp. Below:
Mount Horrocks
winemaker
Stephanie Toole.



6 Clare Valley in Spring

Spring is **riesling season**. Snap up the best new release rieslings on offer by winery hopping around the Clare Valley. Visit **Pikes** and **Jim Barry** to stock up the cellar, before enjoying a midday meal at **Skillogalee**. Take a stroll along the riesling trail, visiting **Mount Horrocks** and **Tim Gramp**. After a hard day of tasting, head to the historic **Sevenhill Hotel** for an ale and dinner. **TONI PATERSON MW**

clarevalley.com.au

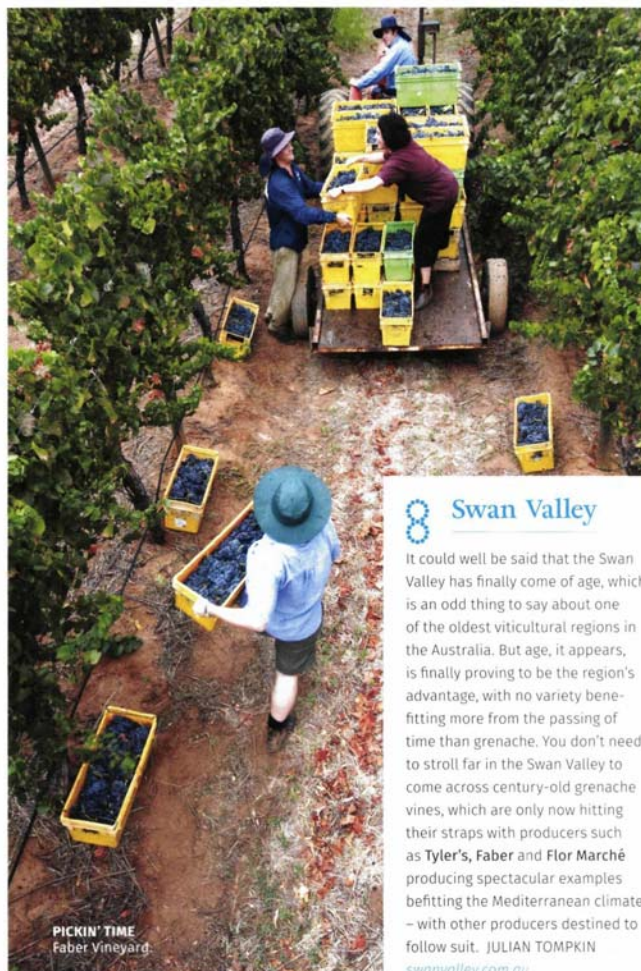


BAR CRAWL
Gerald Diffey and
Mario Di Ienno
of Gerald's Bar.

7 Get Lost in Carlton

The quintessential self-guided Melbourne summer wine experience: prop up the bar, as generations have before you, at **Jimmy Watson's** in Lygon Street for a Friday after-work sherry, then dive into the dangerously well-priced list of cutting-edge wines over dinner at **The Town Mouse** around the corner, followed by a 15-minute recuperative stroll up Rathdowne St for a nightcap at **Gerald's Bar**. **MAX ALLEN**

jimmywatsons.com; thetownmouse.com.au; geraldssbar.com.au



8 Swan Valley

It could well be said that the Swan Valley has finally come of age, which is an odd thing to say about one of the oldest viticultural regions in the Australia. But age, it appears, is finally proving to be the region's advantage, with no variety benefitting more from the passing of time than grenache. You don't need to stroll far in the Swan Valley to come across century-old grenache vines, which are only now hitting their straps with producers such as Tyler's, Faber and Flor Marché producing spectacular examples befitting the Mediterranean climate – with other producers destined to follow suit. JULIAN TOMPKIN swanvalley.com.au



9 Bernadette O'Shea Champagne Classes

Australia is drinking more and more Champagne. For anyone keen to learn about it, there is simply no better way than to attend the Champagne classes hosted by Bernadette O'Shea at the Wine Emporium in Brisbane, Queensland. They run the full gamut, from introduction through to advanced, where you will enjoy some of the truly great Champagnes. O'Shea, a judge of the Vin de Champagne Awards and the author of the wonderful book *Champagne & Chandeliers*, also runs extraordinary dinners and tours and is the most entertaining, knowledgeable and enthusiastic host imaginable. KEN GARRETT thewineemporium.com.au/champagneclasses champagneconsultant.com



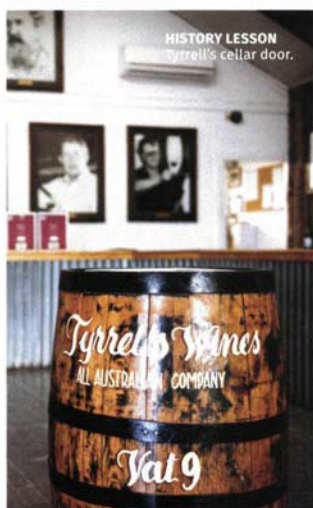
11 Fremantle Breweries

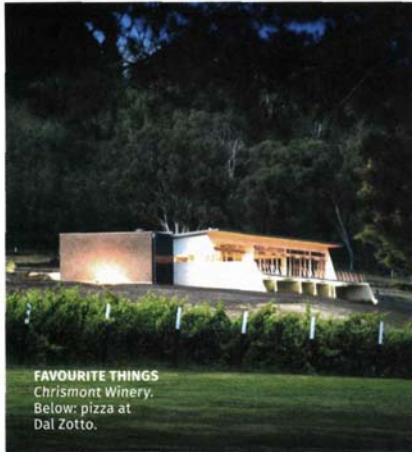
Beer has been keeping Fremantle cool since Captain Stirling landed in 1829 with one of Australia's most thrilling brewing scenes. The city's claim to be the heart-land of Australian craft brewing was confirmed in 2,000 when the oddly named *Little Creatures* set up in a disused crocodile farm, altering national beer tastes for good. Today Freo remains flush with craft breweries, among them *Gage Roads*, *Sail & Anchor*, *The Monk* and *Otherside Brewing Co* – try them at pubs and bottle shops. JULIAN TOMPKIN [40 Mews Rd, Fremantle, WA, \(08\) 6215 1000](http://40MewsRd,Fremantle,WA,(08)62151000), littlecreatures.com.au

10 Tyrrell's Cellar Door

For over 150 years, five generations of Tyrrells have trod the floor of Tyrrell's winery. It's a must visit, not only for the iconic *Hunter Valley* wines, but to immerse yourself in some living history. Outside are some of Australia's oldest vines, while inside you can see vestiges of the past including open concrete fermenters and old wooden casks. A tour combines family and Hunter Valley history, and explanations of winemaking and wine styles. Don't miss the signature wall where the Aussie greats of winemaking have scrawled their names. MIKE BENNIE

[1838 Broke Rd, Paholbin, NSW](http://1838BrokeRd,Paholbin,NSW), (02) 4993 7026, tyrrells.com.au



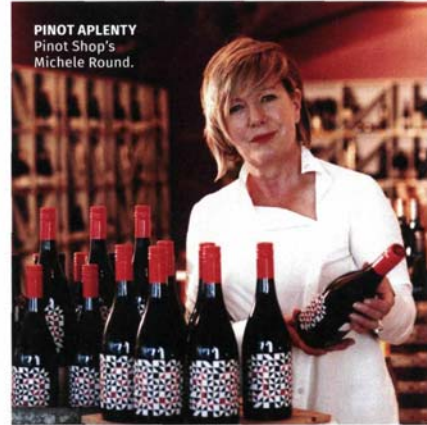


FAVOURITE THINGS
Chrismont Winery.
Below: pizza at
Dal Zotto.



12 King Valley

In King Valley you can take a Prosecco Road bushwalk to taste the original and best Prosecco in the country, enrol in Pizzini Wines' A tavola! cooking school, partake of a panoramic coffee on the balcony at Chrismont Winery, traditional pizza at Dal Zotto, drink a beer by the brook at the Whitfield Pub, eat cotechino and mustard fruit ravioli with Project Enigma, sip experimental red at the Brown Brothers Epicurean Centre, book into the King Valley Salami Festa, take a masterclass at the annual La Dolce Vita celebrations, and explore Italian grape varieties that love this part of the world. They're just some of my favourite things in this Victorian region. JENI PORT
winesofthekingvalley.com.au



PINOT APLENTY
Pinot Shop's
Michele Round.

13 Pinot Shop

One of the most rewarding places for pinot noir lovers to visit is Michele Round's Pinot Shop in Launceston, Tasmania. Scanning the well-stocked shelves provides reference to all the best producers on the island including well-known names and under-the-radar gems. There are sibling styles grigio and gris too, and a splash of sparkling. Beware, you'll probably end up with lots of additions to the cellar all efficiently packed and posted by the staff to an Australian address. Your visit will be even more worthwhile if you head 15 minutes out of town to Tamar Valley Truffles where, with the aid of the well-trained truffle hounds, you'll be able to dig up the perfect accompaniment to the local pinot noir. JUDY SARRIS

135 Paterson St, Launceston, TAS, (03) 6331 3977,
pinotshop.com
tamarvalleytruffles.com.au



GREATNESS RISING
Golden Grove.
Below: Boireann.

14 Granite Belt

Gone are the days when visiting a winery in Queensland's Granite Belt felt like crashing a private party. There's a new level of professionalism and the wines are at an all-time high. Visit Tobin Wines for a truly absorbing experience, Savina Lane for a winery straight out of the Napa Valley, Golden Grove for some scintillating alternative wines and Boireann for stunning reds. KEN GARRETT
granitebeltwinecountry.com.au



OLD SOUL
The historic
Yeringberg estate.

15 Yeringberg

The de Pury family's 150-year-old Yarra Valley wine estate only opens to the public for one weekend each spring. It's a rare opportunity to taste the fragrant vlognier, the remarkable white blend of marsanne and roussanne, and the incredible cabernets in an 1880s hilltop weatherboard winery. As you chat with several generations of the family you realise that history is very much alive. MAX ALLEN

810 Maroondah Hwy, Coldstream, VIC, (03) 9739 0240,
yeringberg.com



20
YEARS OF
GT WINE

16 Saffire Freycinet

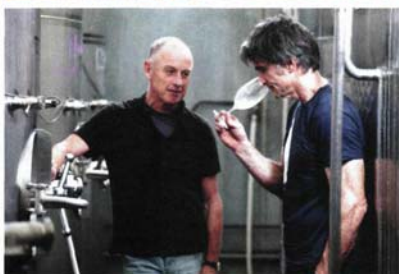
The image of guests knee-deep in an estuary having oysters freshly schucked for them, matched with Tasmanian sparkling wine sells more rooms than anything else at **Saffire Freycinet**. Experiences like this take the sanctuary to a level all of its own. It beckons you to relax to the ever-changing vista of the ancient, weathered pink granite of Freycinet National Park, frequently draped in soft mist. Included in the room rate is a list featuring 60 wines with a particular emphasis on the best of Tasmania. Meals showcase fresh local vegetables, just-picked salads and local meats. If you can extract yourself for day trips, you're just around the corner from **Freycinet Marine Farm**. The new cellar door for **Devil's Corner** is also nearby, overlooking the Hazards and Freycinet Peninsula. The humble and beaming Claudio Radenti generously hosts visitors in person at **Freycinet Vineyards**. **TYSON STELZER**
 2352 Coles Bay Rd, Coles Bay, TAS, 1800 723 347,
saffire-freycinet.com.au

LUXURY GETAWAY
Saffire Freycinet
in Tasmania.



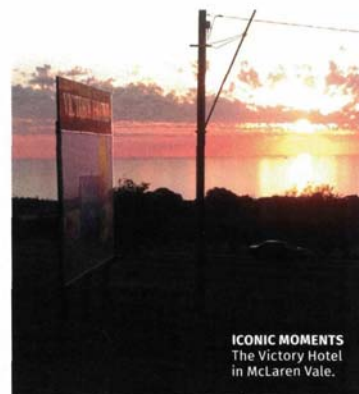
17 Healesville

The Yarra Valley's hub is having a year like none other. **Giant Steps'** Steve Flamsteed won *GT WINE's* Winemaker of the Year and the **Healesville Hotel** added a win to its Hall of Fame awards for Best Listing of a Region's Wines in Australia's Wine List of the Year. The expansionist Brown Brothers bought the **Innocent Bystander** brand and will open a new cellar door on the old White Rabbit site, which will offer pizza and casual dining with its tastings. Giant Steps still operates in the original Innocent Bystander building complete with its barrel store tasting area and popular restaurant. The Healesville Hotel is unchanged except for the ever-evolving wine list. Just go! **PETER FORRESTAL**
healesville.com



19 Seppeltsfield

Some people think Australia doesn't have much of a history when it comes to wine. They are wrong. In 1851, Joseph Seppelt arrived in the **Barossa Valley**, and by 1867, just outside Tanunda, construction began on a collection of stone buildings he named **Seppeltsfield**. Wander through the 1888 gravity-fed winery, visit the cooperage, and stroll the Elm Walk. Then there's one of the greatest wine tastings in the world: sample your birth year or a 100-year-old tawny from the Centennial Collection. That's history. **JENI PORT**
730 Seppeltsfield Rd, Barossa Valley, SA, (08) 8568 6200, seppeltsfield.com.au



18 The Victory Hotel

Few pubs located in wine regions are a patch on the **Victory Hotel** in McLaren Vale. The pub itself isn't much to look at, but gazing over Sellicks Beach, with a Coopers in hand, after a long day of wine tasting is an iconic Australian moment. It's not all about the beer, or owner **Doug Govan's** crème de menthe, the cellar is a jaw-dropping collection of verticals of rare Wendeur wines, and collections of ultra-fine Chablis and Burgundy. The Aladdin's cave of wine, the warm country hospitality, honest pub fare, and the view mean you'll be won over, too. **MIKE BENNIE**
Main South Rd, Sellicks Hill, SA, (08) 8556 3083, victoryhotel.com.au



20 Keith Tulloch Wine

Keith and Amanda Tulloch offer a peaceful haven from the pace of the **Hunter Valley**, serving up tastings, dining and accommodation that immediately cause you to slow down and relax. Tastings are seated upstairs overlooking Keith Tulloch's vineyards set to the backdrop of the Brokenback Range. Become a club member to taste museum release wines, or book a private tasting room for intimate events. If you're a group, book in advance for a tour with Keith, or a wine and chocolate tasting. At Muse Kitchen **Troy** and **Megan Rhoades-Brown** serve up Euro-inspired, seasonal fare featuring local produce. Stay for the night at the luxurious **Manager's Quarters**, immediately above the kitchen. **TYSON STELZER**
Cnr Hermitage & Deasys Rd, Pokolbin, NSW, (02) 4998 7500, keithtullochwine.com.au