



TASTE

OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Great Australian Wine Tour

Duration: 14 days / 13 nights ex Sydney **Cost:** POA

Day One: *Arrival SYDNEY AUSTRALIA*

Welcome to Sydney, Australia! On arrival you will be met and assisted with your hotel transfer. The Saville Bond Street welcomes you with traditional elegance and genuine hospitality and is centrally located in the heart of Sydney's business district. Enjoy the remainder of the morning at leisure before transferring to Circular Quay for your afternoon cruise on magnificent Sydney Harbour. Savour the splendour of the harbour with a cruise on board Solway Lass, a 125-ft rigged topsail schooner authentically restored and totally rebuilt from her timbers to her 10 working sails. See spectacular views of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, Fort Denison, and the bays and inlets that dot the Harbour.

Accommodation: Saville Park Suites

Day Two: *SYDNEY CITY SIGHTS - OPERA HOUSE - KOALA AND WILDLIFE PARK*

This morning enjoy a city highlights tour visiting the historical Rocks area, where the first Fleet landed in 1788 to establish Australia's first European settlement. Observe examples of early architecture and the beautiful sandstone buildings, made out of the same rocks, which give this area its name. Continue on your tour through cosmopolitan Kings Cross, exclusive Rushcutters Bay, Double Bay and famous Bondi Beach. Visit the Sydney Opera House, described as the Eighth Wonder of the World for a special guided tour. Mid- afternoon visit Sydney's leading Koala and Wildlife Sanctuary where you will meet our cuddly koala "bear". This park has a large collection of Australian Native animals and birds on display. Feed the kangaroos, view the flora and fauna reserves and reptiles-such as many species of lizards, snakes and goannas. This evening enjoy a "Welcome to Australia" dinner with wine at a lovely waterfront Seafood Restaurant.

Accommodation: Saville Park Suites

Day Three: *SYDNEY - HUNTER VALLEY WINERIES (coach)*

This morning travel by coach to the Hunter Valley via Cessnock, the Gateway to the Pokolbin Wineries and Hunter Valley. Savour the different characteristics of great Australian wines with a tour and tasting at McWilliams Mt Pleasant Winery. Continue on to Rothbury Estate for a tour of this spectacular winery, situated on 500 acres of undulating countryside. Enjoy lunch in the Medieval Great Cask

Hall, where you will sample the excellent Chardonnay, Shiraz and Semillon, for which this winery is renowned. Afternoon transfer to guesthouse in preparation for special wine dinner this evening at the Branxton Inn.

Accommodation: Peppers Guest House/ Hunter Resort

Day Four: *HUNTER VALLEY WINERIES (coach)*

This morning, travel to one of the oldest established family wineries, Tyrrell's Winery. For a tour and tasting of their classic light reds and whites, Continue on your tour to Lindemanns Ben Ean Winery, which is part of the Penfolds winery, the most successful Australian export winery. The Lindemanns winery in the Hunter Valley is a small boutique winery, and a special attraction is the winemaking museum, lovingly collected by this unique family. This evening enjoy Dinner at your GuestHouse.

Accommodation: Pepper Guest House/Hunter Resort

Day Five: *HUNTER VALLEY (coach) - Sydney - Adelaide (air)*

Morning coach to Sydney airport for your flight to Adelaide. On arrival your wine escort, will meet you. Enjoy a half-day city sights tour including Lights Vision and Tandanya, Australia's only Aboriginal Cultural Centre. The remainder of the day is free to enjoy at your own leisure. Take a stroll along historic North Terrace or relax in the comfort of your hotel. This evening dine at the Red Ochre Grill. This restaurant is the first in Australia to feature native food or "bush tucker". You will be joined by a wine master who will tempt your pallet with tasting of some of the best wines produced in South Australia.

Accommodation: Saville Park Suites

Day Six: *BAROSSA VALLEY WINERIES (coach)*

After breakfast, at 9.a.m you will begin a personally escorted journey which includes a city orientation tour. We travel through the scenic Torrens Gorge to the Barossa Valley. The Torrens Gorge is a natural chasm carved out of the Adelaide Hills by the River Torrens.

We may stop for morning tea at a local bakery famous for its vast selection of fine German pastries.

We travel over the Jacobs Creek along the Barossa Way to a private tasting at Peter Lehman wines, We will taste some of the wine styles the Barossa is famous for such as .Riesling, Semillon and Shiraz

We may visit Wolf Blass wines for another private tasting in their new state of the Art winery. We will also include visits to other small wineries and meet well-known wine identities.

We stop for a stroll in the German town of Tanunda with time to discover the small shops, many of which specialise in crafts made by the locals.

We take the picturesque journey up to Menglers Hill for an unsurpassed view over the entire Valley.

Lunch will be alfresco under the vines or at Vintners restaurant just out of Angaston.

We then travel through to Angaston , if the cheesemakers are in residence, we may call in for a taste or visit Angas park that offers dried fruits and an array of South Australian specialities.

We may visit Yalumba, the oldest family run winery in Australia . We will taste some of the wines that make them famous such as Sparkling wines and Eden Valley Riesling.

If time permit, and the group size small enough, we may visit other small boutique producers such as Charles Melton or Turkey Flat or visiting Maggie Beere Farm shop to taste her fine foods and having a coffee overlooking the lake.

We may stay in the Barossa Valley at the Novatel or return to Adelaide.

Accommodation: Barossa Valley Novatel/ Medina Treasury

Day Seven: *ADELAIDE HILLS SIGHTSEEING - McLaren Vale (coach)*

This morning enjoy a walking tour of the Central Markets, which have been the culinary centre for Adelaide for 123 years and still supplies Adelaide with a dazzling array of foodstuffs.(Not included if we stay in the Barossa)

Travel into the picturesque Adelaide Hills to Piccadilly, the home of Petaluma winery. Take time to explore this famous winery then travel to the Bridgewater Mill for lunch and tasting of their fine wines along with a selection of the top wines produced in the Adelaide Hills. Savour the splendour of the picturesque Hills on your way to Shaw and Smith winery for a tasting of their fine cool climate wines, we will also visit Nepenthe and Hahndorf Hill where we will have lunch with a winemaker. The Adelaide Hills region has 17 wineries and is situated just east of Adelaide, 400 metres above sea level.

Here the moist, cool yet sunny climate and favourable soils and slopes produce finely flavoured, long lasting sparkling and table wines.

We continue on your journey and travel into the McLaren Vale Wine Region to experience the hospitality and taste the fine wines produced in this region. The McLaren Vale wine region is home to over 50 small to middling wineries. The region is described as the middle palate of Australia, producing lovely soft full flavoured reds. Visit the the Coriole Winery. Coriole 's cellar door is a beautiful little ironstone cellar surrounded by magnificent views and gardens. They produce an outstanding range of wines, olives, olive oils and cheeses with some exceptional wines styles unique to their winery.

This evening dine at Penny Hills Winery where you will be served a Gourmet BBQ joined by local winemakers. Taste a selection of locally produced wines and meet winemakers such as Ben Riggs. This state of the art winery produces a full range of consistently excellent wines.

Accommodation: McLaren on the Lake

Day Eight: *McLaren VALE - COONAWARRA (coach)*

Following breakfast next morning, we tour Serafino winery with owner and wine maker, Steve Maglieri, the rustic Wirra Wirra Winery. Travel along the Coorong and the coast towards the Coonawarra Wine Region. Stop for a late lunch at Hollicks winery for an overview of locally produced wine mid-afternoon. Check into the Chardonnay Lodge, within walking distance of the Jamiesons Run winery or alternatively enjoy the remainder of the day at your leisure. This evening enjoy a tasting of local wines with winemakers at the Pipers Restaurant followed by a fine dinner to compliment the wines. You will be joined by winemakers such as Ian Hollick, Doug Balnaves, Doug Bowen and also taste the wines from the Padthaway region.

Accommodation: CHARDONNAY LODGE

Day Nine: *COONAWARRA WINERIES-GEELONG VIA THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD (coach)*

This morning, visit Wynn's winery and enjoy a tour and tasting with the winemaker. This winery is considered to be one of the most technologically advanced wineries in Australia. Tour the region with Dr. Brian Lynn, viticulturist to see what makes the wines produced from this stretch of "*Terra rossa*" so famous. Following lunch begin your journey along the Great Ocean road, an unforgettable journey along the world's most inspiring coastal drive. It takes you through the contrasts of unique wildlife and fauna in the lush Otway of Torquay, Apollo Bay and Lorne, nestled beside the waters of Loutit Bay, shadowed by the Otway Ranges. At Loch Ard Gorge the poignant story of the Loch Ard unfolds and The Twelve Apostles at Port Campbell, a major coastal landmark is testament to the

true spirit of this historic coastline, the "Shipwreck Coast". Enjoy Dinner this evening at Fishermen's Pier.

Accommodation: GEELONG MOTEL

Day Ten: *GEELONG - BALLARAT - ARARAT - STAWELL (coach)*

This morning travel to the National Wool Museum, a must for all visitors to the Geelong area. Enjoy devonshire tea then continue on to Idyll Vineyard, the winery which began the renaissance of the Geelong region and which remains its most ardent supporter. Owned and operated by Nini and Daryl Sefton, these wines are often unusual and always good value - some are excellent, particularly the Cabernet and the Gewurztraminer. While tasting view Nini's original oil paintings which make up the painters series of Idyll wine labels. Continue on your journey to Ballarat, and go back in time to the 1850s and the infamous gold rush days. Journey through Bacchus Marsh, famous for its apple orchards. Visit the sight of Australia's only civil war, Eureka Stockade. Lunch at the beautiful Craigs Hotel before continuing on to Mt Langi Ghiran Vineyard. This lonely, very cool breathtaking vineyard at the foot of Mount Langi Ghiran houses superb reds and whites full of graceful flavour. Travel on through picturesque countryside to the township of Stawell. Visit the Best's Great Western Vineyard and bring back a sense of history. The winery has seen over 100 vintages in its time and the old tasting area could tell a few tales. Creating a wide range of wines to suit all palates, this winery is a definite must. This evening dine at Magdala by the Lake Restaurant in the company of a Speaker from a local winery.

Accommodation: STAWELL MOTEL

Day Eleven: *STAWELL - MALDON - BENDIGO - HEATHCOTE - NAGAMBBIE (coach)*

Travel this morning through picturesque countryside to the township of Maldon. Enjoy morning tea and a chance to browse through this quaint village set in among the old goldfields. Visit Balgownie Estate Winery, one of the first vineyards to be planted in the resurgence of winemaking in the late 1860s. Continuing to produce wines of stature is winery is now owned by Mildara/Blass but the winemaking remains in Lindsay Ross's capable hands. Continue on to the town of Bendigo for lunch at the Shamrock Hotel, a beautiful old hotel dating back to the gold rush days. Your journey then takes you to Heathcote Winery, with its distinct shop-front cellar door; this winery has made some great wines over the years. In a region dominated by reds it remains a white wine specialist and has made its point with some gracefully balanced Chardonnays and wonderfully spicy Gewurztraminers. Your tour concluded this afternoon in a small town called Nagambie. A breathtaking winery and a large one, the vision that

created Mitchelton winery in the late 1960s has certainly paid off. Moulded by Masterminds of the industry today Don Lewis, who won the coveted Jimmy Watson Trophy in 1991, guides winemaking and the stream of confidence continues. This evening, enjoy a "Gala Dinner" at Mitchelton's renowned restaurant.

Accommodation: Trawool Valley Resort

Day Twelve: *SEYMOUR -YEA -HEALESVILLE - YARRA - MELBOURNE (coach)*

This morning, your journey takes you through the township of Yea to Tooling, for a visit to the Toolangi Environmental Centre; a natural rainforest set in the Kinglake State Park. Travel from Toolangi to Dixon's Creek to visit DeBortoli Winery. This winery has been one of the Valley's great success stories. The wines are beautifully handled and the cellar and restaurant complex are extremely polished, this professionalism showing in the entire range. These wines come from both the Yarra Valley and Riverina areas. Following lunch at the Grand Hotel, visit one of the many boutique wineries set in picturesque countryside on your journey to Domain Chandon, Australia's home of Moet and Chandon. Producing premium sparkling wine from the classic varieties of Chardonnay. Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir still wines are also available. One of the highlights of visiting this winery is being able to sit outside, admire the view and sip a glass of Champagne while enjoying a plate of gourmet goodies. Time to leave the serenity of the Valley via the leafy suburbs of Melbourne. This evening we can walk into China Town for dinner.

Accommodation: Saville Park Suites

Day Thirteen: *MELBOURNE*

Today is free to enjoy at your own leisure. This evening we can enjoy a "Farewell to Australia" dinner at one of Melbourne's leading restaurants.

Accommodation: Saville Park Suites

Day Fourteen: *MELBOURNE - DEPARTURE*

Transfer to the International airport for your departure flight

Terms, Conditions and Contact details for

A Taste of South Australia

Prices and itineraries stated are subject to change without notice due to road, weather, seasonal variation and other unforeseen situation that may arise, over which the operator has no control.

A Taste of South Australia reserves the right to substitute vehicle, restaurants and accommodation, of the same value, other than those specified.

A Taste of South Australia expects that the client of his/her agent will advise of any injury or condition (past or present) that may affect or compromise the clients ability to travel, mobility in general and/or overall level of comfort and safety.

A Taste of South Australia shall not be liable for any accident, death, irregularity, injury, loss or damage caused by or arising out of services offered by *A Taste of South Australia*.

Cancellations and Payments

A deposit of \$100 per person is required. Full payment 30 days prior to departure. Cancellations notified less than 30 days but more than 7 days prior to the scheduled departure will be charged a cancellation fee of \$100 per person. Cancellation notified less than 7 days prior to the scheduled departure date will incur a 50% cancellation fee. Less than 24 hours notification charged at 100%.

Any additional fees incurred by the operator will be charged accordingly.

Non-contracted agents will pay on invoice, with payment arriving within 7 days.

Group Tour Payment: For group tours, a deposit of 10 % will be sent 30 days prior to tour departure, with final payment within 7 days of completed tour.



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