

An Australia Wine Tour

By

IN QUEST OF THE CLASSICS

Day 1: SYDNEY. Upon arrival in Sydney Airport, you will be met and privately transferred to the **Observatory Hotel** for your 2 night stay. The Observatory Hotel is superbly located near Sydney's historic Rocks area, nestled near the vibrant harbor and the world famous Sydney Harbor Bridge. Spacious, elegant, and beautifully appointed, the rooms and suites at The Observatory Hotel are designed to meet the needs of the most fastidious guest. Sydney is the capital of the New South Wales region and was Australia's first permanent European settlement. Sydney is admired for its large harbor, beautiful coastline and foreshores, bayside parks and gardens, warm and pleasant climate and cosmopolitan culture.



Balance of day at leisure

Day 2: SYDNEY CITY SIGHTS. This morning, you will be picked up from the hotel for a small group city tour. Departing your city hotel we travel to the charming Rocks, where you take a stroll around the historic area, with its quaint old cottages, pubs and churches. Rejoin the vehicle and travel along Macquarie St - the seat of government for NSW, the Mint and Hyde Park Barracks. Traveling past St. Mary's Cathedral you visit Mrs. Macquarie's Chair for an unsurpassed view of Sydney Harbor, the Opera House and Bridge. Continuing along the shores of Sydney Harbor, you travel through King's Cross, Double Bay and Rose Bay. Stop briefly for morning tea in the beautiful Sydney Harbor National Park. Afterwards you are then taken to South Head, with its breathtaking views of Sydney Harbor and the city. Take a short stroll along the cliffs and then continue onto the world famous Bondi Beach and Centennial Park. This afternoon is free for you to explore the city on your own. Later this evening dine with your "Wine host" at a nearby restaurant.



Day 3: HUNTER VALLEY. This morning you are met at your hotel by your "wine host" and private vehicle for a sightseeing transfer to the Hunter Valley. The Lower Hunter Valley, only a 1/2 hour drive north of Sydney, is arguably Australia's best known wine region. The region enjoys a warm to hot subtropical climate not normally suited to producing quality table wine; but cooling afternoon sea breezes are the region's savior. Originally making its name for long-living Chardonnay, Semillon and Shiraz, the Hunter Valley also produces a substantial amount of the popular Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc varieties. Many boutique wineries, trendy restaurants, bed and breakfasts, and art and crafts shops have sprung up in the area over the last ten years and cater for the many tourists and Sydney wine lovers who venture north to this picturesque area.

The journey to the Hunter Valley follows an historic trail dating back to the very first arrivals into the area. Leaving Sydney Harbor behind you, cross the lovely Hawkesbury River that passes through the rugged sandstone country of the Kuring-gai Chase National Park. Upon arrival in the Lower Hunter Valley enjoy morning tea at Peppers Guest House. While in Hunter Valley you will be staying at **Peppers Guest House** for two nights.



The Guest House is surrounded by beautiful gardens and overlooking vineyards. The hotel offers an intimate, relaxed atmosphere and comfort and elegance in its accommodation, as well as a long standing reputation of fine food and wine. Your host will then guide you through cellar inspections and private tastings at a selection of wineries. Visits may include Brokenwood, Tyrells, Saddler's Creek and Poole's Rock.

Day 4: HUNTER VALLEY. This morning your host will meet you in the lobby (prearranged time) and take you into the Upper Hunter region to visit some of the Hunter's most spectacular scenery. Enjoy visits to Arrowfield and Rosemount, two of the major wineries that date back to 1964. The Upper Hunter Valley is also renowned for thoroughbred stallions and many champion horses have been raised in the rich pastures of the ranges.



Day 5: MELBOURNE. Today you are transferred to the Sydney Airport for your flight to Melbourne (not included and must be arranged by guests' travel agent). Say farewell to your local host before checking in for the flight. Upon arrival in Melbourne you are met by a local driver and transferred to the **Windsor Hotel** for a four night stay. The Windsor Hotel was built in 1883 and is Australia's only independent grand hotel. The hotel offers a range of luxury accommodations boasting elegance, comfort and superior service levels for which the hotel is renowned around the world.



Balance of day at leisure

Day 6: MELBOURNE CITY SIGHTS. Experience a private gourmet tour of the Queen Victoria Market. Visit the three main produce sections of the Market – the Meat and Fish Hall, the Vegetable aisles and the Dairy Hall. Discover the newest foods and trends in the company of a fully qualified market guide. Meet some of the specialist traders and pick up valuable hints in selecting produce as well as sampling the “goods”. See the greatest variety of fresh, seasonal produce and enjoy two fun filled hours of food in the exciting hustle and bustle of the Market. Enjoy lunch at Donovan's Restaurant, a charmingly colorful and comfortable beach house style restaurant with brilliant views of St. Kilda's foreshore. Donovan's exciting menu has been developed with Gail and Kevin Donovan's knowledge of modern American cooking coupled with Chef Robert Castellani's Italian heritage and vast experience in Melbourne's leading restaurants. The menu is extensive with a modern mix of favorite dishes emphasizing the best local produce. Donovan's also offers an extensive wine list of Australian and imported wines and an eclectic mix of cocktails.

You may wish to take an afternoon walk along the foreshore or visit one or two of the following options:

- Melbourne Observation Deck at Rialto Towers
- Federation Square
- St. Patrick's Cathedral
- Shrine of Remembrance
- National Gallery of Victoria
- Melbourne Museum



Day 7: MORNINGTON PENINSULA. The Mornington Peninsula is Australia's newest and fastest growing boutique wine district, featuring over 100 vineyards and 35 cellar door facilities, many of which include restaurants with breathtaking views over sea and countryside. The region is blessed with sandy beaches and tranquil rolling green hills and known for its medium-bodied dry table wines. Its marginal maritime climate means that its most successful wines are the Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs, with Pinot Gris winning acclaim.

Visit Dromana Estate Winery and Sunnyridge Strawberry Farm followed by lunch at the unique and beautiful Montalto Vineyard and Olive Grove. Montalto is a spectacular 50-acre natural amphitheater property incorporating 23 acres of premium vines, 1500 olive trees, extensive wetlands and bird life, and a fruit and nut grove. The kitchen gardens provide self-sustaining produce for their restaurant. Enjoy the innovative provincial food and taste their award-winning wines and olive oil, or take a stroll through the wetlands. Conclude the afternoon with a visit to the seaside village of Sorrento.



Day 8: YARRA VALLEY. With a rich history stretching back to the first settlers, the Yarra Valley is not only one of Australia's oldest wine producing regions, but also one of the most diverse, containing large commercial enterprises and small boutique producers. Less than an hour's drive east of Melbourne, the Yarra Valley is home to over 40 wineries and is best known for its success with Pinot Noir, fine Chardonnays and also Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz varieties. The Yarra Valley offers a unique food and wine experience, with many wineries specializing in the foods of the region. Visit De Bortoli Winery, Australia's largest third generation family owned winery, taste at the cellar door of Tarra Warra Estate and Yering Station Winery and experience local produce at Chateau Yering's Sweetwater Café.



Meet all the Australian's favorites – koalas, wombats, platypus, kangaroos, nocturnal animals, emu, lyrebirds and many more at Australia's premier wildlife sanctuary. Established in 1934, Healesville Sanctuary has the largest collection of exclusively Australian wildlife in the world, including many rare and endangered species, displayed in their natural environment. Stroll with kangaroos and wallabies, meet an emu on the path, hear dingoes howl and watch magnificent birds of prey in flight.



Day 9: ADELAIDE. Today you will be met and privately transferred to Melbourne Airport where you will say farewell to your local host and board your flight to Adelaide. Upon arrival in Adelaide you are met by a local driver and transferred to **Mt. Lofty House** for a four night stay. Mt. Lofty House is an historic country house that has been rejuvenated into a fresh boutique hotel and offers comfortable guest rooms, a great restaurant, and is superbly positioned overlooking the Piccadilly Valley.



Balance of the day at leisure.

Day 10: ADELAIDE CITY SIGHTS. This tour has been arranged to allow you to discover the depth and richness of the arts and crafts of Adelaide. Included are visits to the Art Gallery of South Australia, for a private introduction to Australian art with an in-house gallery guide, and the Jam Factory, the contemporary craft center of South Australia, where the outstanding craftspeople of today have their studios and display their work.



Day 11: MCLAREN VALE. McLaren Vale is a small town nestled between the Southern Adelaide Hills and the sea, about a half hour drive south of Adelaide. The area's hot summer growing season is tempered by cool afternoon sea breezes. The region is known for 'old fashioned' full bodied reds that have as much to do with a mild temperate climate and complex soils as with the winemaking technique. The region's white wines also have a certain full flavored intensity about them. The region is best known for Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay and, more recently, Sauvignon Blanc and Chenin Blanc.



Enjoy a private tutored tasting at one of the region's boutique wineries, followed by lunch in a well known McLaren Vale restaurant. Visit the Almond Train for a tasting of fine local almonds and the gallery of David Dridan, a well known Australian landscape artist. Later visit a small family run winery for further tastings before returning to Adelaide along its beautiful coastline.

Day 12: BAROSSA VALLEY. As one of Australia's oldest and best known viti-cultural and winemaking regions, the Barossa provides the wine lover with an extensive experience of some 60 wineries. Renowned for its classic Shiraz, Penfold's Grange, and grand tradition of fortified wines, the Barossa is home to a unique wine and food culture that has been continuously evolving over the past 160 years.

Spend a memorable day visiting some of Australia's finest wineries and tasting some of the treasures of the South Australian Wine Industry. In the course of the day you will visit one of the excellent wineries listed below to enjoy a private tasting as well as having morning tea in a private home with a chance to meet the locals. You will have every opportunity to compare and contrast wines and to ask any questions:

- **PENFOLD, MAGILL** – Makers of one of the finest ranges of red table wines in the world, including the renowned **GRANGE**, an outstanding wine that you may taste if you wish, plus two other super premiums and further wines of your choice.
- **ST. HALLETT** – Where all the wines are made exclusively from Barossa fruit and are excellent examples of the regional varietal styles **REWARD** (Cabernet Sauvignon) and **OLD BLOCK** (Shiraz). Their flagship wines are included in the tastings.
- **YALUMBA** – Australia's oldest and largest family-owned winery, where in addition to tasting their superb wines you will visit their Cooperage – the only manufacturing Cooperage at a winery in Australia – and their unique Wine Museum.
- **PETER LEHMANN** – A Barossa legend with wines to match, all of which represent outstanding value for money. Set in charming surroundings, your tasting will be accompanied by samples of Barossa produce.
- **SEPPELTS** – Where in addition to delightful sparkling wines, they have the most outstanding array of fortified wines – Sherries and Ports – of any winery in Australia. Your tasting will finish with a 100 year old Port wine, a memorable conclusion to your Barossa Valley experience.



Prior winery requests are welcome.

This evening we'll include a special farewell dinner in a private home. Enjoy with your hosts the best food and wine that South Australia has to offer in a relaxed home environment.

Day 13: DEPART. Today you will be met and privately transferred to the airport, where you'll bid farewell to the local host and board your flight to Sydney and connecting flight to the USA. Flights not included and must be arranged by guests' travel agent.

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