

Cold comforts

It can be tempting to hibernate when the winter cold sets in, but with all the new experiences on offer around the regions there are a lot of good reasons to get out and about.

WORDS SARAH THOMAS



Station to stay

Beginning in July, the property formerly known as Drover's Run from the *McLeod's Daughters* television series will open as a luxury retreat. Kingsford Homestead was built in 1856 and is surrounded by 225 acres of scenic countryside, on the western edge of the Barossa Valley (off the Sturt Highway). Completely renovated since the conclusion of the popular television series, the secluded homestead now comprises seven luxury suites that cater to just 14 guests. Barossa chef Stuart Oldfield will create seasonal menus for the breakfasts, dinners and canapes that are included as part of the fully hosted stay. As well as the grandeur of the historic home (and the wonders of its well-stocked cellar) visitors can organise for a private "bush bath" in a Victorian claw-foot bath set outdoors in a secluded riverside location. Other attractions include walking trails, private property tours, picnics on the North Para River and drinks by firelight. Rooms start at \$790 per night (minimum two-night stay). The homestead will also be available for exclusive use for private or corporate functions and events, and there are plans to open a pool and spa treatment centre in October.

Details: www.kingsfordhomestead.com.au



Sea views

The beaches of the Yorke Peninsula may be too cold for most of us to consider a swim at the moment, but they still look beautiful. See them from a different perspective – offshore while cruising aboard a vessel through the new Playtime Yacht Charters, based in Wallaroo. The cruises suit up to 10 people, and personalised cruises can visit areas including Moonta Bay, Port Hughes and Port Broughton.

Details: 0418 859 001



Wandering among the vines

With so many wineries on offer, it can be difficult to choose where to visit. The new *Coonawarra Wineries Walking Trail* shows visitors to the Limestone Coast how they can take a leisurely wander between five local wineries: Brands Laira, Redman Wines, Zema Estate, Di Giorgio Family Wines and Wynns Coonawarra Estate. It also offers dining options; a picnic basket can be ordered from the Coonawarra Store and brought along to enjoy on the lawns of a winery. If it's rainy, you can pick up an umbrella at one of the wineries and leave it at the next. Wine orders made at any destination can be delivered for a hands-free stroll. The brochure is now available at cellar doors and visitor information centres.

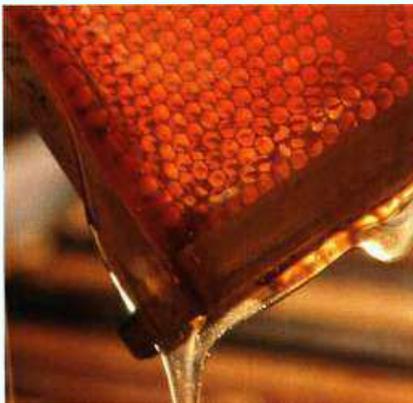
Details: 8736 3260



Regional flavour

McLaren Vale is renowned for its shiraz; the region's moderate climate and diverse terroir guarantee that no two are ever the same. Among this geological, climatic and soil diversity, a group of local wine producers created Scarce Earth. All wines under the Scarce Earth banner come from a single block – small plots of land with a unique flavour profile and personality – representing a number of local wine labels. A panel of local winemakers and independent experts assess each wine to ensure that site is expressed in the glass and the wine is free of overt winemaking influences. Download or pick up the Scarce Earth flyer from participating wineries and taste the difference for yourself.

Details: www.mclarenvale.info/scarceearth



From the source

Kangaroo Island is famous for its beautiful natural environment, but also boasts many food and wine producers who take their lead from nature. Tourism Kangaroo Island have just launched the *Farm Gate and Cellar Door Trail*, to help visitors take their own tour of the island's best food and wine products and meet the artisan producers along the way. The trail guide also organises the region's farm gates and cellar doors into a range of day-long itineraries with suggestions of picnic spots and art galleries along the way.

Details: 1800 811 080, or www.tourkangarooisland.com.au

Want to know more?

From tours to tastings, there is plenty more on offer around the state. Head to www.southaustralia.com for more ideas, or if you're driving around the state visit the local Visitor Information Centre to find out what the locals recommend.

Street eats

A group of like-minded Adelaide Hills producers have combined to create the *Hahndorf Producers Food and Wine Walk*. The new main street walking trail takes in a range of complementary destinations: Somerled cellar door, The Whitehouse Provincial Kitchen, Harris Smokehouse, RockBare cellar door, Udder Delights Cheese Cellar, Chocolate @ No.5 and Beerenberg. The walk aims to include destinations offering an authentic regional experience and premium products, often with a chance to chat to and buy direct from the actual producers. Flyers are available at each destination.

