



# HUNTER VALLEY

## SUGGESTED ITINERARIES



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**Destination NSW**

## GOURMET TASTING PLATE

2 DAYS / 1 NIGHT



### DAY ONE

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- 09.30 Depart Sydney after a leisurely breakfast, to ensure that you miss the peak hour traffic. You may like to travel the scenic route via Wollombi Village, on Tourist Route 33. In Wollombi you will find cafes, the famous Wollombi Tavern, Guest Houses, the Wollombi Museum, Boutique Wineries, Lavender Farm and art and craft galleries (check opening times & dates)
- 11.00 Arrive in the Hunter Valley. First stop, find **Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre** (455 Wine Country Drive Pokolbin) to find your bearings by collecting a visitor's guide and map. Also speak with the friendly staff to collect any regional information and assistance you may require.
- 12.00 Enjoy lunch at one of the many restaurants or cafes located at a winery.
- 13.30 Visit a number of local food producers to sample fresh handmade cheeses, olives and olive products, local fruit jams, pickles or honey. Visit a working fruit farm to purchase seasonal stone fruits, table grapes and other delicious produce. (seasonally dependant)
- 14.30 Before checking into your accommodation, take time to stop in to a winery/cellar door and enjoy a Semillon or a Shiraz – the Hunter Valley's signature wines. Purchase a bottle or two to enjoy once you check in to your accommodation.
- 16.00 Check-in to your overnight accommodation.
- 18.30 Boasting over 60 restaurants and eateries the Hunter Valley has fast established itself as one of Australia's outstanding culinary destinations. No matter your preference – whether it's a degustation menu, tapas or a pub meal – the Hunter Valley can please any appetite.



### DAY TWO

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| 05.00 | Start the day with a Sunrise Hot Air Balloon flight over the Vineyards, followed by a celebratory Champagne Breakfast.  |
| 10.30 | Take part in a tour of a winery and discover what winemaking is all about and learn the processes involved in getting the fruit from the vine into the bottle.  |
| 11.30 | Experience the Hunter Valley Gardens & Village. Spanning over 60 acres, you will be amazed by the sensational sights, colours, and fragrances of the ten stunning feature gardens. Along the eight kilometres of walking paths are more than six thousand trees, one million ground cover plants and six hundred thousand shrubs. This floral display features a variety of plants and statuary, all of a standard that you won't see elsewhere in Australia. |
| 13.30 | Enjoy lunch at the Hunter Valley Gardens Village with several cafes and restaurants on offer.   |
| 14.30 | Participate in a Cheese Educational talk at the local cheese factory.<br><i>(See the Hunter Valley Visitor Guide or ask the Visitor Information Centre for exact times)</i><br><br>Alternatively, for those with a sweet tooth a visit to the boutique factory and showroom of the Hunter Valley Chocolate Company is a must to sample the handmade chocolate and fudge. Whilst there, you may be fortunate to see the Chocolatier or Fudge Maker in action.  |
| 15.30 | Depart the Hunter Valley. We suggest that you consider the blue water paradise of Port Stephens, (90 minutes drive), the majestic Blue Mountains (3 ½ hours drive) or the natural pleasures of the Central Coast (1 ½ hours drive) as your next destination.  |

### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY OPTIONS

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**Boutique Beer Tasting** - The Hunter Valley offers a number locations where you are welcome to sample some of the Hunter Valleys finest boutique beers. You can even participate in a tour of a micro-brewery.

**Cheese Tasting** - Cheese educational talks are conducted daily at the Hunter Valley Cheese Factory. You will learn about the cheese-making process and will have the opportunity to taste some different locally made varieties.

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## THE WINE CONNOISSEUR

2 DAYS/1 NIGHT



### DAY ONE

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- 09.30 Depart Sydney after a leisurely breakfast, to ensure that you miss the peak hour traffic. You may like to travel the scenic route via Wollombi Village, on Tourist Route 33. In Wollombi you will find cafes, the famous Wollombi Tavern, Guest Houses, the Wollombi Museum, Boutique Wineries, Lavender Farm and art and craft galleries (check opening times & dates)
- 11.00 Arrive in the Hunter Valley. First stop, find **Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre** (455 Wine Country Drive Pokolbin) to find your bearings by collecting a visitor's guide and map. Also speak with the friendly staff to collect any regional information and assistance you may require.
- 12.00 Enjoy lunch at one of the many restaurants located on a winery.
- 13.30 After lunch, discover where it all began in the Hunter Valley. The Pokolbin area of the Hunter Valley is where you'll find the big names in Australian wine and the families that have called the Hunter Valley home for generations including Tulloch, McWilliam, Drayton, Tyrrell and McGuigan.
- 16.00 Check-in to your overnight accommodation.
- 18.30 Boasting over 60 restaurants and eateries, the Hunter Valley has fast established itself as one of Australia's outstanding culinary destinations and a Hunter Valley fine dining experience is a must when visiting the area.

### DAY TWO

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- 09.00 Start the day with a relaxing breakfast, whether you are the muesli and yoghurt type, the full cooked breakfast type, the buffet grazer or the sleep-in-and-make-it-just-in-time-for-brunch type, the Hunter Valley cafe's and restaurants have got it covered.





- 10.30 Take part in a tour of a winery and discover what winemaking in the Hunter Valley is all about and learn the processes involved in getting the fruit from the vine into the bottle. *(See the Hunter Valley Visitor Guide or ask the Visitor Information Centre for times)*
- 11.00 Time to put your new found wine knowledge to the test, with a visit to one or two of the many local cellar doors prior to lunch. Why not take a visit to the 2011 Hunter Valley Cellar Door of the Year, **Pepper Tree Wines**. It offers a unique and relaxed wine experience set amongst the spectacular gardens that surround the property.
- 12.30 For a relaxed casual lunch and a spot for a great coffee or light snack, one of the many cafes are the perfect spot to eat.
- 13.30 Before departing, it is worth taking a drive down DeBeyers Road, to take in the breath taking views, history and award-winning wines of Audrey Wilkinson Vineyards. Audrey Wilkinson Vineyard is currently the home of winemaker Jeff Byrne, the 2011 Hunter Valley Wine Industry 2011 Rising Star of the Year.
- 1.30 Depart the Hunter Valley. We suggest that you consider the blue water paradise of Port Stephens, (90 minutes drive), the majestic Blue Mountains (3 ½ hours drive) or the natural pleasures of the Central Coast (1 ½ hours drive) as your next destination.

### ADDITIONAL TASTING OPTIONS

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**Boutique Beer Tasting** - The Hunter Valley offers a number locations where you are welcome to sample some of the Hunter Valleys finest boutique beers. You can even participate in a tour of a micro brewery.

**Cheese Tasting** - Cheese educational talks are conducted daily at the Hunter Valley Cheese Factory. You will learn about the cheese-making process and will have the opportunity to taste some different locally made varieties.

**Chocolate & Fudge Tasting** - for those with a sweet tooth, a visit to the boutique factory and showroom of the Hunter Valley Chocolate Company is a must to sample the handmade Chocolate and Fudge.

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## ULTIMATE INDULGENCE

3 DAYS / 2 NIGHTS



### DAY ONE

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- 09.30 Depart Sydney after a leisurely breakfast, to ensure that you miss the peak hour traffic. You may like to travel the scenic route via Wollombi Village, on Tourist Route 33. In Wollombi you will find cafes, the famous Wollombi Tavern, Guest Houses, the Wollombi Museum, Boutique Wineries, Lavender Farm and art and craft galleries (check opening times & dates)
- 11.00 Arrive in the Hunter Valley. First stop, find **Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre** (455 Wine Country Drive Pokolbin) to find your bearings by collecting a visitor's guide and map. Also speak with the friendly staff to collect any regional information and assistance you may require.
- 12.00 Enjoy lunch at one of the many al fresco cafes, restaurants, or pick up a picnic hamper to enjoy amongst the vines.
- 13.30 Visit a number of local food producers to sample fresh handmade cheeses, olives and olive products, local fruit jams, pickles or honey. Visit a working fruit farm to purchase seasonal stone fruits, table grapes and other delicious produce. (Seasonally dependant)
- For those with a sweet tooth, a visit to one of the three Chocolate Company outlets is a must, to sample the handmade chocolate and fudge.
- 15.00 Before checking into your accommodation, take time to stop in to a winery/cellar door and enjoy your first Hunter Valley Semillon or Shiraz. Why not take the opportunity to purchase a bottle or two and take back to your accommodation to enjoy, whilst relaxing after your indulgent day.
- 18.30 Boasting over 60 restaurants and eateries, the Hunter Valley has fast established itself as one of Australia's outstanding culinary destinations. A Hunter Valley fine dining experience is a must when visiting the area.

### DAY TWO

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- 05.00 Start the day with a Sunrise Hot Air Balloon flight over the Vineyards, followed by a celebratory Champagne Breakfast.



- 10.00 Take part in a tour of a winery and discover what winemaking is all about and learn the processes involved in getting the fruit from the vine into the bottle.
- 12.00 Time to put your new found wine knowledge to the test, with a visit to one of the many local cellar doors prior to lunch.
- 13.00 To make it a true wine and food experience consider a winery that has an onsite restaurant or a café for lunch.
- 14.30 Continue the afternoon exploring the number of boutique wineries/cellar doors which are home some of the best Hunter Valley Semillon and Hunter Valley Shiraz – the Hunter Valley's signature wines.
- Alternatively, there are a number of boutique shopping villages within the Hunter Valley. Where you may find a bargain buy or gift to commemorate your time in the Hunter Valley
- 18.30 From degustation menus and romantic dining to tapas and casual pub meals, the Hunter Valley can offer it all, this evening. Our chefs are proud of the local produce which is reflected in the vibrant menus brimming with local cheeses, olives, breads and, of course, wines.

### DAY THREE

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- 08.00 Breakfast at your accommodation property.
- 09.00 Spend a morning of indulgence with a massage or beauty treatment at one of the relaxing day spas. Alternatively, work on your handicap by playing a round of golf at one of the championship golf courses.
- 12.00 For lunch collect a gourmet picnic hamper from a local produce store to enjoy a picnic on the lawn. Alternatively, enjoy the Hunter Valley sunshine with lunch at one of the many alfresco café scattered throughout the Hunter Valley.
- 14.00 Depart the Hunter Valley. We suggest that you consider visiting the blue water paradise of Port Stephens, (90 minutes drive), the majestic Blue Mountains (3 ½ hours drive) or the natural pleasures of the Central Coast (1 ½ hours drive) as your next destination.