SWAN VALLEY

MAGAZINE | ISSUE 6



EXPLORE | EXPERIENCE | ENJOY

CAVERSHAM WILDLIFE PARK



Caversham Wildlife Park boasts the largest privately owned collection of native wildlife in Western Australia.

This world-class attraction prides itself on offering unique interactive experiences with Australia's most interesting animals while maintaining the laid-back Aussie touch.

Visitors receive personalised service by wildlife professionals dedicated to exceptional service, ensuring their visitors receive the best opportunities for animal interaction, information and photographs.



















Open 7 days, 9am – 4:30pm daily
Located within Whiteman Park
Ph: (08) 9248 1984
www.cavershamwildlife.com.au



WELCOME
TO THE SWAN VALLEY

AS THE SECOND oldest wine region in Australia, you don't get a true sense of what makes the Swan Valley unique until you venture off its main roads.

Turn left or right and you'll discover wineries and restaurants; farm shops and roadside stalls; wildlife parks and nature reserves; confectionaries and providores; breweries, distilleries, galleries ... the list goes on.

What all these businesses have in common is that they are run by people who are passionate about the area. Many are families who have lived and worked in the Swan Valley for generations, after their grandparents (or in some cases, great grandparents) immigrated to Australia during the 1920s and 30s. They arrived with nothing, but went on to establish successful vineyards and farms that are now proudly run by their descendants.

This rich history creates a real sense of place. It's a feeling that you're sharing something special, with people who love the region and everything it represents.

Located just 25 minutes from the Perth CBD, an escape to the Swan Valley is within easy reach and you'll be met with down-to-earth hospitality and premium produce.

Whether you're seeking an adventure with the kids; a romantic getaway; a day out with friends to relax over good food and wine; or a weekend to explore nature tracks and trails, there really is something for everyone.

So what are you waiting for? Explore, experience and enjoy all that the Swan Valley has to offer.

SWAN VALLEY MAGAZINE

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SWAN VALLEY | City of Swan

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EXPLORE...

TOP 10 THINGS TO DO IN THE SWAN VALLEY





1 INDULGE IN SWEET TREATS AT THE MARGARET RIVER CHOCOLATE COMPANY

With over 200 different handmade products including caramel, dark, milk, white, ruby and sugar free chocolates, this must-do attraction offers free tastings. Peek into the life of a chocolatier and watch them perform their craft from the viewing window or meander the gift shop and stock up on sweet treats. The cafe is also a great place to relax and enjoy breakfast, lunch and coffee.



2 GET YOUR CAFFEINE HIT AT YAHAVA KOFFEEWORKS

While freshly roasted coffee beans are at the top of the list of favourites at **Yahava KoffeeWorks**, their delicious Iced Koffee is a close second. A planned expansion by 2028 will include a walk-in roastery as well as immersive experiences to create the ultimate coffee destination. Food and education are already on offer, so you can participate in a *Koffee Safari* to sample coffee, chocolate and help roast a batch of coffee; or enrol in barista training at their *Koffee Academy*.

3 SAMPLE THE REGION'S BEST AT LOCAL WINERIES, BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

With more than 30 wineries plus plenty of breweries and distilleries too, no visit to the Swan Valley is complete without stopping off to sample some top local drops. Weave your way along a picturesque 32km road trip in this historic wine region and stop by the many cellar doors to enjoy some Swan Valley hospitality.



4 KICK BACK AT LOCAL ROOST 'THE HEN'

Whether you find a bar stool on the verandah, a table in the beer garden or a seat on the couch by the fire, **The Henley Brook** is a great place to settle in and relax. Great for a hearty pub meal in casual surrounds, this family-friendly establishment has burgers, pizzas, classic pub grub, regular kids' activities, entertainment on weekends and an expansive nature playground.

5 DISCOVER A PIECE OF ITALY AT MONDO NOUGAT

Watch delicious pieces of nougat being created at this confectionery-meets-providore. Hailing from Calabria in Italy, the Romeo family use traditional recipes handed down through the generations and merge Italian with more traditional Australian flavours to create favourites such as macadamia and honey or cranberry and pistachio nougat. Other tempting Italian treats include homemade gelati and biscotti.





6 RELAX WITH A BREW FROM BAILEY BREWING CO.

Combining fresh local ingredients with the best hops available, **Bailey Brewing Co.** offer easy drinking craft beers and simple fresh food. This brewery has been created by a family, for families, and with arguably the best playground in the Valley, it's a relaxed, low fuss setting that has something for everyone – big and little kids alike.



7 WIND DOWN AT WHISTLER'S CHOCOLATE CO

Making chocolate since 1972, **Whistler's** is WA's oldest chocolate company. This family favourite has a cafe, showroom and gift shop with free samples plus a selection of artisanal chocolates and goodies like rocky road, fudge and chocolate pretzels. Wind down over a coffee in the lounge or settle outside as the kids explore the enclosed garden area.

8 BEE AMAZED AT THE HOUSE OF HONEY

With a combined apiary, meadery and cafe, **The House of Honey** showcases the unique flavours and properties of honey that come from the Swan Valley region. Honey sampling allows you to appreciate the flavour differences that come from the blossom of different types of trees and you can also observe bees working in the demonstration hive. Regular classes include beekeeping and candle making.



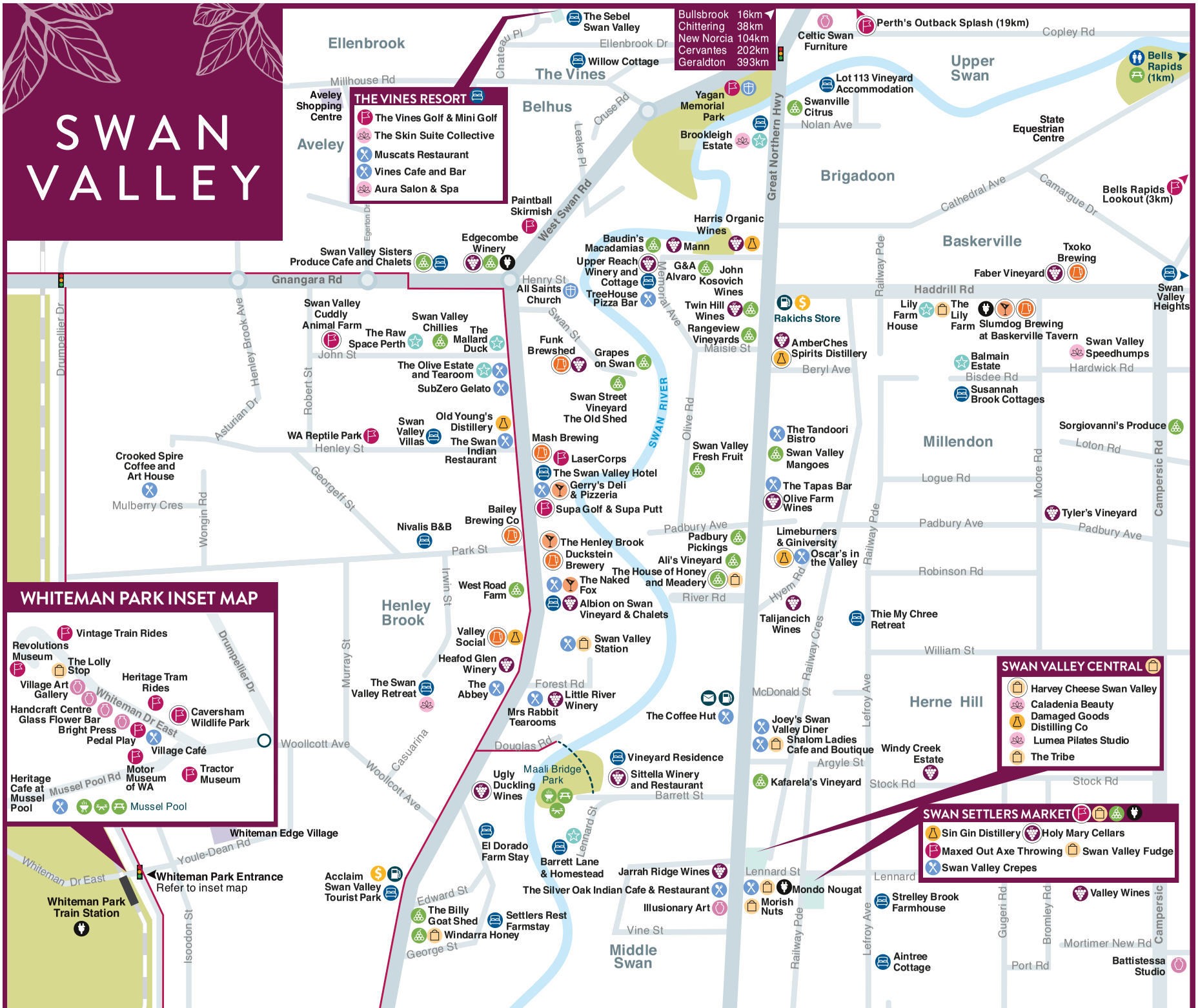
9 EXPLORE WHITEMAN PARK

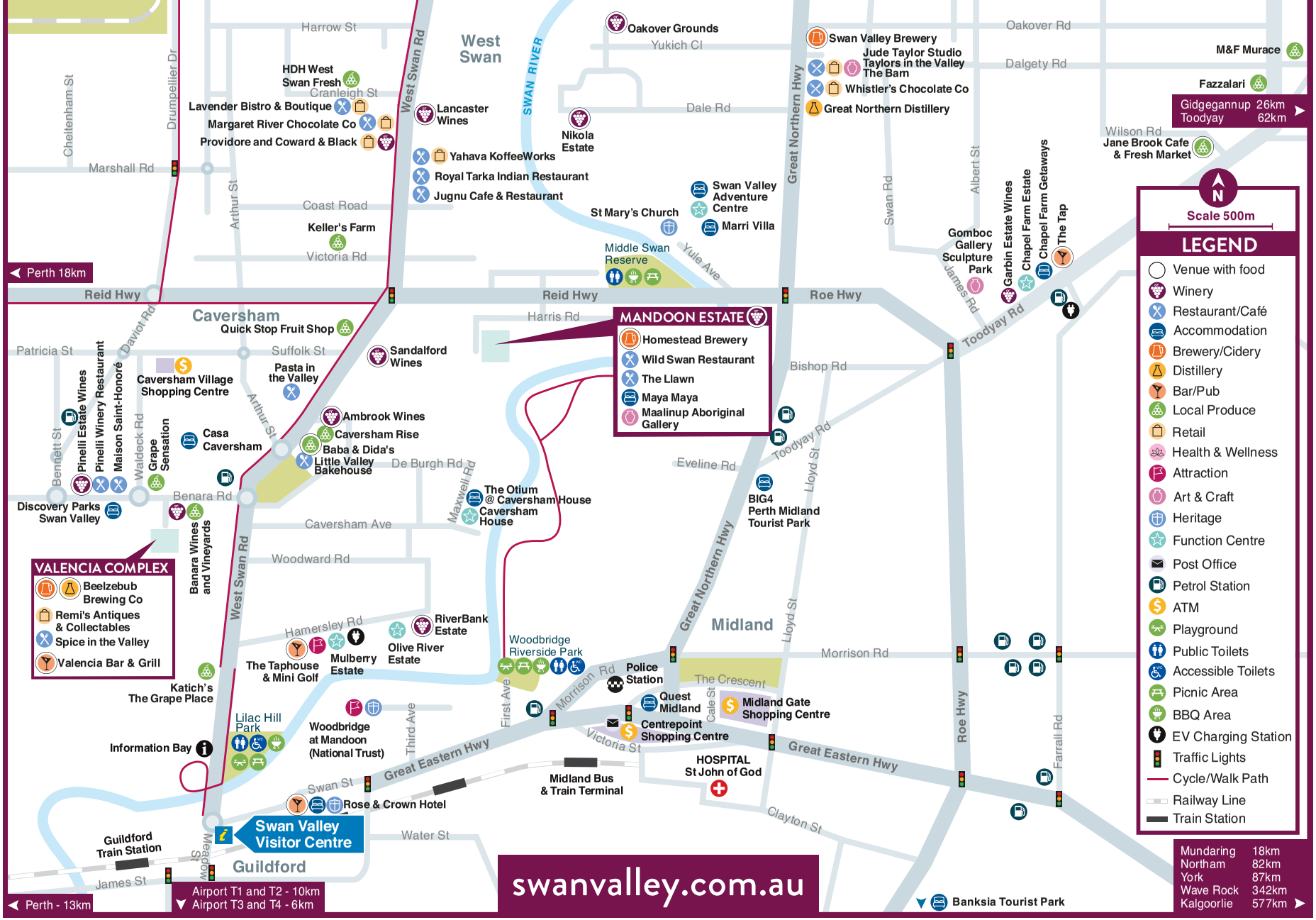
A recreation and conservation bushland spanning over 3,700 hectares, **Whiteman Park** is a haven for families with its walking trails, playgrounds, over 30 picnic and shade shelters, friendly kangaroos and wallabies, tram rides and pedal go-karts. It's also home to the iconic **Caversham Wildlife Park** and **Motor Museum of WA**, so there's plenty to see and do.

10 ESCAPE TO FRANCE AT MAISON SAINT-HONORÉ

Serving up sweet and savoury treats, this Parisian style cafe has authentic French pastries, croissants and macarons, fresh breads, handmade cakes and great coffee as well as a large children's play area. Whether it's breakfast, a caffeine recharge, lunch or high tea, you can experience the essence of French indulgence at **Maison Saint-Honoré**.




SWAN VALLEY
Ellenbrook
Aveley
Belhus
The Vines
Upper Swan
Brigadoon
Baskerville
Millendon
Henley Brook
Middle Swan
Herne Hill
Bullsbrook 16km
Chittering 38km
New Norcia 104km
Cervantes 202km
Geraldton 393km
THE VINES RESORT
The Vines Golf & Mini Golf
The Skin Suite Collective
Muscats Restaurant
Vines Cafe and Bar
Aura Salon & Spa
WHITEMAN PARK INSET MAP
Vintage Train Rides
Revolutions Museum
The Lolly Stop
Village Art Gallery
Heritage Tram Rides
Handcraft Centre
Glass Flower Bar
Bright Press
Pedal Play
Caversham Wildlife Park
Village Café
Motor Museum of WA
Tractor Museum
Heritage Cafe at Mussel Pool
Mussel Pool
Whiteman Park Train Station
Whiteman Park Entrance
Refer to inset map
Whiteman Edge Village
SWAN VALLEY CENTRAL
Harvey Cheese Swan Valley
Caladenia Beauty
Damaged Goods Distilling Co
Lumea Pilates Studio
The Tribe
SWAN SETTLERS MARKET
Sin Gin Distillery
Holy Mary Cellars
Maxed Out Axe Throwing
Swan Valley Fudge
Swan Valley Crepes
The Sebel Swan Valley
Willow Cottage
Aveley Shopping Centre
Yagan Memorial Park
Brookleigh Estate
Lot 113 Vineyard Accommodation
Swanville Citrus
Celtic Swan Furniture
Perth's Outback Splash (19km)
Bells Rapids (1km)
State Equestrian Centre
Bells Rapids Lookout (3km)
Paintball Skirmish
Edgecombe Winery
Swan Valley Sisters Produce Cafe and Chalets
Harris Organic Wines
Baudin's Macadamias
Mann
Upper Reach Winery and Cottage
TreeHouse Pizza Bar
G&A Alvaro
John Kosovich Wines
Twin Hill Wines
Rangeview Vineyards
All Saints Church
Rakichs Store
Lily Farm House
The Lily Farm
Slumdog Brewing at Baskerville Tavern
Txoko Brewing
Faber Vineyard
Swan Valley Heights
AmberChes Spirits Distillery
Balmain Estate
Susannah Brook Cottages
Swan Valley Speedhumps
Swan Valley Cuddly Animal Farm
The Raw Space Perth
Swan Valley Chillies
The Mallard Duck
The Olive Estate and Tearoom
SubZero Gelato
Funk Brewshed
Grapes on Swan
Swan Street Vineyard
The Old Shed
WA Reptile Park
Swan Valley Villas
Old Young's Distillery
The Swan Indian Restaurant
Mash Brewing
LaserCorps
The Swan Valley Hotel
Gerry's Deli & Pizzeria
Supa Golf & Supa Putt
Swan Valley Fresh Fruit
The Tandoori Bistro
Swan Valley Mangoes
The Tapas Bar
Olive Farm Wines
Sorgiovanni's Produce
Tyler's Vineyard
Crooked Spire Coffee and Art House
Nivalis B&B
Bailey Brewing Co
The Henley Brook Duckstein Brewery
The Naked Fox
Albion on Swan Vineyard & Chalets
Padbury Pickings
Ali's Vineyard
The House of Honey and Meadery
Limeburners & Giniversity
Oscar's in the Valley
Thie My Chree Retreat
Talijancich Wines
West Road Farm
Valley Social
Heafod Glen Winery
The Swan Valley Retreat
The Abbey
Swan Valley Station
Mrs Rabbit Tearooms
Little River Winery
The Coffee Hut
Joey's Swan Valley Diner
Shalom Ladies Cafe and Boutique
Windy Creek Estate
Kafarela's Vineyard
Vineyard Residence
Sittella Winery and Restaurant
Ugly Duckling Wines
Maali Bridge Park
El Dorado Farm Stay
Barrett Lane & Homestead
Jarrah Ridge Wines
The Silver Oak Indian Cafe & Restaurant
Illusionary Art
Mondo Nougat
Morish Nuts
Strelley Brook Farmhouse
Valley Wines
Aintree Cottage
Battistessa Studio
Acclaim Swan Valley Tourist Park
The Billy Goat Shed
Windarra Honey
Settlers Rest Farmstay
Gnangara Rd
Henley St
Park St
Padbury Ave
Logue Rd
Robinson Rd
River Rd
William St
Forest Rd
Douglas Rd
Barrett St
Lennard St
Vine St
George St
Edward St
Woollcott Ave
Whiteman Dr East
Youle-Dean Rd
Mussel Pool Rd
Haddrill Rd
Beryl Ave
Bisdee Rd
Hardwick Rd
Loton Rd
Stock Rd
Argyle St
Mortimer New Rd
Port Rd
Swan River
Great Northern Hwy
Railway Pde
Olive Rd
Memorial Ave
Swan St
Maisie St
Cathedral Ave
Camargue Dr
Copley Rd
Nolan Ave
Millhouse Rd
Ellenbrook Dr
Chateau Pl
Cruse Rd
Leake Pl
West Swan Rd
Egerton Dr
Drumpellier Dr
Henley Brook Ave
Asturian Dr
Robert St
John St
Georgeff St
Wongin Rd
Irwin St
Murray St
Casuarina
Isoodon St
Lefroy Ave
Railway Cres
Hyem Rd
Moore Rd
Campersic Rd
Gugeri Rd
Bromley Rd
Lennard St



MONDO NOUGAT
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NOUGAT AND NUTS
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Harvey Cheese

EXPERIENCE...

WHAT'S NEW IN THE VALLEY



Emma McNeill of Little Valley Bakehouse

From a tiny rustic bakehouse to the rebirth of a popular winery, Sue Yeap looks at what's new in the Swan Valley and surrounds.

By SUE YEAP

Little Valley Bakehouse

2540 West Swan Rd, Caversham.
Open Thursday to Sunday.
Check social media for updates.

The scent of freshly baked bread and pastries is coming from the kitchen of **Little Valley Bakehouse**, the realisation of a dream for local couple Emma and Johnpaul McNeill.

The bakery has taken over the cafe at **Baba and Dida's**, one of Caversham's longest-running fruit and vegetable growers.

Emma had been buying produce from Tony Tolich at Baba and Dida's for years before the opportunity came up to expand beyond her home kitchen. The two businesses now operate independently from the same premises, with Little Valley Bakehouse incorporating Tony's seasonal produce such as figs and tomatoes.

Emma is a self-taught baker and she specialises in stone-baked organic white sourdough, fermented for 24 to 48 hours using a German rye starter that she's nurtured for more than a decade.

"When somebody eats something from here, I want it to feel like a memory," she says.

Focusing on quality over quantity, there's no set menu, with pies, pastries, cookies and slices changing according to what's in season.

"What began as a love of baking at home has slowly grown into a vision for a warm, welcoming space centred around slow food, good coffee and community," Emma says.

"Working alongside Baba and Dida's has also allowed this vision to naturally tie into the surrounding produce and rural character of the Swan Valley. My

dream of a rustic bakery inspired by old-fashioned country bakehouses has come to life, with the bigger premises allowing me to experiment more."

Little Valley Bakehouse will collaborate with Baba and Dida's on events. Emma also plans to run community activities such as school holiday cookie decorating sessions and homemade swap meets for local makers.

Harvey Cheese

Shop 7/8, 660 Great Northern Hwy, Herne Hill. Open 7 days.




Harvey Cheese

One of Western Australia's best-loved dairy brands, family owned and operated **Harvey Cheese**, has expanded from Wokalup to the Swan Valley.

"It felt like a natural fit," says Beverley Sayers, the Swan Valley store manager.

"The Valley is home to so many multi-generational producers, wineries, growers, and artisan businesses, that share the same values we do — provenance, craftsmanship, and pride in local produce."

Since opening in late 2025, Beverley says the Swan Valley store has been welcoming visitors and locals alike.

"There's a real sense of rediscovery, which is incredibly rewarding. It has also been so heartwarming getting to know our local community, in an area so rich with history."

Popular cheese varieties include OMG Triple Cream, three year old Vintage Western Red and Marinated Mediterranean Fetta. Beverley says the cultured butter range used in their toasties is also developing a cult following.

"Our pasteurised milk with its rich natural cream cap is another customer favourite," she says.

Harvey Cheese offers curated cheese platters, barista made coffee, gourmet toasties, waffles, 16 flavours of Junction Ice Creamery ice cream and other WA-made gourmet fare.


Jilby's Boutique

Jilby's Boutique

4/175 James St, Guildford.

Looking for Italian-made clothing, beautiful accessories, gifts or locally produced souvenirs? Then head to **Jilby's Boutique** in Guildford.

Opened in late 2025, it's the bigger sibling of the original Jilby's started ten years ago by Jill James at Fremantle Market.

"I had a vision of something bigger, where we had the freedom to offer a wider range of products and a more comprehensive shopping experience for our customers," Jill explains.

Jill loves being part of the supportive Guildford community, trading additional days, and having free parking nearby.

"We sell a gorgeous range of mostly Italian labels such as La Strada, La Sofia, Wednesday Lulu, Imagine Fashion, Bottega Moda and Amici together with Australian labels such as Worthier, Cindy G, Iris Maxi and Caroline Morgan," Jill says.

As for the store name? Jill said it's a nickname bestowed years ago by her daughter.



Oakover Grounds

"What Jilby's the business stands for is empowering women to mature on their own terms," Jill explains.

"When I opened Guildford, I changed the business tag line to 'stay fabulous'. Our aim is to help remind women they are already, and have always been, fabulous.

"Our focus is building a trusting rapport and genuine connection with our customers."

Jilby's also carries handbags by Serenade Leather, Nicole Lee USA and a unique range of cork handbag products imported from Portugal.

Oakover Grounds

14 Yukich Close, Middle Swan.

With its picturesque lake and playground, **Oakover Grounds** has long been popular for everything from family gatherings to Christmas functions.

After closing in March 2025, the venue has a new lease on life from the team behind **Chapel Farm** and **Beezlebub Brewing Co** (formerly Collector of Souls).

"We are taking it over, doing some renovations and reopening in August/September," says Sharon Lord, chief of operations at Uncommon Ground Group.

The restaurant, cellar door and smokehouse will reopen, with **Beezelbub Brewing Co** spirits joining the tasting bench.

The former Barrel Bar will become the **Lake House**, a new wedding and function venue.

"We have been doing works on the outside of it, extending the Lake House to have a deck that branches into the lake, and putting in footpaths. The inside hasn't changed too much."

Vineyard Residence

102 Barrett St, Herne Hill.

Get away to the heart of wine country at this renovated, self-contained four-bedroom home operated by **Sittella Winery**.

Set amongst the vines with views of the Swan River, the home has multiple living areas with plenty of space for families, friends or wedding parties.

It's a short stroll to the cellar door for a complimentary tasting, with a guest discount for cellar door wine sales and dining.


Sittella's Vineyard Residence


Sittella's Vineyard Residence


Lumea Pilates

Other new openings:

ClicknPay
624 Great Northern Hwy, Herne Hill.

This new direct to the public Halal butcher selects and processes its own range of Australian beef, lamb, goat, camel, buffalo, and chicken.

Balmain Estate
85 Bisdee Rd, Millendon.

One of the Valley's oldest family vineyards is now home to a multi-space events and wedding venue.

Lumea Pilates
1/660 Great Northern Hwy, Herne Hill.

If you need to work off all the wine and cheese, this boutique studio offers casual classes and intro packages.

Valencia Bar and Grill
55 Benara Road, Caversham.

Vineyard charm meets cowboy soul at Caversham's new local. Think cold pints, cheeky good times and nightly specials.


Balmain Estate

To keep up with new openings throughout the year, follow **@TheSwanValley** on social media

CRUISE TO THE SWAN VALLEY

Depart Perth by boat and arrive in the Swan Valley, with wine tastings, lunch, and more as you cruise.



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Discover the Swan Valley by Coach

Experience the Swan Valley's finest wineries, breweries, distilleries, and eateries with Swan Valley Tours.



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EXPLORE... BEHIND THE CELLAR DOOR

Deviate from the main roads to discover unique cellar door experiences in the Swan Valley. From small local wineries held within the same family for generations, through to large wine tourism destinations, there's a cellar door to suit everyone.

By JOCELYN BIDDLE

As WA's oldest wine region, the Swan Valley is located just 25-minutes from the Perth CBD and boasts over 30 wineries offering a range of personalised cellar door experiences.

Why a cellar door experience?

If you're short on time, booking into a cellar door experience is a more



Pinelli Estate
Photo by Frances Andrijich

personalised way to learn about the nuances of a particular wine region. From behind-the-scenes tours (if you're lucky, you may even meet the winemaker), through to tasting experiences and workshops, they're a great way to expand your wine knowledge.

Consider booking ahead to get the most out of your day. With so much to choose from, what are you waiting for?



The Henley Brook

FEELING MORE IMPULSIVE?

Specific experiences for groups of over six people require bookings, but you're otherwise welcome to drop in to cellar doors to sample some top local drops.

For example, Twin Hill Wines with its old-style charm and character, has been owned and run by the same family for over 85 years. They have table wines plus fortifieds, including Tokay, Sweet Muscat and Pedro Ximenez.

Known for its chilled and laid back vibe, Lancaster Wines has an outdoor tasting shed where you can sample their wines, before putting together your own grazing platter to enjoy with a bottle in their vineyard setting.

As Australia's second oldest winery, Nikola Estate is located on the banks of the Swan River. Forged in tradition with its original grapevines dating back to 1836, this historic and picturesque property has a modern cellar door situated in a beautiful location in the Valley.

Featuring prominently in recent Swan Valley Wine Shows, third generation winemaker Tony Cobanov is producing award-winning wines at Windy Creek Estate with his Chenin Blanc, Verdelho and Grenache.

With over 30 wineries to choose from, there's much to explore in the Swan Valley.



Nikola Estate

Grape to glass tour at Olive Farm Wines

If you're interested in exploring the full winemaking journey from grape to glass, the '*Tour and Taste*' experience at **Olive Farm Wines** is a fun and educational way to learn about the steps involved in producing wine.

With a rich heritage spanning four generations, winemakers Anthony Yurisich and his father Ian, operate an innovative winery that produces over 50 different wines including both traditional and alternate styles.

The interactive tour starts in the vineyard with its meticulously maintained grapevines, before you walk through the factory and barrel room. Each step of the winemaking process is explained and you'll get to see where the grapes are crushed, fermented, barrel aged, bottled and labelled.

Finishing up in the cellar door, you're introduced to 'Frank the Tank', a wine dispenser that houses the complete Olive Farm wine selection. With so many interesting varieties and styles of wine, it's hard to choose. For bookings, go to ***olivefarmwines.com.au***

Sparkle with Sittella

If terms like riddling, disgorging, tirage and dosage pique your interest, then book yourself into the '*Tour and Tasting Experience*' at **Sittella**. This boutique winery is well qualified to talk you through all that's involved in producing award-winning sparkling wines, having recently been awarded 'Sparkling Wine of the Year' in the 2024 Halliday Wine Companion Awards with their *Grand Prestige Late Disgorged 2010 Blanc de Blanc*.

And it's not just sparkling wines that you'll learn about. The guided tour takes you past their vineyard which has both traditional and more unusual varieties (including Albarino, Mencia and Touriga Nacional) and then through their production area as you're provided with an overview of how this family-owned winery has evolved. The tour ends in the cellar door, where you can sit down and enjoy a guided tasting and cheese board. To book, go to ***sittella.com.au***

Traditions of Talijancich

No visit to the Swan Valley is complete without sampling fortified wine, a style synonymous with the area. As one of the forefathers of the Valley, **Talijancich Wines** produce award-winning fortifieds and their vineyard has been in the same family since 1932.

Third generation winemaker James Talijancich started out as assistant winemaker in 1977, working under the tutelage of his father Peter (who completed 49 vintages). Most of the wines are estate grown and their vineyard is also biodynamic, with James' approach being very much about producing wines that are an expression of both the fruit and vineyard.

For a deep dive into the world of fortified wines, try their *Aged Fortified Tasting* experience. Designed for two people, you will sample Liqueur Muscat, Liqueur Shiraz, Pedro Ximenez (with its base wine dating back to 1978), Rare Tawny and Muscat along with a cheeseboard. It's a unique and quintessential Swan Valley experience.

Visit ***taliwine.com.au*** for more information.

Cultural journey with Mandoon

For a cellar door experience with a difference, **Mandoon Estate** offers an Indigenous Tasting Experience, so you can sample local, native ingredients matched with three of their signature wines.

In consultation with Wardandi Bibbulmun woman Dale Tilbrook, Mandoon's chefs have curated a menu that showcases ingredients such as crocodile, emu, kangaroo, rivermint oil, pickled quandong and wattleseed bread. Relax into your experience with a glass of bubbles, before being presented with your platter and matching wines. See ***mandoonestate.com.au***

Blend with Sandalford

If you've ever aspired to become a winemaker, then **Sandalford Wines'** blending session gives a sneak peek into the skills required to create a perfectly balanced drop.

This 1.5-hour workshop starts with a guided tour along elevated walkways, which gives you a bird's eye view of winemaking operations while you learn fun facts about both Sandalford and winemaking (did you know that the optimal temperature to drink red wine is 16-18 degrees? Or that grape vines have been growing in the Swan Valley for almost 200 years?)

Following the tour, the fun begins as you sit down in front of carafes of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz. As you swirl, sniff and sip, you're taken through the origin, characteristics, oak profile and cellaring times of each wine and how blending can enhance the finished product. As you try to create your own perfect blend, you'll develop an insight into the skills involved in winemaking. Visit ***sandalford.com***

Personal attention with Pinelli

Describing themselves as a 'little taste of Italy', expect a very personalised cellar door experience at **Pinelli Estate** where you'll often get to meet the winemakers themselves.

Robert and Daniel Pinelli are second generation winemakers and along with their father, Domenic, are passionate about handcrafting fine wines. Careful vineyard management on their property in the Swan Valley, together with years of winemaking experience, has seen the trio win many awards.

There's a restaurant located next to the cellar door, so a relaxing afternoon over good food and wine awaits. Restaurant bookings can be made at ***pinelliwines.com.au***



BAILEY BREWING CO.



It's pretty simple really.
We're a brewery in the Swan Valley.
We serve beer that we brew, local wine from our mates, and food that's always tasty.
We've got a big playground for the kids and peace-of-mind for the parents.
All the good stuff – and just 30 minutes from the City!



Opening Hours:
Tues – Friday: 11am-Late for Lunch & Dinner.
Saturday-Sunday & Public Holidays:
8am-Late for Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.



9861 West Swan Road, Henley Brook
Phone: 6192 1830
www.baileybrewingco.com.au
@thebaileybrewingco @baileybrewingco



ENJOY...
TOP LOCAL DROPS

Boasting dozens of winemakers and vineyards together with countless excellent wines, Keven Osborne from local wine bar The Naked Fox discusses some local Swan Valley wines that he recommends take a place at your table.







Mann Rosé Brut 2024

Handpicked and hand-disgorged by father-daughter duo Dorham and Anthea Mann, this Méthode Champenoise sparkling has it all.

Fancy some Billecart-Salmon Champagne rosé? Or Louis Roederer Champagne rosé perhaps? Look no further than 89-year-old Dorham's Swan Valley bubbles. For every vintage since 1988, Dorham and Anthea have meticulously crafted this unique Swan Valley Cabernet Sauvignon Mèthode Champenoise sparkling.

Undergoing secondary fermentation in bottle (like Champagne), zero sugar is added at the dosage stage leaving a crisp and age-worthy sparkling. The mousse (mouth fizz) and elongated finish of shortbread, brioche and honeyed almonds linger longingly, lovingly and harmoniously in the memory bank of great wine.

The latest 2024 vintage is available at Mann Winery's cellar door until sold out, as well as from The Naked Fox, Copper & Oak and Old Bridge Cellars. Their next release, the 2025 vintage, will be available from August 2027.

Sittella Avant-Garde Series Albariño 2026

There are not many Albariño plantings in Australia, let alone Western Australia.

Herne Hill's family-owned and operated Sittella planted rare rootstock of this north-west Spanish variety in 2021. The wet winter of 2025, followed by a warm, dry spring and the glorious growing season of summer 2026 has boded extremely well for this third iteration.

Fragrant lemongrass, passionfruit, blood orange and honeysuckle generously entice you into a zippy plunge pool of finger lime and lemon sherbet, alongside lip-smacking acidity. Available at Sittella cellar door, select independent bottle shops or online at ***sittella.com.au***

Garbin Estate Verdelho 2026

Common with smaller French, Spanish and Italian vineyards, it's becoming harder and less viable for the next generation to maintain the traditions and quality of their agricultural ancestors. So it is both rare and glorious to see the next generation succeeding.

A handful of historic Swan District wineries are continuing the family legacy, including Sittella, John Kosovich and Paul Conti. Third generation brothers Adam and Joel Garbin have also taken over the reins from their parents, confidently saddling up in the winery and management.

The entire portfolio of Garbin Estate wines are delightfully approachable. This is an important Swan Valley cellar door to visit with Méthode Traditionelle sparkling, Sémillon and Sangiovese, through to fortified Muscat.

Garbin Estate's 2025 Verdelho is a youthful number with tropical guava and pineapple, quince, peach and pear and just the right balance of zesty acidity. Originating in Spain, Verdelho thrives in the hot, dry Swan Valley sunshine and mature (15+ years) local Verdelho wines are an absolute delight for the senses. Available at Garbin Estate cellar door and online at ***garbinestatewines.com.au***







Chouette 'Revival' Grenache 2026

Tom Daniel founded Chouette in 2018, when he returned home to the Swan Valley after 12 years working in Melbourne. His Dad's winery, Susannah Brook, was the building block for Chouette and provided access to some beautiful old Grenache (and Chenin Blanc) vines that needed a little 'reviving'. An ancient Boyay Gogomat stone owl near the winery (chouette means both 'owl' and 'cool' in French) reflects Daniel's connection to both old and new.

Chouette's 'Revival' wine is from the glorious 2026 vintage. Hand-picked and gently extracted with open top whole-berry ferments, it has been matured in a single three-year old 1,800L Slavonian oak foudre and ceramic amphora. Light, pretty, savoury - it is Pinot-esque in both appearance and tannin. Great served a little chilled alongside charcuterie cold cuts. Check ***chouettewine.com*** for winemaker Tom Daniel's latest seasonal releases.

Corymbia Chenin Blanc 2026

Genevieve Mann moved to Margaret River in 2007 as winemaker at Howard Park. Meanwhile, Rob Mann was born and raised in the Swan Valley and is grandson of pioneering Houghtons winemaker Jack Mann. Rob became head winemaker at Cape Mentelle in Margaret River, yet it was a chance meeting on a vineyard thousands of miles across the Pacific Ocean in the Napa Valley, California, where their story together first began.

Rob and Genevieve's decision to return home and rejuvenate the Rocket's Vineyard in Baskerville - planted some 40 years ago by Rob and his late father, Australian Test cricketer Tony 'Rocket' Mann - has benefited the WA wine-drinking community immeasurably. This plot of immaculate viticulture has plantings of Chenin Blanc, Tempranillo, Malbec, as well as older bush vine Cabernet Sauvignon.

Their inaugural Corymbia Swan Valley vintage was in 2017, with a Chenin Blanc and a red field blend. The 2026 Chenin is dry-grown, organically-certified and offers generous characteristics of cumquat, beeswax, honeydew melon and pink lady apple, with some delicate drops of salinity. The current release is available online at ***corymbiawine.com.au*** and at select independent bottle shops Australia-wide.

Vino Volta 'Funky & Fearless' Chenin Blanc 2023

There are several Australian wine-making renegades in the Swan Valley who are championing and coaxing the full potential of this historical Loire Valley variety. The very best examples of Chenin Blanc have acidity, persistence and drive to live for decades.

At three years of age, this fine wine by Vino Volta owner and winemaker Garth Cliff, formerly of Houghtons, has a smidge of gentle skin contact, extended lees aging and is beginning to demonstrate its full long-lived potential. It's certainly fearless, in that it could comfortably take on the world's best. Funky? In a Marvin Gay/James Brown sorta-way!

Whole bunch pressed into mature oak, it's lemon and lime tutti-fruity with a lick of passionfruit and honeysuckle, as well as plenty of weight on the palate from lees stirred in barrel. The fruit is sourced from Corymbia's special certified organic Rocket's vineyard. Final stock of the 2023 vintage is available online at ***vinovolta.com.au***





Corymbia 'Field Blend' Tempranillo Malbec 2025

Corymbia's debut release in 2017 took out the *WA Good Food Guide's Wine of the Year*, and it has been a regular contender in the top 25 wines of Western Australia ever since. Their new 2025 release is as good as any, and with two of the State's most respected winemakers behind the helm, as well as beautiful organic Tempranillo, Malbec and a touch of 100-year-old bush vine Cabernet Sauvignon fruit to play with, it's little wonder this is another compelling vintage.

An absolute must (no pun intended) for any red wine lover, it is highly approachable upon release. The wine label, designed by Rob Mann's sister, is the shape of a Corymbia flower. A lone Corymbia tree adorns the slope of the pristine Rocket's vineyard and the artwork has 365/6 spherical spikes representing the vintage's annual temperature, rainfall and picking dates. The current release is available at ***corymbiawine.com.au*** as well as select independent bottle shops.

Swan Valley Wines 'Bianco' Muscadelle Malvasia Vermentino Navera Chenin 2023

Bree Lavell and Paul Hoffman are passionate about keeping endemic Swan varieties, traditional viticulture and sustainable winemaking at the heart of their operations. This includes organically managed sites - old bush vine Chenin Blanc, Grenache, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah and Mourvèdre - and minimal intervention in the winery with gentle basket pressing, indigenous yeasts for natural fermentation, no fining or filtration and low to zero sulphur additions.

Some of their Chenin Blanc is sourced from a vineyard planted in 1913 - yes 114 year-old vines! This blend is dominated by the native Bordelaise Muscadelle, with lashings of Mediterranean Malvasia and Vermentino, and topped up by some old vine Chenin. After the varieties are separately whole-bunched pressed, they spend 10 months on lees in mature French barriques. Unfined and unfiltered, it is textural, appealing to all of the senses, and just oh-so moreish. For Swan Valley Wines' latest white releases check ***swanvalleywines.com.au***

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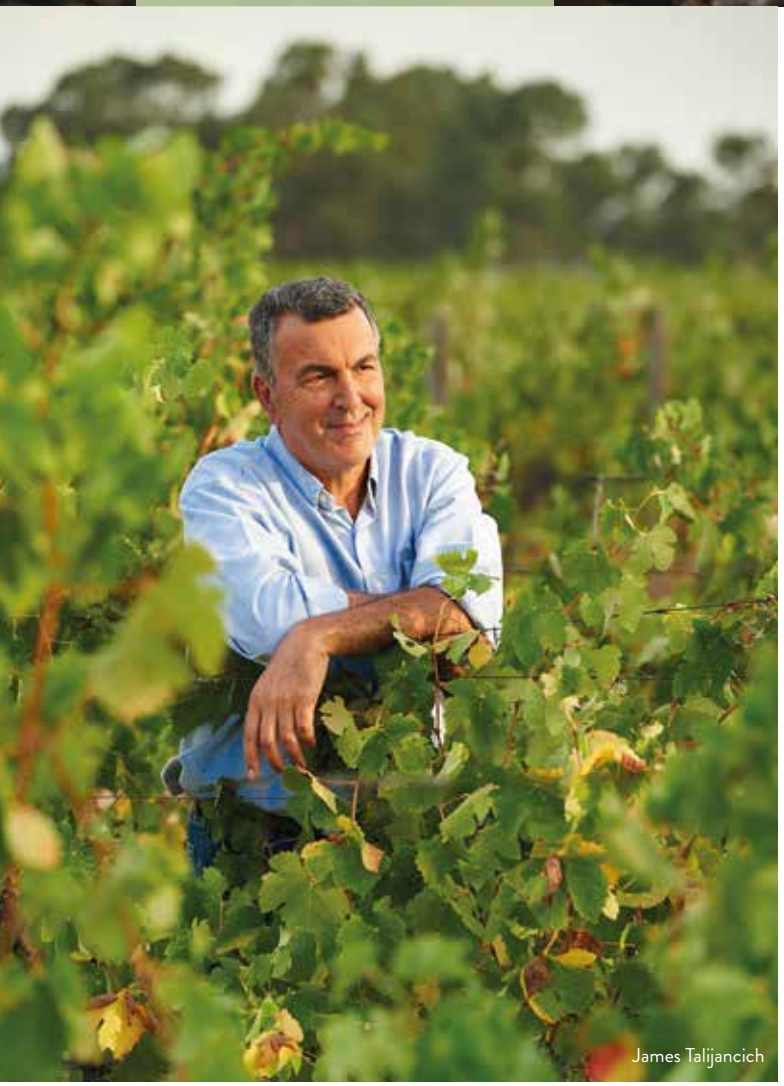
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The Naked Fox's co-founders, Keven Osborne and Rachel Jones, have developed a carefully curated wine list with over 50 different Swan Valley wines as well as rotating back vintages available by the glass. Open Thursday to Monday, The Naked Fox's menu is designed to pair with their dedicated local drinks list. See ***thenakedfox.com.au*** or email ***bookmein@thenakedfox.com.au***

Keven Osborne, The Naked Fox



James Talijancich



Talijancich 'Julian James' Rare Pedro Ximénez 1978 Solero Blend No. 3

Third generation winemaker James Talijancich produces some of Australia's highest rated fortified wines. His reserve muscats are limited and extremely sought after.

This 100% Swan Valley Pedro Ximénez was planted in 1900 and is a blend of Talijancich's finest vintages from 1978 to 2001, matured in old brandy casks. Think Flambé Christmas pudding with a deepening complexity of richness, Moroccan dates, nougat, Swan Valley honey and sticky toffee. It has immensely pleasurable concentration and a dense, long, lingering finish. Available predominantly from Talijancich's cellar door and online (visit ***taliwine.com.au***), there is also a selection of fortifieds, including the 1961 Rare Muscat, available from The Naked Fox.





Windy Creek Estate 'Matadoro' Grenache 2024

There is some cracking Swan Valley Grenache from Upper Reach, Swan Valley Wines, Dormilona, South by South West, Faber, Mandoon, Pinelli, RiverBank, Henley Park...the list goes on.

Flying the flag for the best-value winery in the region, Windy Creek's 'Matadoro' Grenache is silky (let's say foxtail bushy in a presentable way), juicy, fruity and very drinkable. Some Grenache are pretty in pink and some are bold and dark with more tannin and oak. This leans more to the voluptuous side. It's not too high in alcohol, so is a great pairing with pizza or light stews. Visit their cellar door and also available online at ***windycreekestate.com.au***

"There are several Australian wine-making renegades in the Swan Valley who are championing and coaxing the full potential of the historic Loire Valley variety Chenin Blanc.

John Kosovich 'Mara' Chenin Blanc 2024

Famed for their 'bottle aged reserve' Chenin Blanc, which is released after six years of careful cellaring, Kosovich's 'Mara' debuted during the winery's centennial year in 2022.

Named after Mary Kosovich (who was born 'Mara' in 1938 before the midwives anglicised her name to 'Mary'), winemaking here is overseen by youngest son Arch. This wine honours Arch's mother, Mara, who still runs the cellar door. Meanwhile Mary's husband, John Kosovich, completed his 73rd consecutive vintage this year! Having left school aged 15, John started helping out on his parents' vineyard in 1953 and can still be found chewing grapes to test their ripeness at vintage before handpicking fruit with the whole family.

The 'Mara' Chenin Blanc is a fine, tightly structured wine with floral, spicy notes and a fresh vibrant fruit which will age gracefully for years to come. It's available online at ***johnkosovichwines.com.au*** and also from the cellar door.


Arch Kosovich, John Kosovich Wines

EXPLORE...

THE SWAN VALLEY'S WINE MAKING HERITAGE

With vineyards dating almost 200 years, the Swan Valley's Old Vine Charter ensures their preservation for generations to come.



As Western Australia's oldest wine region (and the second oldest in Australia after the Hunter Valley in NSW), the Swan Valley boasts a rich winemaking heritage.

With a lineage stretching back to the earliest days of Western Australia's colonisation, initial plantings were by English settlers. The first vines were planted in 1829 by botanist Thomas Waters at Olive Farm Wines' original site in South Guildford.

Fast forward to 1916 and a wave of European migrants flocked to the region. It was the arrival of Croatian and Italian immigrants that really enriched winemaking in the Valley, bringing their expertise as vignerons with generations of experience.

These families still have their roots firmly entrenched here and several are now third and fourth generation winemakers and vignerons.

Old Vine Charter

Launched in 2024, the *Swan Valley Old Vine Charter* has been established to acknowledge the importance of retaining this valuable legacy.

Swan Valley generational winemakers, Anthony Kosovich and James Talijancich, were instrumental in developing the Charter, which was born from a shared passion to recognise and preserve the old vines of the region as well as the diverse styles of wines being made from them. With overwhelming support from the local winemaking community, together with assistance from the Barossa Valley who had released their own Charter in 2009, they set about establishing a Charter specifically for the Swan Valley.

"The development of the *Swan Valley Old Vine Charter* will ensure the long-term preservation of old vines and it also validates their value in winemaking. For consumers, this means that they can continue to enjoy wonderful wines into the future that have been made using fruit from vines that can be anywhere from 35 to over 125 years old," says James Talijancich.

Vines are classified into four categories: *Old Vine* (aged 35 years plus); *Survivor* (aged 70 years plus); *Centenarian* (aged 100 years plus) and *Ancestor* (aged 125 years plus).

Swan Valley wineries and vineyards were invited to register vines that were more than 35 years of age. Over 85 per cent of Swan Valley wineries are now Charter members. Details of the

Below: Signage and labelling have been developed to promote the Swan Valley's Old Vine Charter, helping to educate consumers about wineries using old vine fruit.



Old Vine
Equal or greater than 35 years of age



Survivor Vine
Equal or greater than 70 years of age



Centenarian Vine
Equal or greater than 100 years of age



Ancestor Vine
Equal or greater than 125 years of age

THE PURPOSE OF THE SWAN VALLEY OLD VINE CHARTER IS TO SUPPORT THE LONG-TERM PROTECTION OF OLD VINES IN THE REGION, AS WELL AS VALIDATE THEIR VALUE IN WINEMAKING.





location of old vineyards are held within a database that is administered by the Swan Valley Winemakers Association.

"Old vines have shaped classic styles of wines. Within a decade, the majority of vineyards in the Swan Valley will be classified as 'Old Vine' and we have a responsibility, both to our region and our profession, to protect these. As a group of winemakers, we're working collectively to raise awareness about the importance of preserving these vineyards as well as the significance of wines that are being produced from them."

Part of the establishment of the *Swan Valley Old Vine Charter* meant developing wine labelling, cellar door and winery signage, which is an important part of educating consumers about the heritage and provenance of the wines they are drinking.

Look out for the Old Vine Charter labelling next time you're visiting or enjoying a bottle of the Swan Valley's finest. It's not only a sign that you're drinking wine made with fruit from old vines, but that the winemaker is committed to preserving this important legacy for future generations.

For more information, visit ***swanvalley.com.au/oldvine***

Above left: The historical Roe family property in the Swan Valley, circa 1845, with its Pedro Ximenez vineyard.

Above: Thirteen-year old Peter Talijancich working in the family's Swan Valley vineyard in 1945. Peter's son, James Talijancich, is now a third-generation winemaker and works from the same property that has been held in the family since 1932.

Scan the QR code or visit ***swanvalley.com.au/oldvine*** to find the wineries who have wines made from the fruit of old vines available for you to taste and purchase.

EXPLORE... SOMEWHERE *for* COFFEE

Whether you're sipping on a cappuccino in a rustic shed overlooking vineyards or relaxing in historic Guildford, there's plenty of options for a caffeine-fuelled foray in the region.

By CARMEN JENNER

As one of the Swan Valley's biggest players, **Yahava KoffeeWorks** originally started roasting in the Margaret River Region 25 years ago. Yahava owner and director, Alastair Ingram shares, "We chose the Swan Valley because there are a lot of similarities to the Margaret River region, such as its connection to wine and food, and we wanted to be part of that."

Sourcing beans from 12 countries including PNG, Indonesia, India, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mexico, Colombia and Vietnam, they also have outlets in Singapore, Canningvale and, as of November 2024, Rockingham. More than a roaster and cafe, they're on a quest to share their passion for making the perfect brew through their workshops.

Yahava's *Koffee Academy* teaches the public how to make coffee at home, covering everything from using the right beans, to getting a good extraction, to cleaning equipment. Their school holiday barista course is an ingenious way to cultivate a love of coffee in 13 to 17-year-olds, whilst also offering work experience and ongoing employment in their cafe. Connoisseurs will find the *Koffee Safari* course invaluable in where to source beans and how to compare flavours whilst sampling coffees from around the world.

Making an excellent cup of coffee might seem simple, but there's a lot involved. Alastair says, "It starts with good quality ingredients, from the beans to the milk and even the water, and the equipment needs to be consistent."

When asked what makes the perfect brew, Alastair shares, "The perfect coffee is what tastes great to you."

On that note, let's go on a coffee crawl through the Swan Valley.

Yahava KoffeeWorks

Right: Willing Coffee in Guildford is a local favourite.
Below: Yahava KoffeeWorks





GUILDFORD

You can have your pick of cafes in historic Guildford. At the enchanting **Little Vines**, located just behind the **Little Guildford** on Swan Street, you can sip your coffee beneath grape vines while overlooking the Swan River. A couple of doors down in the iconic Padbury Buildings on Terrace Road, you'll find **Padbury's Cafe**. Also, on Terrace Road, **Willing Coffee** takes their specialty brews seriously, particularly their single-origin beans from southern Colombia. It's a hit with cyclists particularly since owner Tim Willing, a former cycling champion, supplies cycling and coffee paraphernalia to his Lycra-clad clientele.

CAVERSHAM

In keeping with the Valley's European roots, **Maison Saint-Honoré** has caught Perth's attention for its French pastries. Before opening several outlets across Perth, Francophiles would travel from anywhere in the metropolitan area for macarons, croissants, baguettes and petite vanilla and rum flavoured canelé pastries to dunk in their coffee. Maison Saint-Honoré is like a mini escape to the French countryside.

WEST SWAN

Lose yourself in the **Lavender Bistro's** purple haze for lavender-flavoured cakes, scones, pastries, ice cream and beverages or a decadent lavender-tasting plate. For the over-caffeinated, a pot of lavender tea served with high tea will calm you for a splurge at La Boutique for their range of jams, olive oils, tea and cosmetics – where you can easily guess the main ingredient. The **Margaret River Chocolate Co.** is another operator that began in the southwest and expanded into the Swan Valley. If you manage to make it past the Willy Wonka-esque shop, the Chocolate Cafe delivers on its namesake and is a family favourite.

> **THE COFFEE SCENE IN THE SWAN VALLEY IS AS BUOYANT AS ITS WINE, BEER, SPIRITS AND FOOD.**

HENLEY BROOK

The suburban precinct of Henley Brook has a few places churning out the caffeine. Sourcing produce from the farmers around them, **Swan Valley Sisters** exudes wholesome goodness from their roadside shop and cafe, where you can do your weekly fruit and veg shopping followed by a well-deserved coffee. As the name suggests, **Mrs Rabbit Tearooms** is known for its Devonshire Tea, but they also have a gift shop. It's easy to see why their high tea menu, served on pretty crockery and cups, is a favourite for catchups and birthday parties in a setting that wouldn't be out of place in an Enid Blyton novel.

MIDDLE SWAN

When you visit **Taylors Cafe** you'll find a quintessential country cafe with an all-day menu, great coffee and an art gallery dedicated to artist Jude Taylor that sells her artworks, fabrics, clothing and gifts.

DAYTON

House-baked sourdough, Swiss chocolate treats and eggs laid onsite are just a few of the treats you'll uncover from the rustic fresh produce at **Keller's Farm**. Surrounded by green pastures, it's almost obligatory to lounge on the grounds with a freshly baked pastry and a brew while the little ones feed the cows and sheep. Word of warning, the setting is so idyllic, you may leave with all kinds of tree-change fantasies.

EXPERIENCE... FOODIE HEAVEN

More than just a wine region, the Swan Valley is a hub of creativity that's gaining a reputation as a major food destination here in Western Australia. Come for a visit and discover the beautiful flavours of the Valley for yourself.

By SARAH SCHMITT

Apprentice chef at Mandoon Estate



Woodcutters Restaurant at Nikola Estate

With its beautiful scenery and incredible produce, the Swan Valley is the perfect place for foodies to relax and unwind over brunch, lunch, dinner or something in between.

In a region blessed with such a strong food and wine culture, there are plenty of options to entice from casual through to fine-dining.

Located on the banks of the Swan River, **Nikola Estate** is one of Australia's oldest wineries and is set on beautiful grounds dotted with jacaranda trees and sweeping lawns. After a meander through the Estate, enjoy a meal at their **Woodcutters Restaurant**, which has everything from more casual tapas and pizza options through to substantial meals best enjoyed with their award-winning wines.

Just down the road, **Mandoon Estate** offers a moment of tranquility. First up, enjoy a bushtucker talk with Wardandi Bibbulmun woman, Dale Tilbrook, and learn and sample different native food and medicine plants. Afterwards, enjoy a fine dining experience at Mandoon's **Wild Swan** restaurant. Under the guidance of Head Chef Anthony Power, the menu is a display of innovation and seasonality and each dish is thoughtfully paired with award-winning wines and craft beers.

Over in Herne Hill, **Oscar's in the Valley** is built around the principles of sourcing great local produce, keeping it simple, adding fire and enjoying with friends and family. Oscar's chefs expertly cook each dish over a wood fire to add delicious smoky flavours throughout the menu. Partnering with **Limeburners** and **Ginversity in the Valley**, they offer an extensive range of spirits, complemented by local wines and beers.

If you like Italian-inspired food, **Pinelli Estate Winery Restaurant** offers an extensive menu including handcrafted pastas, platters and premium local produce, all perfectly paired with wines made on the estate.

Whether dining alfresco underneath the vine-clad pergola area overlooking the vineyards, or settling into the warm, rustic atmosphere indoors, the restaurant is an ideal destination for long lunches, celebrations and leisurely afternoons with family and friends.

Sandalford Wines is one of the oldest wineries in the area and its restaurant sits elegantly within this spectacular estate. Executive Chef Anthony Spagnolo says it's the combination of old-world wine heritage and a thriving local food scene that sets the Swan Valley apart from other areas around Perth.

"Using the best local produce is the true driver of my cooking," Anthony explains. Whether playing with smoke-infused elements or incorporating native ingredients



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in an unpretentious way, Anthony's philosophy is rooted in technique and seasonality. Summer menus burst with bright, citrus and herbaceous flavours, while winter calls for richer, earthier creations. Each dish is a reflection of time, place and the perfect pairing with Sandalford's award-winning wines.

At the other end of the Valley, **Upper Reach Winery Restaurant** sits on the banks of the Swan River and overlooks the vineyard, with its views enticing you to linger a little longer.

Head Chef and co-owner Ryan Fels believes the beauty of the region is matched only by the quality of its produce. From honey sourced at The House of Honey, to locally crafted gin from Old Young's, its Mediterranean-inspired menu is driven by seasonality.

For something a little unexpected, **The Tapas Bar** offers a departure from the norm. Tucked off the main highway, its unassuming entrance gives way to a sprawling dining space with sweeping views of dense bushland. With dishes like Popcorn Crocodile, Buffalo Chorizo and Kangaroo Carpaccio, the menu, created by chef Dan Callister, pushes boundaries and embraces native and Australian ingredients in creative and inventive ways.

The Henley Brook (affectionately known as 'The Hen' by locals), exudes country-pub charm. This sprawling tavern is a hub for the community, where the team is on a first-name basis with their regulars and exposed beams and rustic brickwork creates a cosy backdrop for lively gatherings. Families linger over hearty meals; kids run free on the vast nature playground; and in winter, friends huddle by the fireplace sharing stories over a bottle of wine.



> From casual tapas through to chef-hatted fine-dining restaurants, the Swan Valley has something for everyone.



Wild Swan, Mandoon Estate

Dino, The Hen's Head Chef, is passionate about creating food that brings people together. "I love putting a smile on people's faces," he says. The Hen offers classic pub fare using local, seasonal produce wherever possible. You'll find comforting curries and pastas alongside the crowd-pleasing chicken parmigiana, with a few special dishes thrown in.

At nearby **The Naked Fox**, the starting point for all their dishes is local and sustainable produce.

"At the end of the day, people enjoy food that is delicious and fresh," says co-owner Rachel Jones. This cozy wine bar and cafe in the heart of the Swan Valley offers an unpretentious selection of share plates and small bites that celebrate the stunning local produce found around the area.

Although the Swan Valley might have started out with its wines, its burgeoning food scene continues to grow offering a perfect combination for food and wine lovers alike.



Pinelli Estate Winery Restaurant







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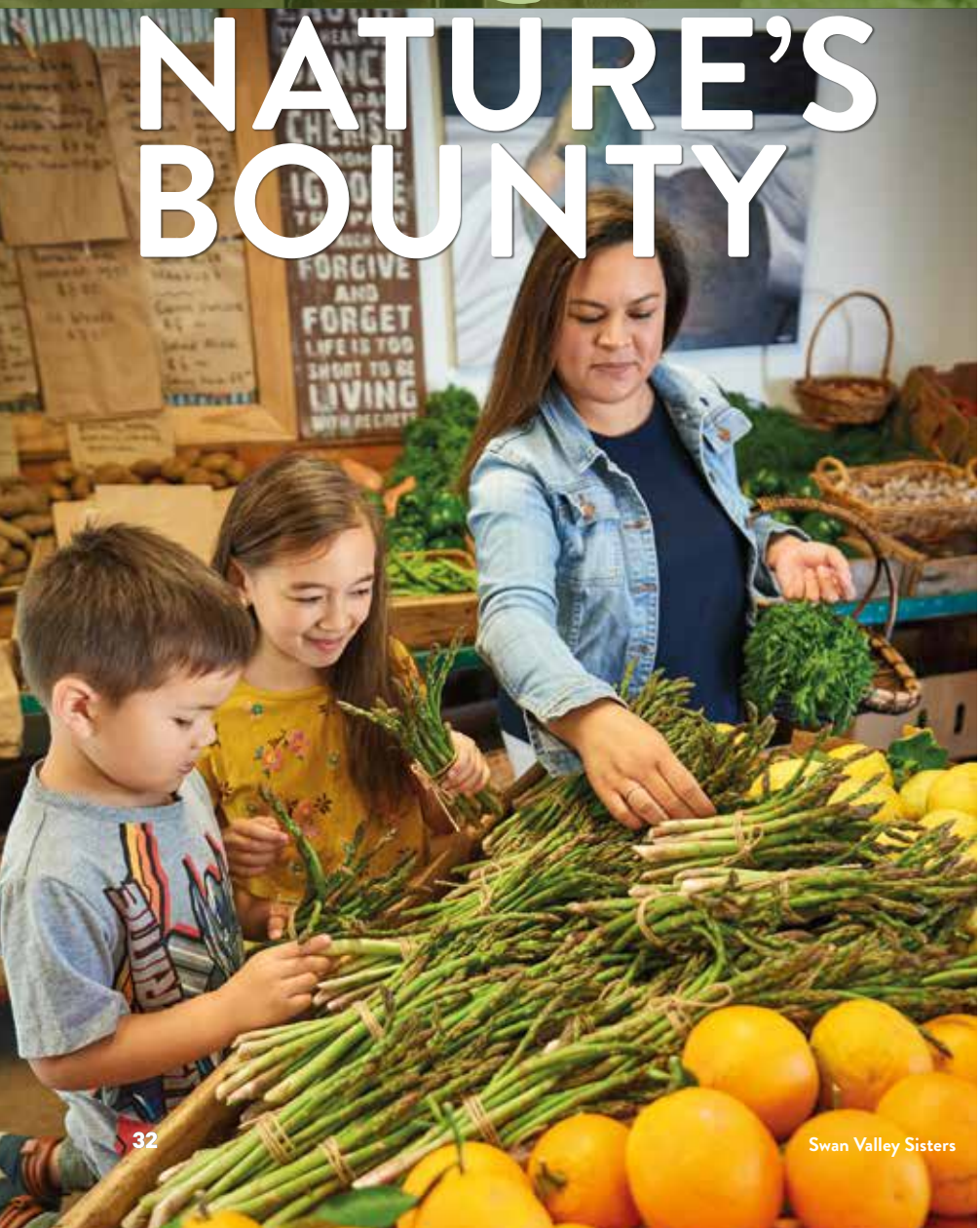
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Keller's Farm

EXPERIENCE... NATURE'S BOUNTY



Swan Valley Sisters

Seedless grapes. Fresh figs. Local garlic. A large watermelon lying shattered by the side of the road, pink flesh glistening in the sun. Handwritten signs in various sizes marking driveways along the thoroughfares and back streets. Take a road trip to discover some of the bountiful fresh produce in the Swan Valley.

By SUE YEAP

The Swan Valley in summer has queues forming early to score plump bunches of grapes from growers whose ties to the region can date back 50 to 100 years.

Damian Katich stepped in to run **The Grape Place** after his father Cedo 'Chas' Katich passed away in 2022.

"We have a pretty loyal customer base that has been built over five decades," says Damian, who previously ran a successful marketing business before feeling the pull to continue the family tradition.

"It's a legacy I don't want to let fall away," Damian says. "If you ask my son, he says he will take over from me, but he is only 14."

Damian says people like to make a connection with what they are buying and enjoy seeing him coming in from the vineyard with grapes still warm from the sun. Growing 17 different grape varieties, The Grape Place also cultivates melons.

Other local spots where you can either pick or source fresh grapes include **Grapes on Swan**, **Kafarela's** and **Ali's Vineyard**.

Meanwhile, **Swan Valley Fresh Fruit** offers a 'pick your own grapes' experience, and they also sell watermelons, rockmelons, nectarines and pears when they open between December to March each year.

Being a Swan Valley producer can be challenging with everything from flood, fire, the threat of Queensland fruit fly, water shortages and heatwaves to contend with during the past eight seasons alone.



While table grapes are the Valley's superstars, they're only part of the always evolving Swan Valley food landscape.

Baba and Dida's is one of the few fresh produce stores that are open year-round. The Tolich family has been growing and selling produce at its West Swan Road property for more than 25 years.

Tony Tolich gave up a career in real estate to move his parent's farm stall into a converted shed, transforming it into a bustling European style marketplace and cafe complete with coffee and Croatian pastries. Grapes, melons, garlic and tomatoes are the mainstays, but you'll also find olive oil and vinegars.

"It's about meeting new customers as well as the friendships we've formed with people who have been coming for years," Tony says of his motivation.

"Customers like being able to buy fresh produce from a family business, picked daily."

If Tony hasn't grown it himself, you can be assured that the produce didn't travel far before reaching his shelves.

"We buy direct from other like-minded small family businesses in Wanneroo, Spearwood and the Perth Hills," he says.

Off the beaten track in Campersic Road you'll find **Sorgiovanni's Produce**, where 140 olive trees produce liquid gold.

"I have lived here all of my life," says Frank. "There's something about this place and I love its peace and tranquillity."

Frank, like his cousin Rob Sorgiovanni at **Rangeview Vineyards**, is one of a few makers of vincotto, a sweet syrup made by slowly cooking and reducing grape must until it's thick and syrupy. Frank's late mum suggested that they start making it over 20 years ago, using leftover grenache. It always sells out and Frank is hoping to make about 100L this year.

Edgecombe Winery is celebrating a century of operating in the Valley. One of its most beloved harvests is not grapes, but the asparagus spears that peep through the soil from late winter through to early spring.

Like many producers, Edgecombe doesn't grow enough for commercial sale, so when figs or broad beans are ready, they appear on the counter near the coffee machine.

> **FOR THE FRESHEST FINDS, SOMETIMES YOU JUST HAVE TO GRAB YOUR SHOPPING BASKET, HOP IN THE CAR AND FOLLOW YOUR NOSE.**

Next door at **Swan Valley Sisters Produce Cafe**, asparagus, citrus, mangoes and grapes are grown and complemented by local biodynamic and organic produce.

Over at **HDH West Swan Fresh**, you'll find your garden variety fruit and vegetables, but it's the Asian selection that catches the eye. Think fresh Chinese dates, kangkong, long beans, as well as house-dried fruit straps, boiled peanuts, pickled vegetables and chilli sauce.

Operating all year from a property opposite **Margaret River Chocolate Company**, HDH West Swan Fresh has the added bonus of a fresh juice stand.

Marija and Philipp Keller have been on their Dayton farm for 26 years, having chosen the idyllic spot to raise their family and open **Keller's Farm**.

"We have livestock, farm fresh eggs, woodfired bread and pastries, jams, preserves, muesli, and a variety of fruit trees," say Marija.

"We really love the idea of producing wholesome foods and making bread using local ingredients. What isn't sold over the weekend will be either dehydrated, used to create preserves or as an ingredient in pastries. Nothing is wasted and any scraps go to our animals."

Marija and Philipp, with the help of children Stefan and Alexa; Marija's 87-year-old dad; 83-year-old uncle; plus a growing team, have together built a thriving weekend-only community that comes to shop, chat and enjoy a coffee and pastry.

"Customers love that it's fresh, homemade, sourced from either us or locally and that it tastes real - how food should taste, just like the old days," says Marija.

"Our uniqueness is that it's a meeting place. People come here to feel the fresh air and a taste of farm life is literally right in front of you with our cows, sheep, pigs and chickens."

Note that many smaller Swan Valley growers are not on social media, while others don't check their phones regularly. For more information, go to ***swanvalley.com.au***

ENJOY...

CHEF@HOME

Relive your time in the Swan Valley by recreating the flavours of the region in your own kitchen. These recipes are simple, yet bursting with the taste of the Valley.



Braised Beef Cheeks

***By* SEAN CALLISTE**

Head Chef, Sittella Winery & Restaurant

INGREDIENTS

- 4 beef cheeks, trimmed
- 50ml vegetable oil
- 100g carrots, chopped
- 100g onion, chopped
- 50g celery, chopped
- 1 head of garlic, cut horizontally in half
- 375ml red wine
- 150ml Madeira
- 100g passata
- 1½ litres beef stock
- 4 sprigs of thyme
- 4 bay leaves
- 15g dried ceps
- 4 juniper berries, crushed
- 4 smoked anchovy fillets
- 4 pickled walnuts, chopped

FOR THE MASH

- 1kg potatoes, preferably Maris Piper or Yukon Gold
- 150ml milk, hot
- 150ml cream, hot
- 175g butter, room temperature and diced

METHOD

Begin by preparing the beef. One day before you intend on serving, season the beef cheeks with salt and pepper, cover and refrigerate for 24 hours. This step is not essential if you are pushed for time, but it does ensure an even seasoning throughout the meat.

On the day, preheat the oven to 160°C. Remove the seasoned beef cheeks from the fridge. Heat the vegetable oil on high in a heavy frying pan, then add the beef cheeks and sear on all sides. Once seared, transfer the cheeks to a casserole dish.

In the same heavy frying pan, cook the garlic, onion, carrots and celery over a moderate heat until caramelised. Add both the red wine and Madeira to the pan, stir well and simmer until the liquid has reduced by half. Add the beef stock and passata and bring to the boil, skimming off any scum on the surface of the liquid.

Stir in the bay leaves, thyme, juniper berries, anchovies and ceps, followed by two of the pickled walnuts. Place a lid on the casserole pan and transfer to the preheated oven. Cook for 2 - 2½ hours until the beef cheeks are tender. Serve with potato mash. Serves 4.



Photo by Aeroture

This decadent cheesecake is a favourite with visitors to **Mondo Nougat's** Swan Valley café, factory and retail store. Impress your guests with this version, which is tweaked to make it easier for home cooks.

INGREDIENTS

- ⅓ cup melted butter
- 1½ cups crumbed Granita biscuits
- 500g cream cheese
- ½ cup caster sugar
- 2 eggs, separated
- 4 tsp gelatine dissolved in ¼ cup hot water
- 1 cup thickened cream
- 2 tsp vanilla essence
- 120g **Mondo Nougat** Vanilla Crunchy
- Cocoa powder for dusting
- Whipped cream to serve

METHOD

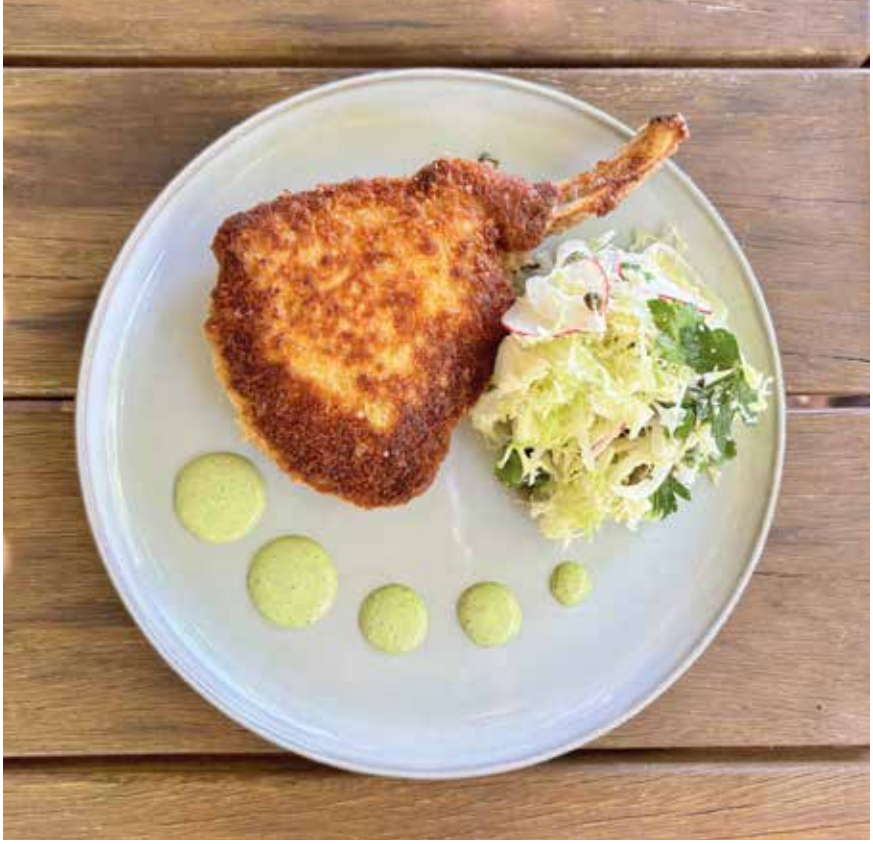
Combine butter and biscuit crumbs. Mix well. Place into 25cm springform cake tin and spread evenly over the base. Place in fridge to cool.

Beat cream cheese until smooth. Add sugar, egg yolks, gelatine mix, cream, vanilla essence, and mix until well combined.

Place unwrapped nougat pieces into a folded tea towel or plastic bag and beat with a mallet to break into rough pieces (<1cm). Stir through half of the crushed nougat and store the rest in an airtight container.

Beat egg whites until soft peaks form. Fold egg whites into the cream cheese mix. Pour into chilled cake tin and refrigerate overnight.

Before serving, dust with cocoa powder and sprinkle the remaining nougat over the top. For a more indulgent version like the Mondo Nougat café serves, spread the cake with a layer of ganache instead of cocoa powder. Serve with whipped cream. Serves 8.



Pork Cotoletta, Savoy Slaw and Caper Mayo

By **RYAN FELS**
Head Chef, Upper Reach Winery and Restaurant

INGREDIENTS

- 4 x Linley Valley pork cutlets (cap-off, around 250gm each)
- 2 cups panko crumbs
- 3 free range eggs, beaten
- 1 cup plain flour
- ¾ cup Parmigiano Reggiano
- ½ shredded savoy cabbage
- ½ shaved fennel
- 1 shaved radish
- 1 cup chopped parsley
- 6 tbspn capers, plus liquid
- 1 lemon
- 2 tbspn extra virgin olive oil
- 50g butter
- Canola oil

METHOD

Mix ¼ cup parmesan through panko crumb.

Flatten pork cutlets with a meat mallet until 2cm thick. Dust in flour and then dip in beaten egg. Remove excess. Press cutlets into panko crumbs to cover. Refrigerate until ready to cook.

For savoy slaw, mix together cabbage, fennel, half the parsley, radish, remaining parmesan, 2 tbspn capers, a pinch of salt, a squeeze of lemon juice and extra virgin olive oil. Toss to combine.

For caper mayonnaise, add remaining capers, a squeeze of lemon juice, pinch of salt, the remaining parsley, caper juice plus 250gm kewpie mayo and blitz in the blender until smooth.

Heat oven to 180 degrees. Melt butter in pan over medium heat and add oil. Season and then add 2 cutlets to the pan and cook 4 minutes each side. Repeat with remaining cutlets then place them all in the oven for 6 minutes or until cooked.

To serve, place pork cutlet on plate accompanied by savoy slaw and caper mayo. Enjoy! Serves 4.

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Maison Saint Honoré has been making macarons in Perth for the past 16 years. Open to the public, visitors can enjoy traditional and authentic French food with a glass of wine, relax in our gardens while the children play, have a sneak peek at our crêpe production and of course take home a box of our macarons. The macaron and cake factory is the sweetest place in the Valley.





Macadamia and Anise Myrtle Pudding

By **ANTHONY POWER**

Head Chef, Wild Swan at Mandoon Estate

This is my go-to dessert recipe. It's quick, easy, very fresh and the fruits, spices or choice of milk can vary according to the season and location. This version includes some great local produce including macadamia nuts from **Nutbush City** in Gingin; a super floral wildflower honey from **House of Honey**; caramel coated lemon myrtle macadamias from **Morish Nuts**; and Desert Lime Marmalade from **Marvick Native Farms**. The marmalade, dried anise myrtle and lemon myrtle infused nuts can be all found at **Maalinup Aboriginal Gallery**, which is on site at **Mandoon Estate**.

Step 1

Anise Myrtle Macadamia Milk

INGREDIENTS

500ml water

25g dried anise myrtle

125g macadamia nuts

METHOD

Bring the water to a simmer, take off the heat and add the anise myrtle. Steep for 5 minutes covered with a lid, then strain off and discard the herb. In a food processor, blend the nuts until they have the consistency of a runny, but chunky, nut butter. Add the nuts and anise myrtle tea back to the pot, return to a simmer and steep for 30 minutes covered with a lid. Simmer once more and strain off the nuts.

Step 2

Coconut Tapioca

INGREDIENTS

35g tapioca pearls

1 tbspn House of Honey wildflower honey

500g anise myrtle macadamia milk

METHOD

Bring the anise myrtle macadamia milk to a simmer in a pot. Add the tapioca and honey, then stir to avoid clumping. Simmer for 5 minutes, then take off the heat and leave to rest for 15 minutes. The pearls should be cooked. The milk may look a bit thin, but will thicken once chilled. Taste and add more honey for sweetness. Pour the tapioca pudding into 4 x serving bowls and chill in the fridge for 2 hours or overnight.

Step 3

Plating with Swan Valley fruits

INGREDIENTS

1 persimmon

4 lychees

10 blueberries

¼ honeydew

¼ rockmelon

10 grapes

2 strawberries

1 nectarine

1 white peach

1 kiwi fruit

20g Marvick Native Farms Desert Lime Marmalade

100g Morish Nuts Caramel Coated Lemon Myrtle Macadamias, chopped

Edible flowers (Geraldton wax, rivermint)

METHOD

Slice fruits into 3mm thickness. Arrange decoratively on top of the pudding together with the chopped nuts, and drizzle with marmalade. Garnish with edible flowers.



EXPERIENCE... A PERSONALISED WINE TOUR

Experience an authentic wine tour with *Up Close & Local Tours* and let their expert local guides handle all the driving and meticulous planning for you. For groups of 1 to 6 guests, each tour is tailored to your personal preferences, with experiences to suit both wine and food lovers.
For details, visit *upcloseandlocaltours.com.au/swan-valley-tours*

Perfect for wine lovers wanting to make the most of their day, a private wine tour opens the door to small, family-owned wineries that larger groups simply can't access. With insider knowledge and personal connections, you'll be welcomed into hidden gems to taste award-winning wines off the beaten path. It's a true VIP 'grape-to-glass' experience. By SHANNON OLIVER

10am / Your tour begins

Your local guide will greet you at the doorstep of your accommodation. Settle into relaxed, chauffeured comfort as you make your way toward the Swan Valley, getting to know your guide and the stories behind Western Australia's oldest wine region.

10.30am / Soak it in

Mornings are the most magical time in the Swan Valley, as you can soak in the quiet serenity of the vineyards. Today you will be introduced to four handpicked wineries, each chosen to introduce you to the region's history, its pioneering families, and the wines that define the region.

At Mandoon Estate, a curated wine and canapé pairing awaits. A delectable combination of small bites and perfectly paired varietals will introduce your palate to the region's fine wines, setting the tone for the day ahead.

Next, step back in time at **John Kosovich Wines**, one of WA's most respected winemaking families boasting over 100 years of history. Here, you'll have the rare opportunity to meet the winemaker or viticulturist and gain firsthand insight whilst sampling their wines.

12.30pm / Lunch with a view

A great wine tour deserves a great lunch - and with a private and personalised tour, the choice is yours. A favourite is the restaurant at **Upper Reach Winery**, where the à la carte menu showcases seasonal ingredients, 90% of which is locally sourced. Think twice-cooked duck, Abrolhos Island octopus or their ever-popular truffle risotto... all enjoyed with sweeping vineyard views.

2pm / Afternoon wine tasting

After lunch, continue your journey with two more family-owned wineries. No two tours are ever the same - each is tailored to your personal taste. You may find yourself savouring wines on the verandah at **Faber Vineyard**; delving into the craft of sparkling wine at **Sittella**; or indulging in world-class fortified wines at **Talijancich**, a Swan Valley icon with 90 years of winemaking expertise. Every stop offers something unique and if you're visiting during vintage, you may even get a behind-the-scenes glimpse or an exclusive sample.

5pm / All good things must come to an end ...

With new memories, and perhaps a few favourite bottles to take home, your tour winds its way back to your accommodation in Perth.

Catching up with mates over a craft brew is about as West Australian as it gets. Given there are around 10 breweries within the Swan Valley, it's a great place to explore the creativity of local brewers.

By CARMEN JENNER

EXPLORE... CRAFT BREWING



Cider is often considered the gateway to beer, much like juice is the gateway to cider. This evolution is evident with **Funk Brewshed** in Henley Brook, which emerged after brothers Martin and Dustin Michael, who started cold-pressed juice company *Michael Brothers Juice Company*, evolved their range to include cider, beer, wine and sodas.

Funk's extensive cider and beer range dabbles in the unexpected with brews like *Passionfruit Fresh Ale* and *Grapefruit and Juniper Cider*, as well as their new wine range and latest release *Farmers Ale*.

Regardless of what you try, you'll immediately notice the punchy flavours. Martin says, "With full control over the growing, malting and brewing processes, the freshness and drinkability of this beer shines like no other. It's 99 per cent made from our farm with the only other ingredients being the hops from *Margaret River Hops*."

Also in Henley Brook, it wouldn't be surprising to discover that many kids have begged their parents to return to **Bailey Brewing Co.** because of its epic playground. Founded by Geoff Bailey and his sons Steven and Daniel, the concept emerged with a sense of family at the heart of the operation. From the moment you arrive in the leafy grounds with its heaving playground, you immediately know you've stepped into a brewery … but in a good way. The aroma of the hops hits you at the bar, where you can admire the brewers at work as wood-fired pizzas are pumped out to the hungry crowd.

Bailey brews six core beers onsite, including a crisp draught, fruity *Hazy IPA*, mid (low-alcohol), malty *Pale Ale*, classic *Red Ale*, a light-bodied *Summer Ale* and a handful of limited releases. A tasting paddle is perfect for the indecisive, while ginger beer, apple cider and a range of local wines are great alternatives for non-beer drinkers.

Destination venue **Mandoon Estate** is where you'll find **Homestead Brewery**. Brewing from their German-imported Schultz brewing system, their four core beers include *Golden Eagle* (Australian ale), *Homestead Lager* (Munich lager), *Thunderbird* (Pale Ale), and the 2024 Perth Royal Beer awarded *Kaisers Choice* (Hefeweizen), which is brewed with traditional German ingredients.

Seasonal releases, Mandoon Estate wines, and Homestead cider and ginger beer accompanies the hearty menu that hits all the usual tasty suspects, along with a couple of plant-based options. Set on Mandoon's sprawling estate with vineyard views, you can go large with elevated dining at **Wild Swan** (which also serves Homestead beers) and a decadent stay in one of **Maya Maya's** suites.

Beezelbub Brewing Company is another must-visit for craft beer lovers. Known for its bold, small-batch brews, the brewery pours a rotating selection of quality beers, from crisp lagers to hop-forward IPAs, all crafted with character and creativity.

Mash Brewing has been a firm beer fixture in the Valley since 2006, which is hardly surprising considering their number of awards and unpretentious pub fare. Brewed onsite, their easy-drinking lager accompanies a light *XPA*, Golden *IPA*, juicy *Hazy IPA*, *Fruited Sour* and a mid-strength *Session Hazy*, plus eclectic seasonals to keep it interesting for their loyal regulars.

On the eastern edge of the Valley in Baskerville, **Txoko Brewing** pairs their tasting paddles with beer snacks surrounded by vines and pastures cascading down the Darling escarpment in the distance. Also in Baskerville, you'll find "beers for ruff days" at **Slumdog Brewing**, which serves a mix of Australian, British, American, and German brews within the Baskerville Tavern.

Taking over the former *Elmar's in the Valley*, admire the copper and glass brew tanks at **Valley Social** while ordering one of their Herbee Signature Beers. The **Swan Valley Brewery** excels in Irish and English style ales, while **The Duckstein Brewery** was one of the first breweries in the valley, famed for their German beers and dishes reminiscent of a Bavarian good time.



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EXPLORE... THE ART of DISTILLING



Home to an evolving craft distilling scene, the Swan Valley boasts passionate artisans who are redefining Australian spirits.

By ALEXANDRA CASEY

Renowned for its wine, the Swan Valley also has an increasing number of boutique distilleries gaining recognition for their meticulously crafted whisky, gin, rum and vodka. Think **Damaged Goods Distilling Co**; **AmberChes**; **Great Northern Distillery**; **Old Young's**; **Sin Gin**; **Limeburners & Giniversity**; **Beelzebub Brewing Co** and **Harris Organic Wines.**

Often experimenting with unconventional ingredients and flavour combinations, local distillers are producing spirits that stand out. Small-batch production and a high level of craftsmanship appeals to discerning consumers, with flavour profiles capturing the essence of the Swan Valley.

Did you know?

According to Tim Laferla, founder of **Damaged Goods Distilling Co**, the purpose of distilling is to concentrate alcohol and flavour.

"You start with a raw product, like wine or beer, and then concentrate the alcohol by distilling it. The art is in tweaking the process to keep as many of the good flavours and remove as many of the not-so-nice ones as you can."

Turning surplus into spirits

Experimenting with bold flavours and sustainable practices, Damaged Goods


Funk Brewshed

> With a dedication to local ingredients, many distilleries incorporate native botanicals to create spirits that are not just unique, but deeply connected to the region.

Distilling Co. turns surplus and imperfect produce into premium spirits.

"We're genuinely passionate about the planet and it's really satisfying knowing that we are saving produce from landfill, one sip at a time," Laferla says.

"We work directly with farmers and growers to take the ugly produce or fruit waste that supermarkets don't want and use it to make alcohol. We also use by-products - like pulp or peel - essentially anything with lots of flavour - from other food and drink businesses."

With three products in their range - a citrus-based gin; a banana-inspired vodka; and an apple aperitivo - all are made with local ingredients.

"Our *Smashed Apple Aperitivo* is flavoured with apple pulp from local cidery **Funk Brewshed**. We also collaborate with cold-pressed juice brand **Pressed Earth**, taking the citrus peels from lemons, limes, oranges and grapefruits to use as botanicals for our *Final Squeeze Citrus Gin*."

The base spirit for their *Gone Bananas Vodka* is made with bananas from Carnarvon.

"The natural sweetness and creamy texture of bananas make them an ideal base for vodka," says Laferla.

Keeping it local and sustainable

One of the defining features of the Swan Valley's distilleries is their dedication to local ingredients. Many incorporate native botanicals to create spirits that are not just unique, but deeply connected to the region.

Great Northern Distillery is one such example and is renowned for its premium barrel-aged rum, gin and vodka.

"Our *Maiden Voyage Spiced Gold* is a popular spiced rum using botanicals like wattle seed and lemon myrtle overlaid with vanilla, cinnamon and clove. Our *Battle of the Beast Below* is a barrel-aged dark rum crafted with saltbush and Tasmanian pepper berry," says founder Rohan Passmore.

Sustainability is also a key focus in the Swan Valley, with distillers using surplus produce, eco-friendly packaging and energy-efficient methods to reduce their environmental impact.

Tasting your way around the Valley

Guided tastings provide an opportunity to sample a range of spirits while learning about their origins and production.

For those seeking a deeper understanding, a behind-the-scenes tour goes through each stage of the distilling process from fermentation to bottling, often concluding with a carefully curated tasting session.

For the more hands-on enthusiast, some distilleries offer masterclasses, where guests can learn the art of gin blending, cocktail crafting, and even the fundamentals of distilling itself.


Damaged Goods Distilling Co.



AmberChes Distillery

For example, the *Gin Distilling Class* at **AmberChes Distillery** (see ***amberchesdistillery.com.au***) is an immersive hands-on session, where you can select your own botanicals and craft your very own 500mL bottle of gin. Afterwards, you can unwind with a cheese platter and a refreshing gin and tonic, all while soaking in the distillery's picturesque surroundings.

At **Old Young's**, it's not just about the spirits but the stories behind them. Their 45-minute tasting experience delves into the art and intrigue of distilling and as you sip your way through a curated tasting of eight distinctive spirits, you'll gain a deeper appreciation for the craft and character that define this distillery.

Sin Gin Distillery's tasting sessions offer a glimpse into the art of gin-making while you enjoy stories from the distilling team and sample their *Seven Deadly Sins Gin* and signature gin liqueurs. For a deeper dive, join their gin-making experience, where you'll craft your own bespoke bottle using an individual pot still, guided by expert distillers.

Beelzebub Brewing Co creates a range of spirits and you can sample their bold small-batch creations before committing to a favourite. Try their *Holy Water Vodka*, crisp *Gin Reaper Dry Gin*, or vibrant *Psychopomp Pink Gin*.

Whether you're a seasoned whisky enthusiast, a gin lover, or simply curious to explore the world of craft distilling, the Swan Valley is ready to welcome you.


Old Young's



Left: Homestead Brewery at Mandoon Estate.

Below: The Henley Brook

ENJOY... A GREAT DAY OUT

Beer, cider and distillery enthusiasts unite. Grab a skipper, assemble your squad and hit the road for some non-winery experiences. Mix and match venues and times to suit your schedule and tastes.

By SUE YEAP

10am / Make your own gin class

Create a custom bottle of gin using Australian botanicals under the guidance of experienced distillers at **Sin Gin**. This educational session is available on Saturdays and you need to allow 2.5 hours. While you're there, try their *Perth Pink Gin*, the new *Rosella Gincello* or a *Bees Knees* cocktail made with local Swan Valley honey. Sin Gin is open seven days a week, even if the adjoining **Swan Settlers Market** is closed.

1pm / Lunch or beers on the lawn

Time for an award-winning draught or a refreshing ginger beer at **Bailey Brewing Co.** Enjoy an alfresco lunch grazing on popular dishes including chicken wings or the 'Bailey Board'. This is an excellent stop for family groups because of the dedicated nature playground and children's tables. For this reason, Bailey doesn't allow buses or bucks and hens parties. If you want to start your day bright and early, Bailey also serves breakfast on weekends from 8-10.30am.

2.30pm / Cidery and brewery tour

Go behind the scenes for a 45-minute tour of **Funk Brewshed**. If you're short on time, skip the tour and order a cider, beer or experimental paddle to share. And don't let the driver miss out ... they too can enjoy sipping on something delicious with **Funk Drinks Co** craft sodas and cold pressed juices with flavours like *Strawberry Lemonade* and *Ginger Tonic*. Mocktails are also a steal at $10.

3.30pm / Gin tasting or cocktail time

The fast, furious and sometimes mysterious 45-minute tasting experience at global award winners **Old Young's Distillery** is always $10 well spent. Afterwards, choose cocktails from their regular menu or the *Patty Torres' Music to Your Mouth* curated specials which are displayed on 45RPM vinyl.

5pm / The home stretch

If you're in the Valley on a Sunday, stop in at family-owned craft brewery **Mash Brewing** for half-price pizza... a perfect accompaniment with one of their award-winning craft beers.

Or check out the view over the vines from the deck at **Homestead Brewery** at **Mandoon Estate**. Pair a tasting paddle with fan-favourite fish and chips or regular specials. A new addition is the 'Homestead Feast', a shared three-course menu featuring slow-cooked meats and hearty, roast-style dishes. Homestead's *Kaiser's Choice Hefeweizen* is a must-try which won *Best European Style Beer (Draught)* at the 2024 Perth Royal Beer Awards.



ENJOY...A FAMILY FUN DAY

Where else in the state can you cuddle a koala, join a kangaroo safari, ride a vintage train, go fruit picking and make a splash at a water park? While the Swan Valley might be famous for its wine, there's plenty to do for little and big kids alike.

By CARMEN JENNER

With a backdrop of idyllic vineyards and pastures, a 32-kilometre loop through the Swan Valley is full of family-friendly activities all located just 25 minutes from the city.

EXPLORE

Spanning over 3,700 hectares of vast woodland, **Whiteman Park** is one of the most unique parks in the state. You can easily lose a day or two here with its playgrounds, pedal go-karting, vintage train, tractor museum as well as wildlife in the Children's Forest or at **Caversham Wildlife Park**.

Whiteman Park is also home to the **Motor Museum of WA**, with over 200 vehicles on display including cars, bikes and the unexpected. Check out Daniel Ricciardo's Red Bull Formula One RB10 racing car; the classic and muscle car collections; the canary yellow 2003 Byfield Jaguar V12HE; a 2022 McLaren 720S; plus one of the largest collections of die-cast models in the world.



Swan Valley Station



The Henley Brook

Although you won't be allowed to take any of these beauties for a spin, it's always worth getting off the highway to explore the meandering back roads.

At **Swan Valley Station**, you'll find a cafe, nursery (with an extensive range of fruit trees), gift shop (mainly selling local wares), playground and mini-petting zoo. Hanging out with the miniature Shetland ponies, donkeys and goats as chickens run around is sure to enchant. Don't miss the sculpture trail depicting dinosaurs and native species that surrounds the marron lake, with views down to the Swan River.

A bit further inland, the picturesque **River Walk** (2.5km) and **Goat Walk** (3km) trails at **Bells Rapids** are at their most exciting during winter when the rapids are racing, especially during the annual Avon Descent in August. At any time of the year, you'll be accompanied by grey kangaroos, black cockatoos and geckos and it's great for a scenic picnic.

The gateway to the Swan Valley and Perth's original inland settlement, historic **Guildford**, resembles a country village crammed with antique shops, boutiques, cafes, haunted pubs and galleries. After a day in the Valley, huddle around the fire pit or in the antique train carriage at **Alfred's Kitchen**, Perth's longest-running roadside hamburger joint, and then enjoy a gourmet gelato at **Mimmo's** across the road.

Alternatively, grab a show at the **Garrick Theatre**, one of the longest-running community theatres in Perth, which also has workshops for young thespians called *Teens at Garrick*.

If you arrive in Guildford before the sun goes down, don't miss the quirky and slightly macabre *Academy of Taxidermy* at the **Museum of Natural History**.



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> WITH SO MUCH TO SEE AND DO IN THE SWAN VALLEY, WHO SAYS CHILDREN SHOULD HAVE ALL THE FUN?

Caversham Wildlife Park

ENCOUNTER

Even though koalas aren't native to Western Australia, you can still cuddle one at **Caversham Wildlife Park**, located in Whiteman Park. They are indeed very cuddly and lightweight, but if you miss out on booking a hug, you can still visit the koalas and feed the kangaroos. While you're at the wildlife park, don't miss the sheep shearing show, the new saltwater crocodile exhibit, the creepy reptile house, wombats, farm animals and penguins.

The **West Australian Reptile Park** is off the well-trodden trail and here you can handle pythons, Bobtails and the lively frilled neck lizard. This animal sanctuary caters to displaced and injured native wildlife, and you can learn about the importance of conservation and what to do if you encounter a snake. Playing eye-spy with the animals camouflaged in their enclosures makes it all the more fun, and you'll probably get as close as you'll ever want with a saltwater crocodile.

The cuteness continues at the **Swan Valley Cuddly Animal Farm**, one of the Valley's most popular kids' birthday venues. Even if you're not celebrating, what kid doesn't love cuddly rabbits, feeding baby lambs and goats and meeting an alpaca? Tractor rides, a bouncy castle, a merry-go-round and a playground promise an epic family fun day.

EXPERIENCE

You don't need to be a golfer to step foot on the greens at **The Vines Resort**. Instead, jump on a golf buggy as the sun sets and visit communities of kangaroos languidly socialising and lounging. Then, play a round at the picturesque 18-hole mini-golf course and treat the family to dinner and perhaps even a mini-break in one of the apartments or villas.

Built with families in mind, **The Henley Brook (The Hen)** is a place where children and adults alike can relax and have fun. With a spacious outdoor area and dedicated play equipment, kids can free range in a safe environment. Each Sunday there's different kids' entertainment, ranging from laser tag, face painting, bouncy castles and inflatable obstacle courses, through to animal encounters. There's always something new to keep the kids entertained on school holidays too, with seasonal pop-ups.

The novelty of teeing off with golf clubs with oversized heads will keep even the most reluctant golfers amused at **Supa Golf** on West Swan Road. The 18-hole mini golf circuit, set within an acre of lush grounds, is ideal for anyone old enough to walk and hold a golf club.

Summer is the perfect time to go fruit picking in the Swan Valley. Check ahead with **Grapes on Swan**, **Swan Valley Fresh Fruit**, **Kafarela's Vineyard** or **Padbury Pickings** to find out more details on picking times. If you visit out of season, many family-run vineyards and orchards have shopfronts, including the rustic **Swan**





Outback Splash

Street Vineyard which sells fresh produce grown and made onsite.

Perth's **Outback Splash** is a great way to cool off, with its waterslide playgrounds for all ages. Regardless of the weather, the lush picnic grounds, huts and cabanas inspire lengthy gatherings after a round of mini golf or meander through their challenging maze.

For those mini queen (or king) bees intrigued by how honey is made, **The House of Honey** offers behind-the-scenes tours. You won't be able to leave without sampling a treat at the **Sticky Spoon Cafe** or their extensive range of honey or honey-based products, including vinegar, marinades, skincare and ice cream. While the little ones are taken care of, parents can enjoy the range of wines, liqueurs and meads from the onsite meadery.

Budding chefs can learn how to make pasta at **Pasta in the Valley**. It's a great venue for a birthday party, followed by an Italian feast of handmade pasta, pizza and Mediterranean classics. Apart from the food, this vibrant restaurant is a family favourite for the playground.

If you pop into the **Swan Valley Visitor Centre**, don't forget to pick up a map and clues for the **Amazing Valley Chase** or **Great Valley Rally's** old-fashioned scavenger hunt. Not only will it keep everyone engaged for a few hours, but it's also an affordable way to experience the Swan Valley.



THE SWAN VALLEY'S LOCAL ROOST

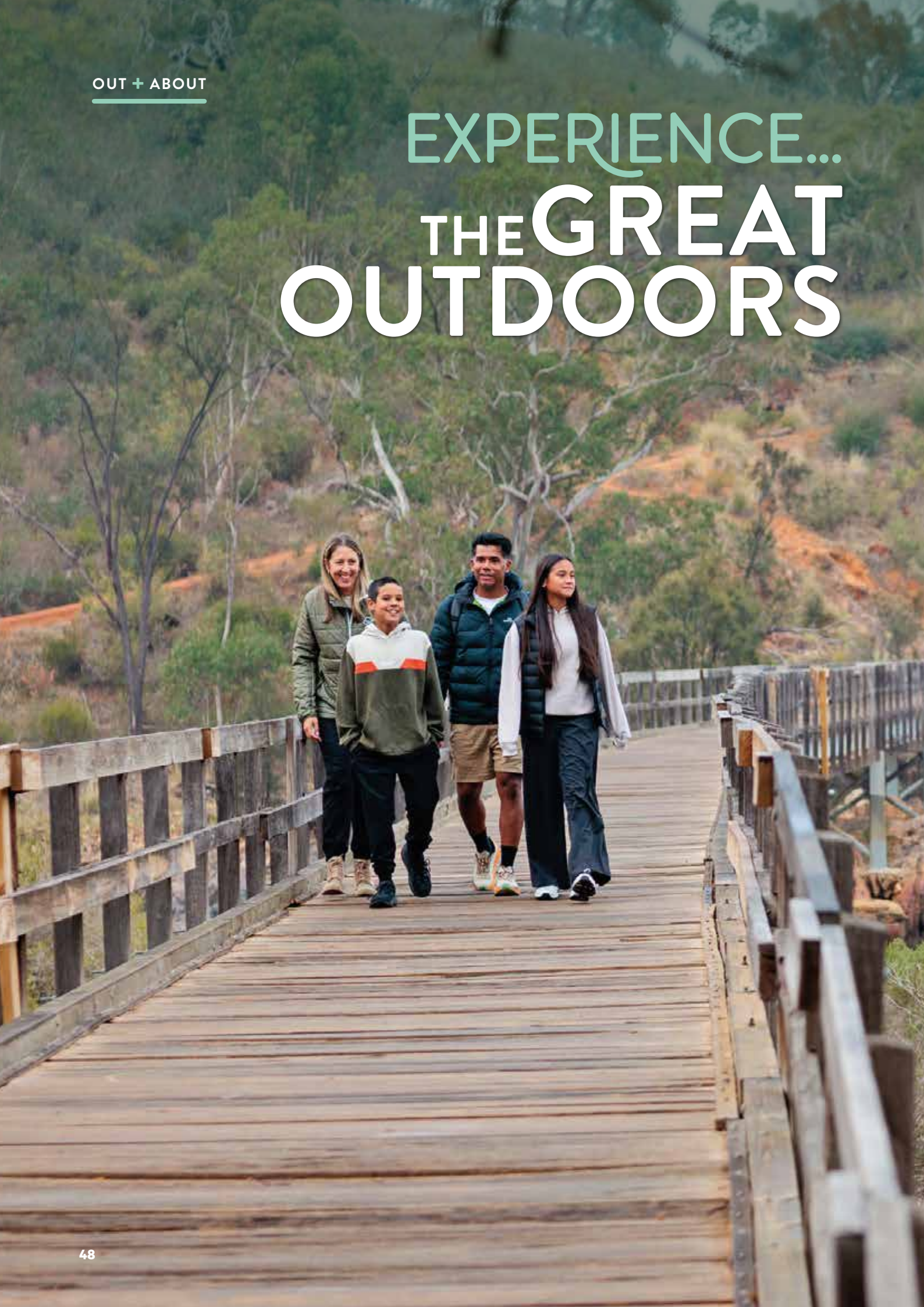
If you're wondering what all the cluck is about, we are a laid back, family-friendly pub in the heart of the Swan Valley, Western Australia. Known as 'The Hen', we work closely with local wine makers, brewers & fresh food producers to dish up an experience you will want to squawk to the neighbours about.

BOOK A TABLE

thehenleybrook.com.au

(08) 9296 2985

EXPERIENCE... THE GREAT OUTDOORS





From scenic hikes and breathtaking viewpoints to invigorating water sports and thrilling paintball skirmishes, the Swan Valley has a multitude of outdoor experiences. And the best part? Many of these activities are free or cost little, allowing you to immerse yourself in nature without breaking the bank.

By ALEXANDRA CASEY

Nestled just a short drive from Perth, the Swan Valley offers an escape into nature where adventure beckons at every turn.

WALKS AND HIKES

There's something innately satisfying about setting out on foot and exploring nature's untamed beauty. The Swan Valley has an array of walking and hiking trails suitable for all fitness levels and as you traverse these picturesque paths, you'll encounter native flora and fauna and stunning landscapes.

Bells Rapids Walk Trail

Situated along the Swan River, **Bells Rapids** is renowned for its spectacular views, especially during winter when the white-water rapids roar to life. The **Bells Rapids Walk Trail** caters to casual walkers and seasoned hikers alike with its two main routes: the easy **River Walk** and the more challenging **Goat Walk**.

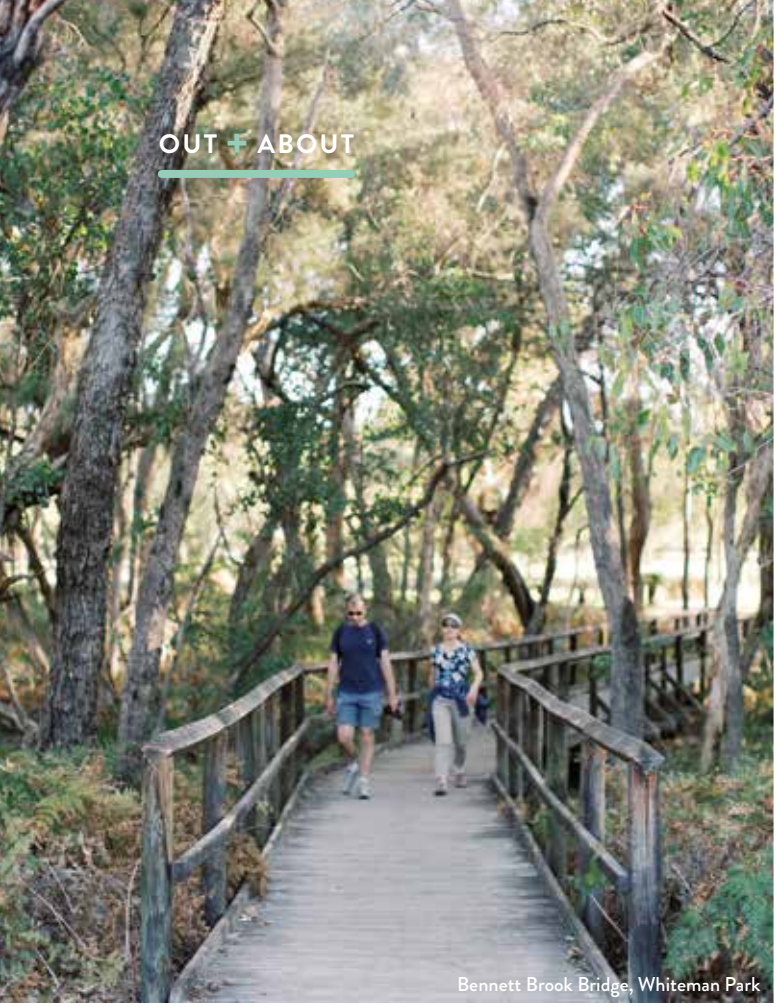
This trail requires a moderate level of fitness and is suitable for beginners who don't mind some elevation and loose gravel. The best time to visit is during winter and spring when the rapids are in full flow and wildflowers blanket the landscape. Ensure you have sturdy walking shoes, a water bottle, sun protection, and a camera to capture the beautiful scenery. Keep an eye out for grey kangaroos, which can be seen in abundance at certain times of year.

Noble Falls Walk Trail

For those seeking a gentler pace, the **Noble Falls Walk Trail** in Gidgegannup is a serene 3.6-kilometre loop that traces Wooroloo Brook. Perfect for families and casual walkers, visiting in spring allows you to enjoy wildflowers in bloom, while winter offers flowing waterfalls. All you need are comfortable walking shoes and a picnic spread for a post-walk feast.

F.R. Berry Reserve and Wandoo Heights Nature Reserve

F.R. Berry Reserve and **Wandoo Heights Nature Reserve** are two lesser-known gems that offer immersive bushwalks surrounded by towering wandoo woodland Swan Valley fauna. The **F.R. Berry Reserve** is also one



Bennett Brook Bridge, Whiteman Park



Kayaking in the Swan Valley

of the best spots to view yellow wattle, rich blue leschenaultia and other rare wildflowers. The trails meander through rugged landscapes, rewarding walkers with panoramic views of the valley below. A moderate to high fitness level is recommended as some sections are steep and rocky. Note also that access to Wandoo Heights is controlled by locked gates, requiring permission from the City of Swan either via phone on 9267 9321 or email to ***facility.bookings@swan.wa.gov.au***

John George Trail

Considered one of Perth's most scenic trails, the **John George Trail** is an easy 5.5km walk that weaves its way along the banks of the Swan River. With a lined shared-use pathway, it's suitable for walking, bikes, wheelchair or prams.

To discover more trails in the Swan Valley, go to ***trailswa.com.au/trails/regions/swan-valley***. This comprehensive site has details including the length, grade and difficulty of each trail as well as maps and reviews from fellow trekkers.

GUIDED WALKS

Leave the map at home and learn along the way when you book a guided walk.

The Hike Collective is all about exploring hidden gems and in the Swan Valley, they offer a **Bells Rapids Guided Hike**, which takes 1.5 hours and covers 5km. Or their **Little Eagle View Guided Hike** takes you on an 8km tour through the John Forrest National Park which passes towering trees and granite boulders. Both hikes are suitable for beginners with gentle trails and easy terrain. For more information, go to ***hikecollective.com.au***

PEDAL POWER

For those who prefer exploring on two wheels, the Swan Valley doesn't disappoint. With a blend of flat roads, undulating hills and off-road tracks, it's an ideal destination for road cyclists and mountain biking buffs.

For thrill-seekers, the mountain biking trails at **John Forrest National Park** and the hills of **Brigadoon** provide exhilarating descents and challenging climbs. Depending on the trail, a moderate to high fitness level is required. The best time to visit is during autumn and spring, when the temperatures are milder.

HORSE RIDING TRAILS

Exploring the countryside on horseback is another way to appreciate the beauty of the Swan Valley. The **Brigadoon Bridle Trails** offer a network of routes through open fields and woodland and whether you're a seasoned rider or a first-timer, there are trails to cater to all experience levels.

ON THE WATER

The calm waters of the Swan River offer an entirely different perspective of the Valley for adventurers seeking off-the-grid exploration.

If you're a water lover, kayaking is a peaceful yet invigorating way to explore hidden coves and encounter native wildlife. Beginning and ending at **Mandoon Estate**, the half-day **Rivergods Swan Valley Kayak Tour** combines paddling with a taste of local culture. Starting at Mandoon, you'll paddle along the Swan River while professional guides narrate the area's vibrant history and assist with wildlife spotting. Double kayaks, paddles, and life jackets are provided, but you'll need to bring sun protection and gear that you don't mind getting wet. To book, visit ***rivergods.com.au***

THRILLS AND FUN

For those who thrive on adrenaline and team-based action, the Swan Valley offers a variety of exhilarating outdoor activities.

Paintball Skirmish is set on 25 acres of natural bushland with numerous playing fields to choose from. Expect obstacles aplenty and trees for dynamic gameplay in all weather conditions. To book, visit ***paintballskirmish.com.au***

Meanwhile, **Laser Corps** has been thrilling Perth residents for more than a decade with laser taggers ranging from pistols to sniper rifles. Its immersive battlefields complete with bunkers, huts, creeks, and bridges, set the scene for intense missions suitable for all ages. A moderate fitness level is recommended, as agility and endurance are key. To book, visit ***lasercorps.com.au***

PICNIC BOAT HIRE

For a more leisurely escape, **Nauti Picnics** offers the perfect blend of relaxation and adventure with their private picnic boat hire.

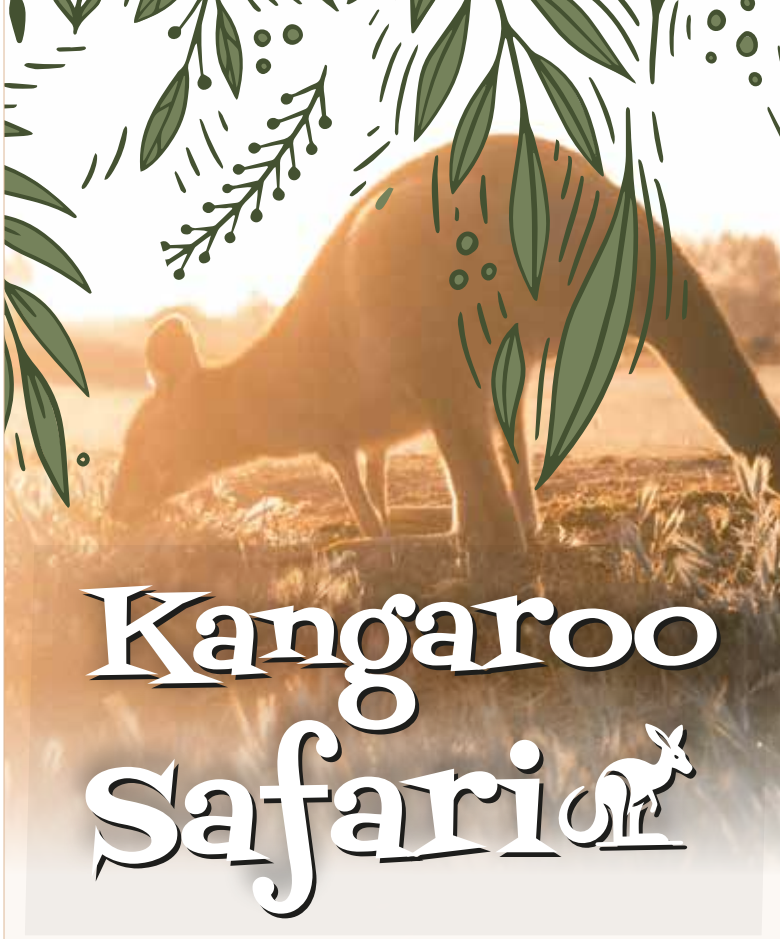
Much like renting a car, but on water, this unique opportunity lets you take the helm. No skipper's ticket is required and you chart your own course along the Swan River.

Whether you opt for a short two-hour cruise or a full-day voyage, you'll have more than 35-kilometres of picturesque waterways to explore at your own pace. Designed for comfort and connection, the G6 features a spacious table and plush seating, creating the ideal setting to savour gourmet delights and soak in the tranquil surroundings. To book, visit ***nautipicnics.com.au***

CAMP UNDER THE STARS

Extend your adventure by spending the night under a star-studded sky. The Swan Valley is home to several gorgeous camping spots where you'll wake up to the sounds of nature. **Discovery Parks Swan Valley** and **Acclaim Swan Valley Tourist Park** provide convenient facilities. For a more rugged experience located 45 minutes from the Swan Valley, **Avon Valley National Park** offers bush camping amidst stunning landscapes.

> **No matter your interest or fitness level, the Swan Valley is a treasure trove of outdoor activities waiting to be discovered. From rejuvenating walks to heart-pumping adventures, each experience allows you to revel in the beauty of Western Australia.**



AT THE VINES RESORT

Spend an afternoon riding in a buggy on the fairways of the Vines Resort's prestigious golf course, and get up close and personal with our thriving kangaroo population.

Finish your sunset tour with a drink and a round of 18 holes of mini golf on the state of the art course – ideal for the whole family!

JUST $69
PER PERSON FOR
TOUR + DRINK + MINI GOLF



DEPARTING DAILY AT 4PM

For more information and to book visit
WWW.KANGAROOSAFARI.COM.AU



ENJOY...
CELEBRATING LIFE'S SPECIAL MOMENTS

More than just a picturesque wine region, the Swan Valley is a destination where life's most cherished moments can be celebrated in style.

By ALEXANDRA CASEY

Overlooking Woodbridge at Mandoon, Swan Valley. Image courtesy of Tourism WA



Whether it's a significant birthday, engagement, baby shower, wedding or special anniversary, the Swan Valley has plenty of venues to choose from.

If you're looking for something relaxed and family friendly, **The Henley Brook's** spacious garden setting is ideal for a casual yet lively gathering with live music, delicious share platters and a warm country vibe.

Woodbridge House, a National Trust property in Guildford, provides a historic and elegant setting for special events. With its grand architecture, scenic gardens and timeless charm, this heritage venue is perfect for intimate weddings and celebrations.

Sandalford Wines is a popular choice for milestone birthdays, offering exclusive dining experiences in their barrel room or private function spaces.

Unique and quirky

Imagine an alfresco baby shower picnic complete with a grazing table and bubbles (non-alcoholic, of course); or a surprise engagement set against the scenic backdrop of Bells Rapids.

Some venues, like the 19th century-built **Guildford Hotel**, offer live music afternoons and special event dining such as Christmas in July. Others like **Upper Reach Winery**, can arrange wine appreciation masterclasses or wine and food pairing experiences – ideal for a fun and interactive celebration with friends and family.

Weddings with a twist

From elegant wineries, to heritage estates and charming garden settings, the Swan Valley has an impressive selection of wedding venues for couples planning their


Nikola Estate


Upper Reach Winery

big day. While traditional ceremonies remain timeless, weddings can be as fun as they are romantic with optional extras such as surprise firework extravaganzas, live music performances and late-night feasts featuring gourmet burgers and margaritas.

Brookleigh Estate, renowned for its enchanting European-inspired gardens, has long been a favourite for classic and sophisticated weddings. Its secluded setting and stunning jacaranda-lined driveway create the perfect backdrop for saying 'I do'. Meanwhile, **Mandoon Estate** offers a contemporary yet relaxed vineyard setting, where couples can exchange vows amidst rows of lush vines before enjoying a feast of local delicacies paired with premium wines.

For those seeking a breathtaking riverfront setting, **Caversham House** offers a touch of old-world romance with its grand architecture, manicured gardens and an elegant outdoor staircase.

For a more rustic atmosphere, **Chapel Farm Estate** provides a whimsical setting with its charming gardens, vintage-inspired decor and boutique accommodation.

Nikola Estate is a venue steeped in history. Established in the 1830s, it is home to some of the oldest grapevines in the region, lovingly tended by the Yukich family for four generations. Here, couples can exchange vows in the Old Cellars or the chapel nestled among the vines; enjoy a gourmet degustation at Woodcutters Restaurant; or celebrate with a picturesque picnic beneath the majestic jacaranda trees.

The perfect stay

No celebration is complete without a comfortable and stylish place to stay.

Mandoon Estate's picturesque onsite accommodation **Maya Maya** is nestled perfectly between the Swan River and the Estate's vines. This boutique development offers 32 studio-style rooms, each with either a private patio or balcony. Situated within a natural bush setting, it's conveniently located just 200 metres from Mandoon's cellar door, their **Homestead Brewery**, **Wild Swan** restaurant as well as the **Maalinup Aboriginal Gallery**.

For a peaceful escape, **The Vines Resort** is sprawled over 270 acres and features an extensive golf course, luxury spa, fully stocked gym, squash and tennis courts, swimming pool, cafes

> **WHATEVER YOUR SPECIAL OCCASION, THERE'S AN ARRAY OF VENUES AND EXPERIENCES TO CHOOSE FROM IN THE SWAN VALLEY.**

and restaurants. The accommodation has 103 rooms in a two-storey complex surrounding a central vineyard and each room has a courtyard or balcony. If you're staying in a ground floor room, don't be surprised to see a kangaroo on your door step in the morning!

Whether you're hosting an event or need a base from which to explore the region, **The Swan Valley Hotel** offers resort-style accommodation with modern amenities and warm hospitality. Activities on-site include **Supa Golf** and **Supa Putt**, so is it ideal for corporates, sporting clubs, organisations and groups of family and friends who are seeking more than just a function space, but rather an experience.

Plan your next celebration

From intimate dinners and milestone birthdays to unforgettable engagements and grand weddings, the Swan Valley offers a venue and experience to suit every celebration, style and budget.

Whether you're looking for a fully catered event, a flexible DIY venue or somewhere in between, you'll find an impressive range of options with other venues including **Balmain Estate**, **Barrett Lane**, **Lily Farm House**, **Mallard Duck**, **Mulberry Estate**, **Oakover Grounds**, **Edgecombe Winery** and **Albion on Swan** - plus many others!

To discover more, drop into the Swan Valley Visitor Centre or visit ***swanvalley.com.au***



Mandoon Estate



EXPERIENCE...

Mondo Nougat

LEARN SOMETHING NEW

From food and art through to health and nature, there's plenty of hands-on experiences waiting to be discovered in the Swan Valley.

By SARAH SCHMITT



Pasta in the Valley cooking class



The House of Honey

FOOD EXPERIENCES

The award-winning and enchanting **House of Honey** is owned and managed by WA's first two honey sommeliers, Rupert and Kim Philips. The magic of bees and the artistry of honey comes to life at this unique destination where you can taste and discover the beautiful flavours of mead and learn the art of honey profiling. Take a bee tour where you'll go behind the scenes of this working bee farm; visit the hives and learn the art of making honey. You can also enjoy a candle making and mead experience.
For more information visit ***thehouseofhoney.com.au***

Step into a world of sweetness at **Mondo Nougat** and **Morish Nuts**. Indulge in tastings of handcrafted nougat and flavoured nuts and if you'd like to learn more about the secrets to making gourmet nougat, enrol in a nougat masterclass. In this class you'll learn the story of nougat before creating your own unique flavour. With intimate group sizes, this hands-on experience is as personal as it is indulgent.
To book, contact Mondo Nougat directly or visit ***mondonougat.com.au***

The handcrafted range of products at **Providore** is made using produce grown in local orchards and vegetable gardens. The enormous range of tastings will inspire you, so take your time as you explore the showroom and enjoy the fresh chutneys, mustards, jams, relishes and sauces. There are also spice blends, olive oil and desserts all made locally in WA.

You can then wander next door into the **Margaret River Chocolate Company**. Enjoy the delectable chocolate buds available for tasting or sign your children up for a *Junior Chocolatier Workshop*. In this one-hour experience, children will explore the world of chocolate while creating their own chocolate masterpiece. Each participant will also leave with a personalised giant freckle and a voucher for hot chocolate or ice cream from the cafe. For more information visit ***chocolatefactory.com.au***

An exploration of taste, **Dale Tilbrook's** *Bush Tucker Experience* will teach you about native Australian bush foods such as the quandong, native limes, sandalwood nuts and local coastal greens. Discover native herbs, spices and peppers and learn about their amazing medicinal properties. Meander through the bush food garden and learn the history of this beautiful location through Dale's storytelling.
For more information visit ***daletilbrookexperiences.com.au***

The Italian history in the Swan Valley is rich and at **Pasta in the Valley**, you'll experience a tasting of this heritage. There's a variety of cooking classes available, from the *Mini Chef* program for children where they get to make their own spaghetti; through to gnocchi and pasta sauce making for adults. You will use locally grown ingredients and learn simple recipes to recreate at home. Visit ***pastainthevalley.com.au*** to book your class.

Fancy a coffee after your Italian feast? Be sure to step into **Yahava Koffeeworks** for coffee tastings. For the coffee connoisseur, the *Yahava Coffee Safari* will take you on a journey around the world as you discover your coffee's origin story.
For more information and booking details visit ***yahava.com.au***

ART EXPERIENCES

Play with fire during a one-hour hot glass experience at **The Glass Flower Bar**. With glassblower Jennie by your side, you'll melt your glass and create up to eight unique glass beads. A necklace is a memory keeper of your time here.
To enquire about these fiery workshops, contact Jennie directly via ***theglassflowerbar.com***

Discover the sensory pleasure of having your hands in clay during a pottery wheel class with **Guildford Village Potters**. Beginner or advanced sessions are held throughout the week, and children's classes are available in the school holidays.



Dale Tilbrook Bush Tucker Experience

Kids will make small bowls on the wheel, as well as a handmade piece such as an animal figure. For more information, visit ***guildfordvillagepotters.com.au***

Explore traditional Aboriginal art forms with **Dale Tilbrook** on her *Aboriginal Art and Dreamtime Stories Workshop*. Discover how Aboriginal dot painting evolved and learn commonly used iconography, then create your paintings using acrylic paint pens. Dale will inspire you with Dreamtime stories and talk about life in the area before colonisation.
For more information, visit ***daletilbrookexperiences.com.au***

HEALTH, NATURE & DISCOVERY EXPERIENCES

For something a little different, enjoy a morning yoga session while you get up close to docile camels at **Swan Valley Speedhumps** in the Swan Valley. For something extra special, the *Yoga and Sip* experience offers a boho picnic setting under the gum trees, where you can enjoy a grazing board with a bottle of bubbly while the sun sets and the camels enjoy their dinner nearby. Camel Yoga experiences are seasonal from October to April.
Visit ***swanvalleyspeedhumps.com.au***

Enjoy the majestic wild kangaroos on a **Vines Resort** *Kangaroo Safari*. Learn about these animals and watch as they graze and play. Tours run daily from 4pm and are followed by a relaxing sunset drink and a game of mini golf.
To book, go to ***kangaroosafari.com.au***

Discover the hidden world of Australia's native wildlife with the enchanting *Nocturnal Woylie Walk* at **Whiteman Park**. At twilight you will enter a special predator-free sanctuary, where Australia's precious nocturnal mammals - the quenda and critically endangered woylie - come out to explore. As you wander through the Woodland Reserve by torchlight, watch them forage in their natural habitat and discover the important work being done to protect these beautiful animals.
Held on Friday evenings from September to May, visit ***whitemanpark.com.au*** for more information.

Creating precious family memories is guaranteed when you participate in either **The Amazing Valley Chase** or **The Great Valley Rally**. Both adventures start at the **Swan Valley Visitor Centre**, where you collect your instructions and clue sheets before setting out to find a series of checkpoints. Like a scavenger hunt by car, these are a fun way to learn the history of the area as well as visit many of its landmarks.
Visit ***swanvalley.com.au/experience/family*** for more information.

The whispers of the past will guide you along the streets of Guildford when you embark on one of the City of Swan's Historical Walks. Beginning at the Swan Valley Visitor Centre, choose your own adventure with a colour-coded map, then discover the stories on plaques along the way, immersing yourself in the beauty of yesteryear.
For more information, visit ***swanvalley.com.au/plan/visitor-centre***

With so much on offer, be curious and discover one of the many experiences that awaits in the Swan Valley.



Caversham Wildlife Park


SubZero Gelato

A WEEKEND WITH THE KIDS

By SUE YEAP

Forget the long drive down south! Instead, pack the kids in the car and head to the Swan Valley for a fun weekend.

DAY ONE

11am / Animal magic

Visiting **Caversham Wildlife Park**, WA's largest privately owned collection of native wildlife, is a rite of passage for most families. Allow half a day to make a dent in seeing the 200 species and more than 2,000 animals, birds, and reptiles. Allow longer if you'd like to have lunch at The Village Cafe or explore the rest of Whiteman Park.

2.30pm / Get the scoop

Hours change seasonally, but if you can squeeze in a stop at award-winning **SubZero Gelato**, your taste buds will be delighted.

3pm / Check in for the night

The Vines Resort is popular for families with young children, offering hotel rooms and self-contained two and three-bed apartments. Resort features include restaurants, mini golf, swimming pool with outdoor spa, giant chess, and a playground. Keep an eye on The Vines social media channels for seasonal specials.

4pm / Get up close with kangaroos

Popular with international visitors and locals alike, the **Kangaroo Safari** is an informative and fun tour of The Vines golf course, with regular stops to watch the various mobs of kangaroos. Parents must have a driver's licence to drive a golf buggy. Tours depart daily and take around two hours.

6.30pm / Dinner time

Head down to Caversham family favourite **Pasta in the Valley**, where the kids can feast on an extensive menu of pizza, pasta or house-made sausage rolls. Looking for delicious pasta on the go? Pasta in the Valley also has a drive through.

DAY TWO

9am / Rise and shine

Treat yourself to the flavours of France with breakfast at **Maison Saint-Honoré** in Caversham. With a special kid's menu, let them enjoy a crepe and babycino while you indulge in classics like Croque Monsieur or Bénédicte on Toast along with your morning caffeine fix. Pick up some of Maison Saint-Honoré's signature macarons or pastries to keep you going for the day.

10.30am / Get active, or get up close to more animals

Burn off some energy playing **Supa Golf** or **Supa Putt**, or blast away at each other in a friendly game of laser tag at **Laser Corps**, both conveniently located in the vicinity of the **Swan Valley Hotel** precinct.

If cute and cuddly is more your thing, plan a stop at **Swan Valley Cuddly Animal Farm**. The covered playground, cafe offering light meals, and a ménagerie of goats, miniature horses, roaming chickens and peacocks also make **Swan Valley Station** a fun stop.

1pm / Lunch time

West Swan Road is packed with family-friendly venues for lunch including **Gerry's Deli** at **Swan Valley Hotel**, **Mash Brewing, The Henley Brook** and **Bailey Brewing Co**.

2.30pm / Homeward bound

As a treat before starting your road trip home, it's mandatory to stop for something sweet at **Whistler's Chocolate Company**, **Margaret River Chocolate Company** or **Mondo Nougat**. Stock up on chocolate covered pretzels, have a scoop of gelato, and let the driver fuel up on barista coffee and cake.

Find all contact details at ***swanvalley.com.au***

EXPERIENCE...


The Rose & Crown Hotel

GUILDFORD'S CHARM

As the gateway to the Swan Valley and Perth's original inland settlement, historic Guildford resembles a country village crammed with antique shops, boutiques, cafes, pubs and galleries.



Padbury's

Dripping in history, Guildford has all the goods when it comes to treasures, treats and trails. Immerse yourself in its heritage appeal.

HISTORY ON TAP

Boasting some of the most historic pubs in the state, drop by for a taste of days gone by.

The Guildford Hotel

The long-standing **Guildford Hotel** is iconic to the area with its eye-catching white, baroque façade and belvedere tower.

Originally built in the 1880s, the hotel was razed by a fire in 2008. Rebuilt and restored to its original glory, it boasts old-time country manor charm with its exposed brick, repurposed timber, brass finishes and recovered décor.

The Stirling Arms

The Stirling Arms Hotel was built in the 19th century on the back of convict labour. Established in 1852, it has a rich history as one of the oldest pubs in WA.

Today, its classic feel is blended with contemporary style. The original heritage bars have been combined into the *1852 Lounge Bar* while the sleek, modern *Lot 142 Beer Garden* offers alfresco dining at the front of the building.

The Rose & Crown

The Rose & Crown Hotel has been a welcome resting place for tourists and travellers for over 150 years. Built on 2.5 acres in 1841, this is WA's oldest operating hotel. Registered with the National Trust, it's a true West Australian landmark. While it now features modern facilities such as spa baths and plasma TVs in the hotel rooms, it maintains its classic Georgian design and down-home country pub feel.

GOOD FOOD AND COFFEE

With neighbourhood cafes, restaurants and wine bars serving up produce that is easy on the eye and the tastebuds, there's plenty to explore in Guildford.

Willing Coffee

Willing Coffee is where Guildford's coffee connoisseurs gather for their morning caffeine hit. Take a seat inside at the marbled stone counter or in the sun on one of the outside tables and enjoy a seasonal menu that includes breakfast sandwiches, bagels, croissants and house-made granola.

Guildford Milk Bar

Taking prime position on historic James Street, **Guildford Milk Bar** is a popular breakfast spot with its lengthy list of classic breakfast options, great atmosphere and inviting dining room. Renowned for its savoury breakfasts, the coffee is also consistently good.

The Lounge Room on James

The Lounge Room on James is located in a stunning, heritage-listed building. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, alfresco dining provides a perfect vantage point to people-watch and take in the Guildford vibe.

Guildford Town Bakery

With its air of old-fashioned charm, the **Guildford Town Bakery** is everything you look for in a small-town bakery. With rows of artisan loaves, sweet pastries and biscuits, it's also one of the best spots for pies, sausage rolls and savoury pastries which are all made on-site.

Padbury's

Wine bar meets cafe at **Padbury's**, an inviting space located within the heritage listed Padbury's Store building that dates back to 1869. Serving up breakfast, lunch and dinner, their fluffy buttermilk pancakes topped with sweet honeycomb and a meringue, coconut and fig granola, rounded out by a tart lemon curd is certainly one to try.

Alfred's Kitchen

After a day in the Swan Valley, you can huddle around the fire pit or in the antique train carriage at **Alfred's Kitchen**, Perth's longest-running roadside hamburger joint. Starting as a roadside caravan back in 1946, Alfred's Kitchen is a Perth institution and has been one of Guildford's favourite late-night hangouts for over 75 years.

Locale Mio

If you're looking for authentic Italian vibes, flavours and hospitality, **Locale Mio** is a great choice. Using simple, farm-fresh ingredients, the restaurant serves up some of Guildford's finest pizza, pasta and tapas.

Taste of Europe

Tucked down a cul-de-sac off the main shopping strip, **The Dutch Shop** is – unsurprisingly – a massive hit with the Dutch ex-pat community. The gourmet deli stocks delicacies from rollmops and Dutch sausages to 40 or more different types of liquorice and aniseed sprinkles. Complete your tour of Europe with a stop at **Mimmo's** for a takeaway tub or two of gourmet gelato.

Walking trails

Follow one of the four **Heritage Walk Trails** around Guildford to discover the area's history. Each self-guided trail begins and ends at the Old Guildford Courthouse – home of the Swan Valley Visitor Centre – and offers a history lesson, tales of colonial life, and a rundown of the intriguing characters that have called Guildford home.

The **Town Walk** provides a look at many of Guildford's most historic buildings, including the former post office, the vaudeville theatre, and the art-deco style Town Hall.

A slightly longer meander, the **Captain Stirling Walk** allows you to take in some of Guildford's most beautiful heritage buildings, quaint cottages, manicured gardens and streetscapes and the picturesque grounds of **Guildford Grammar School**, including the **Chapel of St Mary and St George**.

A bit further afield is the grand architecture and decor of the National Trust's historic **Woodbridge**, dating back to the 1800s. Book in to explore the building.

Shopping and culture

There's a variety of interesting shopping options in Guildford. For antiques, collectibles and vintage items, visit **Jones of Guildford**, or step into **Bonnie's World** for her collection of original, vibrant oil paintings and prints. For an eclectic mix of artefacts, ceramics and furniture, visit **Basic Elements** or for garden related gifts and plants, head over to the **Guildford Garden Centre**.

Panache Living is a fashion, furniture and homewares store that is brimming with handpicked goodies from around the world.

If you're looking for a new outfit, stop by **Jilby's Boutique**, or for custom jewellery and bespoke gifts visit **Linton Atelier**. **Guildford Bootery** has a great range of shoes, and **Miss Reloved** and **Shab2Fab** offer quality vintage pieces.

For something different, don't miss the quirky and slightly macabre Academy of Taxidermy at the **Museum of Natural History**. Or for your culture fix, grab a show at the **Garrick Theatre**, one of the longest-running community theatres in Perth.



Panache Living

Established in 1829, the town of Guildford along with the settlements of Perth and Fremantle, set the foundations for the beginnings of the Swan River Colony.

With colonial architecture, much of its old English charm remains today, meticulously preserved or brought back to life in an effort to retain the area's significant past.



The Vines Resort

ENJOY... YOU TIME

Whether it's a weekend of pampering, a gourmet adventure or a romantic hideaway, the Swan Valley has plenty of options for some well-deserved 'you-time'.

By ALEXANDRA CASEY

With its rustic charm, natural beauty, warm hospitality and close proximity to the CBD, the Swan Valley is a perfect place to reconnect and unwind.

A romantic escape

If you're craving a break away, the Swan Valley has a range of accommodation options for a relaxing and romantic interlude.

The **Swan Valley Retreat & Spa** is a secluded oasis featuring spacious, beautifully appointed rooms with private decks that overlook the Valley. With three different rooms available, the signature '*Wine Barrel*' room is the most luxurious and a stay in this architecturally-designed suite includes a private golf cart to shuttle you to and from your car. You'll have your own private sauna as well as a cedar hot tub on your balcony to soak up the charming countryside vistas. To top it all off, there is also an exclusive day spa at the retreat, where tailored treatments, including hydrotherapy and float sessions, are designed to rejuvenate body and soul.

Exuding rustic charm and château 'esque architecture, **Brookleigh Estate** has a variety of accommodation options, from boutique suites and self-contained apartments to adorable private cottages. Sitting pretty among manicured gardens, it's a perfect sanctuary for couples seeking peace and romance, where walks through nature and evenings under the stars are part of daily life.

If you'd like to curate a more personalised experience, check out Airbnb so you can choose accommodation that suits your own style. For example, the aptly-named '*Treehouse in the Australian Bush*', is an exclusive retreat set amongst the treetops. Overlooking the Valley, it immediately connects you with the surroundings.

For a resort-style property nestled amidst lush greenery, there's **The Swan Valley Hotel**. Offering comfortable accommodation and modern amenities, it's a great base for couples eager to explore the region at their own pace. With its warm hospitality and relaxed atmosphere, your stay is sure to be as memorable as it is convenient.

Rejuvenate and relax

Indulgence takes centre stage at the Swan Valley's wellness and spa facilities. Located at **The Vines Resort**, **Aura Salon** is all about healthy, beautiful hair - from custom cuts and expert blow-dries to colour transformations, event styling, and nourishing hair treatments.

Also located at The Vines, **The Skin Suite Collective** is ready to pamper you with custom and spa facials, dermal therapy, massages, custom brows and lashes, as well as signature rituals.

For complete wellbeing, **Brookleigh Day Spa** offers a holistic wellness experience with luxurious treatments that will leave you feeling like you're in heaven. From hot stone massages to facial and body treatments; day retreats through to an extended wellness escape, this sanctuary promises to soothe the senses and restore balance.

Memorable moments for two

Bespoke experiences await couples looking to create memories and share uninterrupted quality time together.

Maya Maya is a luxe basecamp at **Mandoon Estate**, which has 32 beautifully appointed rooms that overlook the Swan River as well as historic Verdelho vines planted in 1895. It's the perfect base for a romantic getaway filled with culinary delights, bushwalking, mountain biking, and gallery hopping.

Nowhere else in Australia can you leave a capital city by boat and arrive in an

award-winning wine region on the same day. So for those seeking a postcard-perfect journey along the serene Swan River, consider joining a *Swan Valley Wine Cruise* with **Captain Cook Cruises**. You'll enjoy a share-style platter lunch as you glide along the water, followed by a delightful wine and macaron pairing at Mandoon Estate. To complete your experience, relax with live entertainment and dessert on your return cruise.

How about adding a touch of fun and adventure to your getaway? *The Mystery Picnic Date* by **AmazingCo** is an imaginative and delightful way to explore the Swan Valley. This self-guided experience combines the thrill of a treasure hunt with the joy of a gourmet picnic. With a series of clues and riddles, you'll journey around the Valley collecting artisanal ingredients from local producers along the way. The adventure culminates at a stunning location perfect for a romantic outdoor feast.

Located just 25 minutes from Perth, an escape from the everyday is easily accessible in the Swan Valley. Whether you're indulging in a luxurious spa day, enjoying an intimate picnic by the river, or exploring the Valley's hidden gems hand-in-hand, the opportunities for romance are endless.

"SLOW DOWN AND SAVOUR LIFE'S FINER MOMENTS IN THE SWAN VALLEY.



Swan Valley Wine Cruise with Captain Cook Cruises.

MAYA MAYA
AT MANDOON ESTATE

Staying over in the beautiful Swan Valley? Check out Maya Maya at Mandoon Estate – boutique luxe accommodation just a short stroll through the historic vines to all that the estate has to offer.









Not just weddings and events here at Mandoon, ideal for 1 or 2 night stays, welcoming couples as well as families and friends with interconnecting one and two-bed rooms available on request. Breakfast in a brewery – you just know it's going to be a great day!

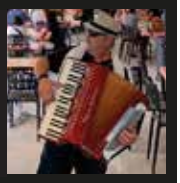
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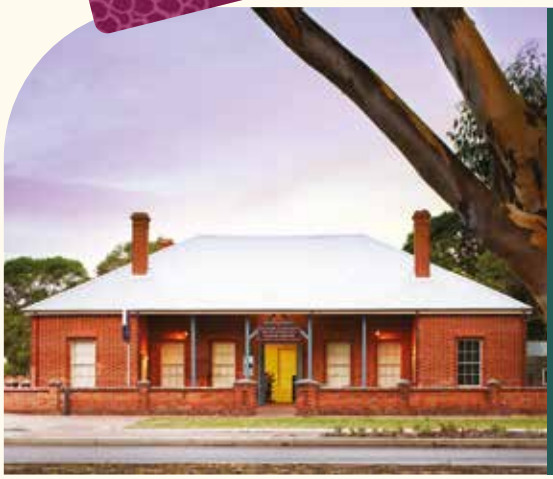
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You'll find the Swan Valley Visitor Centre in the Guildford Courthouse (c. 1866) at the corner of Meadow and Swan Streets, Guildford.

Be sure to leave our staff a review via Google, Facebook or Tripadvisor.

Open seven days from 9am-4pm
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