

# EXPLORE YOUR PASSION FOR AUSTRALIA

THERE'S NOTHING  
LIKE AUSTRALIA



## Explore Your Passion For... **+ FOOD AND WINE**

**Each week we speak to an industry expert about indulging in their passion in Australia. This week in our 'passion series' we speak to GO Holidays Product and Marketing Manager, Karen McMahon, about Food & Wine.**

### 1. Why would you travel to Australia to indulge your passion?

Australia is so close and offers so many diverse wining and dining experiences, from up in far North Queensland to Tasmania down south on an island of its own, the offerings are diverse, memorable and of course tasty.

### 2. Name your favourite place to best experience this in Australia

One of my fondest memories of Australia – having lived in Melbourne for 3 years – is exploring the markets and the fabulous variety of cuisines – Greek, Italian, Turkish, Chinese and much more.

Whether this be in the city or at a farmers markets in the Yarra Valley or Mornington Peninsula, they are just best way to meet some locals and see how lucky they are when it comes to quality produce.

The Prahan markets off Chapel Street are amazing with fresh fruit and veges, cheeses, freshly made pasta, bread, stalls selling just olive oils x 100 different flavours, meat and seafood. Other great markets in Melbourne are the South Melbourne market, Victoria Markets.

One of my favourite local farm-



ers markets, set in the grounds a Convent built in 1857, is the Collingwood Children's Farm market a wonder farm for kids in the middle of the city and it hosts a farmers market twice a month [farm.org.au](http://farm.org.au) with fresh seasonal organic produce including breads, sauces, pickles and olive oil and fruit & veges – NZ just don't have the same variety and size of market that they do in Australia.

### 3. What do you love most about Australia?

I suppose it's the variety and availability of everything in Australia. The different cultures and areas of the city enable you to feel like you are in Italy or China, but in fact you're only 3 hours away from NZ.

### 4. What do you think is most appealing about those places for fellow Food & Wine lovers?

When it comes to food the Australians just do it better than us. The variety, the quality and the services experienced is superb. I will continue to travel to Aus-

tralia not only to visit friends & family but to indulge myself in my passion for Food & Wine.

### 5. Your standout Australian experience to date...

There are too many to remember but dining at Jacques Raymond Restaurant in Melbourne has to be up there as the most wonderful dining experience, indulging in a 10-course degustation menu in a 'three chef hat' awarded restaurant, although one of the most expensive meals I have had to pay for was well worth it.

### 6. You would go back tomorrow for...

All of the above are on offer in most Australian states and I would like to experience them all - I have been lucky enough to live in Melbourne and so I know the city really well, I have been to SA some time ago to enjoy the Food & Wine and had a glimpse of what is on offer but I know there is much more to see in the other cities I have visited but haven't yet had the chance.

## Taste of Tasmania

Chef and restaurateur Michael Van de Elzen headed to Tasmania recently for a cooking school experience that he found both inspiring and tasty. Agrarian Kitchen in Lachlan, a 35-minute drive from Hobart, is housed in a rustic 19th century schoolhouse where owners Rodney Dunn and his wife Séverine work and live. Michael's eyes lit up on his tour around the property with its hothouses, extensive vegetable gardens, row after row of every type of berry you could hope for, cold smoke rooms and chillers full of game birds and meats curing – perfect recipe ingredients!

Moving inside to the cooking demo area, guests are greeted with a large fire in the corner, a table that seats 10, and one wall devoted to all the recipe books Rodney has collected over the years – at least 500. Agrarian Kitchen caters for everyone, from beginner cooks to experts.

Read more about Michael's travels in the NZ Herald and on [herald.co.nz](http://herald.co.nz)



## South Australia - A Wine Lover's Paradise

The Barossa is about an hour's drive north from Adelaide and is arguably Australia's most famous wine region. And it is truly a wine region – in the sense that it seems every spare centimetre of land is covered in grapevines.

Whether you book on a wine tour or opt for self drive where you can winery hop at leisure and explore a little more off the beaten track, you will easily fill the day with not only wine sampling but also exquisite local food.

Don't forget to pop into Maggie Beer's Farm Shop on your travels, a food haven where you can enjoy all day 'picnic fare' inside or out, an espresso coffee or a glass of Pheasant Farm or Beer Brothers wine.