



EXPLORE YOUR PASSION FOR AUSTRALIA

THERE'S NOTHING
LIKE AUSTRALIA



Explore Your Passion For...

Each week we speak to an industry expert about indulging their passion in Australia. This week in our 'passion series' we chat food and wine with House of Travel's Commercial Director, Brent Thomas

Why would you travel to Australia to indulge your passion for food and wine?

The beauty of indulging this, and other passions in Australia is that in most places you can easily combine city life with country life. Many of the best food and wine experiences in the country - and some of the best wines in the world! - lie only a short distance from a great city, so the opportunity to combine both in one holiday is fantastic.

Name your favourite place/s to best experience this in Australia

South Australia's Barossa Valley has to be right at the top of my list. It is only a short drive from Adelaide and there is a great mix of culture, heritage, world-class wines and excellent food, much of reflecting the German heritage of the region - and did I mention the beer? The region is home to some great craft breweries, so start with the beers and work your way up to those great South Australian reds.

The other mentionable is the city of Adelaide itself, with



its west facing beach, it's the perfect place to relax in an evening and watch the sun set, then enjoy all that this vibrant city has to offer - especially its central markets where stallholders are so passionate about their produce, and who would have thought a market like that could be possible in the centre of a city!

What do you love most about these places?

The sense of family and intimacy makes South Australia really special, and more so where there is a strong heritage story such as in the Barossa. Everyone you come across is really passionate not just about his or her wine or produce but about the heritage or family story that accompanies it. There is a tradition of excellence handed down through the generations and an incredible



amount of pride amongst the people you meet. The wine is great, but so too are the stories that go with it!

What do you think is most appealing about these places for fellow followers of food and wine experiences?

Great wine, great people, great places and great stories - and not too far from a great city.

Your standout Australian experience to date was...

A long weekend at Peppers Barossa with our 'Top 12'. The venue and accommodation were sensational - wonderful ambience, food, wine; incredible views and superb hospitality made this a really special experience for all of us.

You would go back tomorrow for...

New places to explore and indulge my passion for food and wine. Top of this list is house boating on the Murray River, the Claire Valley and Victoria's Yarra Valley. I am really keen to explore the regional differences, I don't know what to expect but doubt I'll be disappointed!

Must Do Markets

Right around Australia you will find buzzing market places, many of which are the hallmark of the region's founding Fathers and hark back to a bygone era. For locals, it's 'their local', and for visitors, the market experience is the perfect place to quite literally get a taste of the region before heading out into it - and hear some very good stories!

Two excellent examples of historic city markets that are a "must do" for any visiting foodie are Central Market in Adelaide and Queen Victoria Markets in Melbourne.

Further North, Darwin has its own take on market fayre with the very popular Mindil Beach Sunset Markets, that proved a hit on the recent prime time television series 'Dishing up Australia with Al Brown'.

Go with the local flow and get a real taste of a region by making your first port of call, the city market.

Adelaide, South Australia
adelaidecentralmarket.com.au

Melbourne, Victoria
www.qvm.com.au

Darwin, Northern Territory
www.mindil.com.au/



'Foodies Treasure Island'

When kiwi celebrity chef and restaurateur Al Brown visited Kangaroo Island earlier this year he described it as a culinary "treasure island, full of little jewels, and a place where luxury blends seamlessly with the simple life." Just a 45-minute drive from the wine region of McLaren Vale and an easy drive from South Australia's capital city, Adelaide, Kangaroo Island is Australia's third largest island and serves up to visitors a veritable feast of island produce and regional delicacies. On 'KI', Al found himself in "foodie heaven". Visitors to the island can easily seek out the boutique producers, but to experience them altogether at one time check out the Kangaroo Island 'Festival' held each year. The 2014 event will take place from 24-28 April and is a five day gastronomic celebration that includes 15 extraordinary dining events on Kangaroo Island. Tickets are on sale now. tourkangarooisland.com.au/kifeastival
goodfoodkangarooisland.com/seafoodfeastival

For more great food events and festivals right around Australia click onto [events](#)