



FIVE THINGS TO DO IN...

Greater Shepparton

Planning a road trip through Victoria? Two hours from Melbourne is a sunny riverside region quickly becoming known as a food, wine and culture destination. *By Rose Johnstone*

Tallis Wine

1 Drink unbelievably good wine at one of Victoria's most picturesque cellar doors

Locals want to keep this family-owned cellar door and restaurant to themselves – but **Tallis Wine's** soaring pastoral views, golden sunsets and fantastic wine make it a must-visit. Alice and Richard Tallis planted their first harvest on their broadacre farm over a decade ago, and found that the region's rich volcanic soil produces top-notch shiraz, merlot, riesling, viognier, cabernet sauvignon and sangiovese. Visit on a Sunday afternoon, and enjoy live music with your cheese and wine out on the patio. → 195 Major Plains Rd, Dookie 3646. 03 5823 5383. www.talliswine.com.au. Tue-Thu 10am-3pm; Fri-Sun 11am-5pm.

2 Connect with region's Indigenous history

Shepparton – which is situated on Yorta Yorta country – is home to Victoria's second-largest Aboriginal population. The floodplain between Shepparton and Mooroopna, known as **The Flats**, was a community established after the first mass strike of Aboriginal people, who walked off the Cummeragunja Mission in 1939 and lived on the Flats for several years. This area has been preserved as a cultural walk, with plaques telling the stories of the lives and culture of the Indigenous men and women who lived, and still live, in the region. After the walk, visit the nearby **Connection** – a café recently bought by Yorta Yorta woman Felicia Dean, who incorporates native ingredients into her dishes. → 7287 Midland Hwy, Shepparton 3630. 03 5821 0600. theconnectionshepparton.com. Sat, Sun 9am-5pm.

3 Eat traditional Thai

The large size of Shepparton's immigrant community means there are plenty of world cuisines to choose from; one of them

being traditional, home-cooked Thai at **The Last Straw**. The owners are a married couple who live upstairs in a space they built themselves out of wheat straw bales and salvaged timber, and their restaurant is packed six days a week with locals enjoying home-style Thai curries and coffee roasted on the premises. → 24-26 Keppel St, Shepparton 3630. 03 5822 4990. www.thelaststraw.com.au. Mon-Fri 9am-3pm; Sat 10am-2pm.

4 Try a cheeky cider or two

Third-generation fruitgrowers Mark and Jenny Morey launched the **Cheeky Grog Co** in 2004, and have since won awards for their sugar-free ciders that range from a dry, clear Flip Cider to the sweeter Cheeky Cider. Try the range by ordering a paddle at their relaxed outdoor bar. → 5160 Barmah-Shepparton Rd, Bunbartha 3634. 0417 781 918. cheekygrogco.com. Opening hours vary; check Facebook page for details.

5 Explore a fascinating collection of Australian art

For a regional art gallery, the **Shepparton Art Museum (SAM)** punches well above its weight. SAM is well known for its significant collections of ceramic and Indigenous art, and also features landscapes by artists from the Heidelberg School and contemporary work from the likes of Tracey Moffatt and Sam Jinks. ■ → 70 Welsford St, Shepparton 3630. 03 5832 9861. www.sheppartonartmuseum.com.au. Free. Daily 10am-4pm.

Stay

The **Quality Hotel Parklake** overlooks picturesque Lake Victoria and offers apartments with full cooking facilities. Take advantage of the swimming pool, spa, sauna and barbecue. → 481 Wyndham St, Shepparton 3630. 03 5821 5822. www.parklake.com.au. From \$225 per night.



Shepparton Art Museum (SAM)

CHRIS HAWKING



The Last Straw

DISCOVER MORE OF VICTORIA

Shepparton isn't far from Bendigo, the Murray River and Victoria's High Country, making it a great addition to a road trip.

THIS MONTH WE'RE...

What's hot in travel in April?
By James Wilkinson



↑ STAYING AT... 1 CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK

Sustainability is key at 1 Central Park, from the living wall exterior to local produce in their restaurant, hemp-blend mattresses and 100 per cent cotton sheets. In the showers you'll find a five-minute hourglass to encourage you to save water and the mini bar is loaded with healthy, organic local delights. → 1414 6th Ave, New York, NY, USA. +1 212 703 2001. www.1hotels.com/central-park.

DRINKING AT... COPPER BAY, PARIS

You'll want to make friends with someone at the bar if you arrive at Copper Bay on your own because the punch bowls here are the best in the city. Failing that, order a Monkey Island, a Date a Brunette or have a Milky Bee at this bar helmed by two of France's top bartenders, Aurélie Panhelleux and Julien Delcourt. → 5 Rue Bouchardon, Paris, France. www.copperbar.fr.

EATING AT... RUTZ, BERLIN

Chef Marco Müller's eatery in the Mitte district has a two-Michelin starred restaurant atop and a 750-label strong wine bar below. Go for Müller's ten-course inspirations menu, or pull up a stool downstairs and let sommelier Alexander Seiser choose the right riesling and some food to match. → Chausseestraße 8, Berlin, Germany. +49 30 2462 8760. rutz-restaurant.de.

FLYING... BRITISH AIRWAYS

BA's home at London Heathrow Terminal 5, with its shopping and dining options (hello Paul Smith and Gordon Ramsay), is one of the many reasons we keep flying the UK flag carrier. It's also because of the Club World (Business) cabin with flatbed seats, and top Aussie and French wines. ■ → www.ba.com.

INTERNATIONAL

Hot hotel in-room trends

Judging by the latest international hotel trends, you don't need to leave your room to have an amazing stay any more.
By James Wilkinson



The Beverly Hilton's housemade ice-cream

1 Housemade ice cream

OK, so the idea of ice cream in rooms is nothing new, and nor is the notion of the product being made in-house in hotels. But a trend we are loving is the huge range of flavours on offer. Hotels at the forefront right now include the Beverly Hilton in Los Angeles, the InterContinental Los Angeles Century City and Loews Regency New York. It's time Australian hotels got a scoop of the action.

2 Cocktails in bed

In the mood for an Old Fashioned, but can't be bothered getting up? Just call room service and the drink shall be delivered fresh from the bar. Some hotels like the InterContinental Los Angeles Century City have a dedicated cocktail list for room service that pairs up with the in-room menu, while others like QT Sydney and QT Melbourne have a DIY cocktail kit waiting in your room as a welcome amenity.

3 Watch your own movies

A trend that's becoming increasingly a standard offering is device mirroring, so you can watch your own movies on a hotel TV rather than your laptop or iPhone. Hotels that have set the standard have been the Darling in Sydney and now many Four Seasons Hotels across the world, including in Maui (*see p19*). Some hotels require you to download an app, while others also offer it through Apple TV, including the Waldorf Astoria in Berlin.

4 Locally sourced minibar

Locally sourced produce is the global food-and-beverage theme for hotels at present and increasingly, properties are doing away with the big suppliers to feature local products in mini bars. The recently opened Peppers Kings Square in Perth has an entirely locally sourced mini bar with chocolates from Freemantle, cider from Donnybrook and craft beer from Margaret River.

5 Fresh flowers daily

Luxury hotels across the globe have always had fresh daily flowers on a grand scale – think the Dorchester and Rosewood in London, the Plaza in New York and Le Meurice in Paris – but many are now also changing the flowers daily in the rooms, even if you are staying for several days. Florists are busy at the markets at 3am sourcing flowers and then supplying them fresh for you a few hours later at no extra charge. ■

MORE TRAVEL

TIMEOUT.COM/MELBOURNE



An Old Fashioned in your room at InterContinental LA