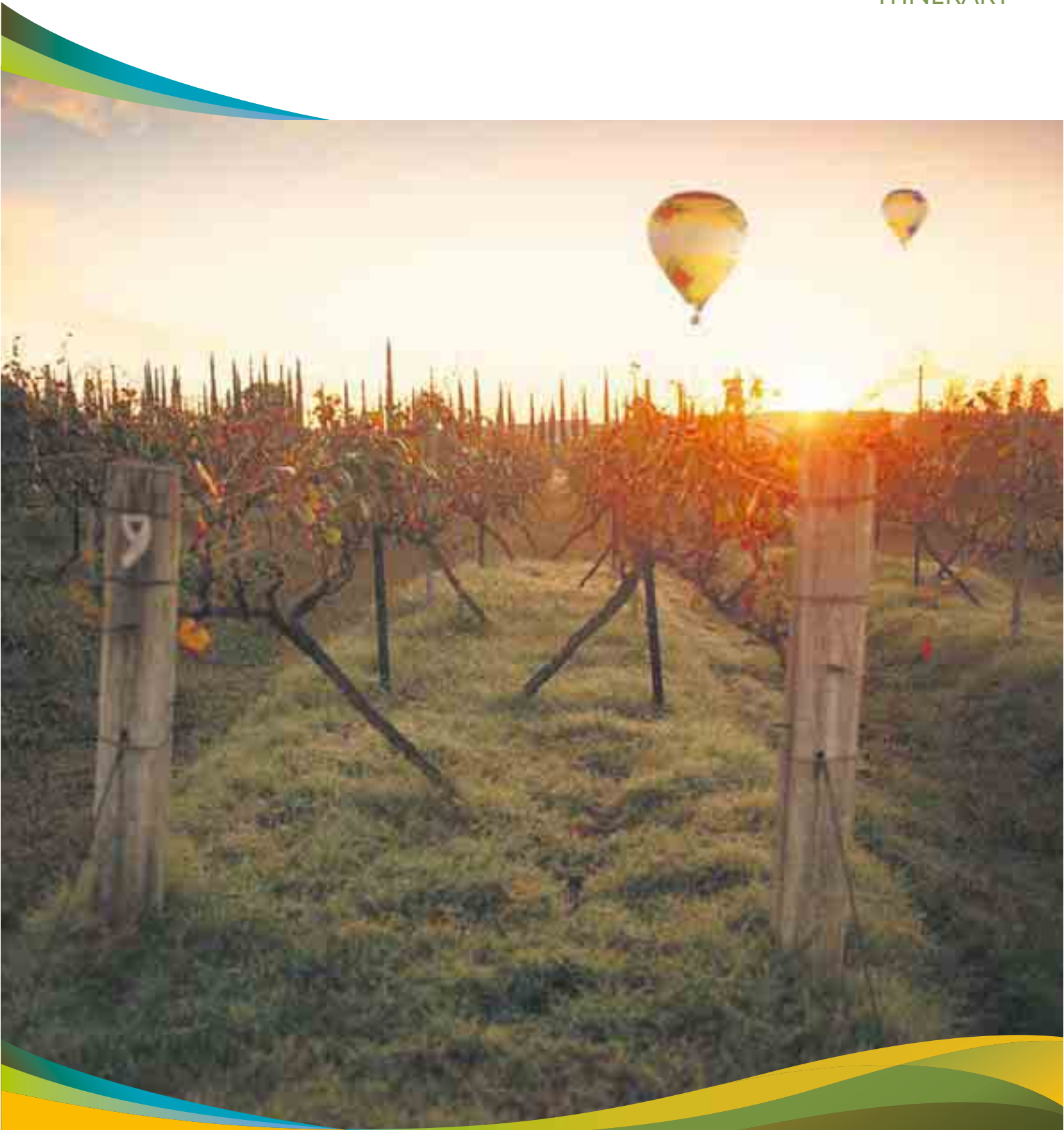


Hunter Valley

ITINERARY



New South Wales

There's no place like it



Hunter Valley

3 days and 2 nights

DAY 1: SYDNEY TO HUNTER VALLEY (Pokolbin and Rothbury areas)

Self-drive from Sydney to the Hunter via the Wollombi Valley/Millfield. Alternatively, you may take a scenic helicopter flight from Sydney to the Hunter and land at one of the Hunter's premium wineries.

Wollombi. Explore the picturesque tourist route arriving in the township of Wollombi. The site of convicts, settlers and Aboriginal tribes, whose ancient sites can still be explored. Wollombi is famed for its colonial architecture. Explore the Convict Trail, museums, national parks, boutique wineries and cellar doors.

Sydney to Wollombi
Wollombi to Pokolbin

140 km (1 hr 45 min)
40 km (45 min)

Suggestions in Wollombi

Undercliff Winery & Gallery

152 Yango Creek Road, Wollombi NSW 2325

Phone: 02 4998 3322

Email: finewines@undercliff.com.au

Website: www.undercliff.com.au

Open: 10am to 6pm

Peter, Jane and Jeanette will make you feel very welcome at the cellar door to sample the fine handmade wines and enjoy art in a tranquil vineyard setting. Varieties grown are Shiraz, Semillon, Chardonnay, Chambourcin and Muscat. Undercliff Winery is well known for its bird labels and is situated 1.5 km from Wollombi Village, less than 2 hours' drive from Sydney and Newcastle. The gallery features work by Margaret Waterhouse, Helen Fitzgerald and many local artists.

Stonehurst Wines & Cedar Creek

Wollombi Road, Cedar Creek NSW 2325

Ph: 02 4998 1576, Fx: 02 4998 0008

The unique design of our vineyard and our management techniques combine to produce wines of distinction. We are especially proud of our Chambourcin, until recently a little used varietal. Chambourcin is well suited to the Hunter Valley region as it is highly resistant to fungus during our wet summers and it produces a bold red with deep colour. Our first vintage of 1998 was simply spectacular. Another wine of special note is our Golden Dessert Semillon. Its first vintage of 2002 won a gold medal.

Lavender Gate Farm

2480 Wollombi Road, Wollombi NSW 2325

Phone: 02 4998 3377

Website: www.lavendergatefarm.com.au

A "touch of Provence in Wine Country" – Enjoy Mediterranean Cuisine and Wood Fired Pizza in a stunning setting.

Continue your drive to Pokolbin.

Hunter Valley Wine Country – take the time to indulge your senses. Escape to the tranquillity of the Hunter Valley, where you'll find the good things in life await you. Savour the rich experiences of fine wines and gourmet cuisine. Relax and regenerate beside a log fire in winter or beside a sparkling pool in the summer. Breathe fresh country air; and enjoy the visual feast of neat vineyards and rolling hills. Whenever you visit – for a weekend or a week – a warm welcome awaits you. Hunter Valley Wine Country. It's pure indulgence!



Lunch suggestion for today is:

Harrigan's Irish Pub

Hunter Valley Gardens, Broke Road, Pokolbin NSW 2325

Phone: 02 4998 7600

Offering a relaxed atmosphere with plenty of Irish charm, Harrigan's is the perfect place to dine with family, friends and colleagues.

This afternoon, spend time exploring the Pokolbin area.

May we suggest a visit to:

Vintage Hunter Wine & Visitors Centre

455 Wine Country Drive, Pokolbin NSW 2325

Direct Phone: 02 4991 3144

Website: www.winecountry.com.au

Hungerford Hill

1 Broke Road, Pokolbin NSW 2320 Australia

Phone: 02 4998 7666

Fax: 02 4998 7375

Email: wines@hungerfordhill.com.au

Website: www.hungerfordhill.com.au

Hungerford Hill has always pushed the boundaries. Since its founding in the 1970s in the world-famous Hunter Valley on Sydney's doorstep, Hungerford Hill has been at the forefront of multi-regional winemaking, producing award-winning wines. Designed for the future, Hungerford Hill has a new winery and cellar door that pushes the boundaries of architecture and style.

Tower Estate

Halls Road, Pokolbin NSW 2320

Phone: 02 4998 7989

Fax: 02 4998 7919

Website: www.towerestate.com.au

Tower Estate aims to produce the finest examples of varietal wines in Australia, and each region and vineyard is selected for that purpose.

Tempus Two

Cnr Broke Road and McDonalds Roads, Pokolbin NSW 2320

Phone: 02 4993 3999

Fax: 02 4993 3988

Open 9am-5pm

From a standing start of 6,000 cases in 1997, Tempus Two now produces in excess of 100,000 cases of wine and service markets in the UK, Philippines, New Zealand, and growing. Tempus Two produces wines from

premium vineyards in South Australia, Western Australia and New South Wales. There are classic varietals such as Barossa Valley Shiraz and Hunter Valley Semillon, and regional blends that exhibit the true Tempus Two style. Despite this enormous growth, attention to detail will always be the hallmark of Tempus Two. It is the small detail, such as exclusive imported bottles, pewter labels, hand-plunging of reds, open-vat fermentation, and lesser-known grape varieties and personalised hand selling that has made Tempus Two a remarkable and proven player in the wine industry.

Pepper Tree Wines

86 Halls Road, Pokolbin NSW 2320

Phone: 02 4998 7539

Fax: 02 4998 7746

Website: www.peppertreewines.com.au

The Pepper Tree Winery was founded in 1991 and has been developed as one of the show places of Hunter Valley Wine Country. It is part of an integrated estate including vineyards, deluxe guest house and one of the region's most famed restaurants – Robert's. Pepper Tree is situated at the end of Halls Road off Broke Road, Pokolbin, in the heart of the Hunter Valley. The verdant gardens and vines enclose the New England-style wooden barns that house a truly great winery. A number of New South Wales Tourism Awards have been awarded to Pepper Tree. The winery has a wine club and a popular cellar door attracting 28,000 tourists per year. Pepper Tree produces premium, super and ultra-premium varietal wines sourced from its own vineyards in the Hunter, Orange, Coonawarra and Wrattontully viticultural areas. Pepper Tree is a vertically integrated estate winery that owns, farms, harvests all of its own grapes and crushes, vinifies, ages and bottles all of its own wines at the winery. The 2005 crush was the Winery's 15th vintage. Pepper Tree is well established in Australia, currently selling more than 40,000 cases per year nationwide with a heavy emphasis on specialty stores and fine restaurants. Pepper Tree currently exports wine to New Zealand, Malaysia, China, Japan, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland and Canada, with plans to begin exports to the US and UK markets.

Also pay a visit to Pokolbin's town centre – Hunter Valley Gardens Village. It features a variety of boutique specialty shops, restaurants, attractions, a beautiful chapel and free entertainment in the village rotunda on weekends. Enjoy the beautifully landscaped gardens of the village and make the most of the picnic facilities, located right next to the fully enclosed children's playground. Check out the Hunter Valley Chocolate Co. and Bliss Coffee for some great gourmet treats!

Check in to your accommodation.



Accommodation suggestions are as follows:

Peppers Convent Hunter Valley

Halls Road, Pokolbin NSW 2320

Phone: 02 4998 7764

Fax: 02 4998 7323

Email convent@peppers.com.au

Website: www.peppers.com.au

Set in beautiful gardens and vineyards in Australia's world famous Hunter Valley Wine Country, just two hours drive from Sydney, Peppers Convent Hunter Valley offers luxury hotel accommodation and the ideal getaway for those wishing to truly indulge themselves. This romantic retreat was once home to the Brigidine Nuns at Coonamble in before being carefully transported 600 km to where is now sits in the Pepper Tree Estate. The 17 deluxe accommodation rooms at Peppers Convent Hunter Valley have been lovingly restored to reflect the building's charming heritage and character. Just a short stroll from the renowned Robert's Restaurant and Pepper Tree wine-tasting barn, this is the ideal place to relax and be pampered in an intimate accommodation hideaway.

Tonic Hotel

251 Talga Road, Lovedale NSW

Phone: 02 4930 9999

Contact: Tom & Nici Stanford

Email: stay@tonichotel.com.au

Website: www.tonichotel.com.au

Set in simple modern surroundings, Australian design, steel and glass against native grasses, Tonic Hotel has non-invasive service – discrete and informal, no formal check in and check out. Just let yourself in, the fridge is full...relax... Every luxury – crisp, white linen, the best towels, groovy furniture and the latest in gadgets, Tonic is opulent minimalism.

The Carriages Country House

Halls Road, Pokolbin NSW 2321

Phone: 02 4998 7591

Fax: 02 4998 7839

Contact: Ben & Lise Dawson

Email: stay@thecarriages.com.au

Website: www.thecarriages.com.au

The Carriages Country House offers superb accommodation set among vineyards and beautiful lush gardens in the heart of Pokolbin – location! Location! Huge shady verandas with cosy cane furniture. Decorated in gorgeous antique country pine, squashy sofas and feather doonas. Enjoy

the personal attention to detail. Indulge in a chilled Chardonnay by the secluded, landscaped pool – perhaps a game of tennis? Romance by the open fire in the privacy of your own room.

Hunter Valley Gardens

Broke Road, Pokolbin NSW 2320

Phone: 02 4998 4000

Fax: 02 4998 7710

Website: www.hvg.com.au

Nestling at the foothills of the Brokenback Ranges in the heart of the Hunter vineyards is Hunter Valley Gardens, one of Australia's premier tourist destinations. Created by Bill Roche, who with his family form the Australian-owned company Roche Group, the entire property now spans more than 300 hectares. The key components of this award-winning property include Tallawanta Lodge & Conference Centre, Harrigan's Irish Pub & Accommodation, Grapeview Villas, Lazzarini's Restaurant, Roche Wines, Hunter Valley Gardens Village, BBQ and picnic grounds, children's playground and a beautiful chapel for private services, weddings or christenings. The jewel in the crown however, is of course the Hunter Valley gardens themselves – 25 hectares of spectacular international display Gardens that will amaze you with sensational sights, colours, fragrances and adventures all of a standard you won't see elsewhere in Australia.

May we suggest for dinner this evening you try the award winning [Roberts Restaurant](#).

Roberts Restaurant

Hall Road, Pokolbin NSW 2325

Phone: 02 4998 7330

Fax: 02 4998 7329

Email: info@robertsrestaurant.com

Website: www.robertsrestaurant.com

Set in an early settler's slab cottage in Hunter Valley's Pokolbin, the restaurant is the life and love of award winning restaurateurs Robert and Sally Molines. Together they have created a gastronomic experience which equals any 5-star eating establishments – anywhere. A meal at Robert's is more than just memorable. It is a dining experience. Robert's Italian/French background gives him a flair for food rivalled only by the panache with which he serves it.



DAY TWO: LOVEDALE & POKOLBIN AREAS

Enjoy a Hot Air Balloon Flight with Balloon Aloft. On a perfect way to start a day in Wine Country, sail over the vineyards and bushland. After the flight your pilot will read a special poem to the group you can sip a champagne.

Balloon Aloft

1443 Wine Country Drive, North Rothbury
Contact: Judy Lynn
Phone: 02 4938 1955
Web site: www.balloonaloft.com.au

This morning explore the Lovedale Area. Winery suggestions:

Capercaillie Wine Company

4 Londons Road, Lovedale NSW 2325
Phone: 02 4990 2904
Fax: 02 4991 1886
Email: capercaillie@hunterlink.net.au
Website: www.capercailliewine.com.au

Capercaillie Wine Company was established in the Hunter Valley by Alasdair and Trish Sutherland in 1995 when they built a small modern winery on an excellent 20-year-old vineyard. Alasdair is a Scot, and his heritage is reflected in the very name 'Capercaillie'. It is the Gaelic name given to the black woodlands grouse, native to the pine forests of Scotland. Capercaillie's ambition is to remain a small, family-owned business, which is focused entirely on creating of premium-quality wines. To enhance the range of individual Hunter Valley wines, Alasdair has chosen select parcels of grapes from other proven regions of Australia, creating exciting multi-area blends which highlight climatic and varietal differences.

Sandalyn Wilderness Estate

Wilderness Road, Rothbury NSW 2321
Phone: 02 4930 7611
Fax: 02 4930 7611
E-mail: sandalyn@hunterlink.net.au

This is more than just a winery. Taste local wines, olive oils and gourmet chocolates. Every weekend at Sandalyn Estate, one of the Hunter Valley's most beautiful boutique wineries, the Olive & the Grape hosts a three-hour Tuscan-style cooking class teaching you the traditional art of pasta making. You'll learn the magic of turning flour and free-range eggs, sticky fingers and laughter into mouth-watering pasta – the way it's been done for generations. The class concludes with a leisurely two-course alfresco lunch where the star attraction is you and the pasta you've just made.

Allandale Winery

132 Lovedale Road, Lovedale NSW 2320
Phone: 02 4990 4526
Email: wines@allandalewinery.com.au
Website: www.allandalewinery.com.au

Established in 1978, Allandale Winery has developed an enviable reputation as a producer of multi-award winning wines known for their full flavour, excellent structure and distinctive varietal character. The winery is situated on a hill in Lovedale with panoramic views across vineyards to Brokenback Mountain. The friendly staff at Allandale are ready to make you feel welcome when you come to taste the diverse range of regional wines available Open 7 days. Once in Allandale's cellar door visitors find themselves among the vats, French and American oak barrels, pumps, presses and a myriad of other bits and pieces which go to make up a modern boutique winery. During vintage, the whole process is visible to the cellar-door guest with the winemaker constantly in sight offering the opportunity to discuss winemaking. Visitors to Allandale Winery have their minds educated in the ways of winemaking and their palates excited by the quality wines.

Wandin Valley Estate

Wilderness Road, Lovedale NSW
Phone: 02 4930 7317
Fax: 02 4930 7814
Email: sales@wandinvalley.com.au
Website: www.wandinvalley.com.au

Wandin Valley Estate is situated in the Lovedale area of the lower Hunter Valley on the slopes of the Molly Morgan Mountains with views over Pokolbin towards the Brokenback Range. The vineyard was established in the early 1970s and the mature Shiraz and Chardonnay vines are now 30 years old. It is from these vines that our Reserve Chardonnay and Bridie's Shiraz are produced. Originally called Millstone Vineyard, the property was bought by James and Philippa Davern in 1990 and since then there has been a continual programme of development with the building of a new state-of-the-art winery and new plantings of Shiraz, Chardonnay, Merlot and Malbec.

The philosophy behind the development of the Estate has always been to produce wines of premium quality, and to establish a unique tourist destination for visitors. The estate has accommodation for guests in self-contained Italian-style villas, a café, cellar door and art gallery, swimming pool, tennis court and a country cricket ground with a gracious pavilion.



James Davern, was a film and television producer for 30 years. He worked initially for the Australian Broadcasting Commission producing drama and music programmes and in 1979 he established his own independent production company called JNP FILMS which was responsible for a long-running series *A Country Practice* as well as many other film and television programmes. He and Philippa bought the vineyard in 1990 and renamed it for sentimental reasons after the fictional town from the series *A Country Practice*.

Tatler Wines & Café

477 Lovedale Road, Lovedale NSW 2325
Phone: 02 4930 9139
Website: www.tatlerwines.com.au

Taste a wide range of award-winning, hand-crafted wines, superb Australian and imported olive oil and gourmet products, all from Lovedale's newest boutique cellar door.

If you don't have lunch at Tatler, another suggestion is [Leaves & Fishes](#).

Leaves & Fishes

373 Lovedale Road, Lovedale NSW 2320
Phone: 02 4930 7400
Fax: 02 4930 7757

Leaves & Fishes philosophy is fresh, smart and simple. Seasonal à la carte menu, antipasto, the freshest home-grown fish and handcut chips, buckets of prawns, freshly shucked oysters or just a prime cut. And smooth, rich coffee to finish. Casual boathouse dining with scenery to match or, if you prefer, take-away packs.

This afternoon you may like to visit [Cypress Lakes Resort](#) for a round of golf or to relax at the day spa.

Take your breaks at Cypress Lakes, and experience all the Hunter Valley has to offer. A short break is undoubtedly the ultimate way to rejuvenate the mind, body and soul. You deserve to escape and indulge in the finer pleasures of life. Escape...sipping the flavours of a winemakers craft, swinging the club to conquer the greens, slipping into a trance from a pampering treatment, spoiling yourself, or perhaps a special friend. Just a 90-minute drive north of Sydney, in the heart of the lush Hunter Valley wine country, Cypress Lakes Resort offers a combination of luxurious villa accommodation and first-class facilities.

Cypress Lakes Resort

Cnr McDonalds & Thompsons Road, Pokolbin NSW
Phone: 02 4993 1555
Fax: 02 4993 1599
Website: www.cypresslakes.com.au

Whilst in the area, you may like to check out:

Audrey Wilkinson Vineyard

DeBeyers Road, Pokolbin NSW 2320
Phone: 02 4998 7411
Fax: 02 4998 7824
Email: wines@audreywilkinson.com.au
Website: www.audreywilkinson.com.au

[Return to your accommodation to freshen up.](#)

[A dinner suggestion for this evening is:](#)

Chez Pok Restaurant

Peppers Guesthouse, Ekerts Road, Pokolbin NSW 2320
Ph: 02 4993 8999
Email: chezpok@peppers.com.au
Website: www.peppers.com.au

Chez Pok restaurant at Peppers Guest House Hunter Valley offers award-winning dining with fresh food and wine from the region. Chef Jamie Hartcher is famous for his ability to blend regional delicacies, matching them to local wines to create intense flavours. The menu at Chez Pok emphasises modern Australian cuisine with French, Asian and Italian influences and herbs picked from the retreat's own garden. The extraordinary wine list reflects the best of the region. Chez Pok offers an intimate, fine-dining experience in a warm, relaxing atmosphere. Chez Pok is open 7 days.

[Overnight: Hunter Valley](#)



DAY THREE: HUNTER VALLEY TO SYDNEY

This morning you may like to partake in one of the Hunter Valley's ultimate Wine Experiences – Hunter Valley Wine School.

The two-hour Hunter Valley Wine School provides an education about wine. Walk through the vineyard and learn how and why a grapevine grows. Then it's off to the crusher, and into the winery. See the huge vats, the potter tanks, the filtration equipment, and the largest Roto vat in the Hunter. From there the tour moves through to the cask hall and into the wine tasting cellars. Then there is the structured wine tutorial including history or wine making, grape varieties and what does one look for in bouquet, taste, and colour?

Hunter Resort

Hermitage Road, Pokolbin NSW 2320

Phone: 02 4998 7777

Fax: 02 4998 7787

Email: sales@hunterresort.com.au

Website: www.hunterresort.com.au

Alternatively, you may wish to visit the Rothbury area.

The Vintage

Vintage Drive, Rothbury NSW

Phone: 02 4998 6789

Email: golfshop@thevintage.com.au

Website: www.thevintage.com.au

Discover an exceptional golfing experience. Set against the backdrop of Brokenback Ridge, The Vintage boasts an 18-hole Greg Norman-designed course created specifically to reflect the area's natural environment and the prestigious Hunter Valley lifestyle. The Vintage Golf Club ranks among the best in Australia and has recently received accolades from major golfing publications.

Bimbadgen Estate

790 Mc Donalds Road, Pokolbin NSW 2320

Phone: 02 4998 7585

Fax: 02 4998 7732

Website: www.bimbadgen.com.au

The Hunter Valley region has long been regarded as a premium wine-producing area. Its renowned in particular for its classic bottle-aged Semillon, full-flavoured Chardonnay and intense Shiraz styles. The Hunter Valley's soils are naturally suited to the growing of high quality grapes that are characteristically full of flavour, depth and intensity. Bimbadgen Estate vineyards have been producing such grapes for more than 30 years. Currently, the estate's mature vines naturally yield approximately two to four tonnes of premium grapes per hectare. Ideal for production of the finest wines.

May we suggest lunch at Esca.

The pleasure that is Esca Bimbadgen is its fresh, modern Australian cuisine and style. Esca Bimbadgen is situated overlooking the estate's vineyards. Winner of The Restaurant & Catering Association Awards, Best Restaurant in a Winery in the Hunter Region, and Finalist in the Metropolitan Awards 2001 and 2002, it is a dining experience offering superlative Australian food and wine. The emphasis at Esca Bimbadgen is quality and relaxation.

Esca Bimbadgen

Bimbadgen Estate, Pokolbin NSW 2320

Phone: 02 4998 4666

Depart for Sydney via Cessnock and the F3 Freeway.