

A TWO-DAY PLAN FOR THE ALTERNATIVE TASTE TRAIL

Melba Highway
Yarra Valley

With 16 different varieties of wines to try in this micro region alone, you will be quite an accomplished wine lover by the time you've explored this gem of a trail.

Day one has a serious amount of food and wine involved. Enjoy! Day two is a bit slower paced with options to create-your-own-adventure with choices of fabulous cellar doors, sprawling parkland and glorious gardens to wander and stretch the legs. Like every good road trip - there will always be reasons to come back but we hope we've helped with that eternal question ... 'Where to next?'



DAY ONE ITALIAN INFLUENCES

MORNING START

1. Sweet beginnings start here at the **Yarra Valley Chocolaterie**, where you can enjoy a hot chocolate or coffee (and something to eat in the cafe) and marvel at the wonderful creations of the European chocolatiers.
2. Late morning wander over to the stunning **Zonzo Estate**, where the wines are plentiful and the setting has an Italian feel, from the antipasti to the prosecco. Admire the old milking shed - (which is now the Restaurant), the Cappella and Barrel Room and enjoy a tasting at the cellar door.
3. If you need to stretch your legs, there's plenty of open space at the estate or you can make your way to the **Yarra Glen Recreation Reserve** for a wander or explore the shops on the main street for antiques and local produce.

LUNCH AND BEYOND

4. **Mandala Wines** is your next destination and lucky for you it's lunch time because the onsite Italian restaurant DiVino is a fabulous place to enjoy an authentic woodfired pizza, or a mezze lunch with a view. Taste the wines and then enjoy them with your meal before stocking up.
5. Take an afternoon sojourn to the cellar door at **Corniola Wines** in Dixons Creek. This family have been making estate wines since the 1970s and are delighted to share their wine wisdom.
6. Finish your day with a glass of wine on the deck overlooking vineyards - it's the Yarra Valley thing to do! If you're looking for intimate and unique accommodation you may choose to stay the night at **Sutherland Estate** right above the cellar door - but book ahead - it's super popular all year.

EVENING

7. Otherwise the perfect finish to your day is a stay over package at **Balgownie Estate**, also the home to Natskin Spa and a truly inspired range of wines. (An unfortunate kitchen fire in June 2020 has put a hold of the restaurant activities until further notice however the accommodation is open and warmly welcoming.)

Expand your wine vocabulary, and home cellar, by discovering the new varietals from around the world grown right here: Colombar, Verdelho, Tempranillo and Petit Verdot are just the beginning in this region.

*Road Trip
Yarra Valley*

**FIND
YOUR
SELF** | **MELBOURNE'S
YARRA VALLEY**

visityarravalley.com.au

DAY TWO

GARDENS, MUSIC & MASTERS

Unhurried – that’s the tone of the day. Just like a fine wine takes time, today’s meandering will take you into places where time doesn’t matter. After breakfast at your chosen accommodation ready to explore the world at our own pace.

MORNING START

1. Take deep breaths at **Alowyn Gardens**, a delightful collection of European and sculptured gardens that delight the senses regardless of the season. These gardens are the essence of love and an inspiration for many a garden renovation back home. There is a café for a Devonshire tea, a well-stocked nursery and more than eight acres to roam at your leisure.
2. Whet your appetite with a little pre-lunch wine tasting at **Yarrowood Estate**, which boasts 360 panoramic views, a lake and luscious lawns to picnic on. In summer, there’s entertainment and house famous platters abundant in local cheeses. The wines are handcrafted single vineyard and have attracted international acclaim.

TRY 2 OR 3

3. If you’re looking for a place to spend time in nature, **Sugarloaf Reservoir** is an easy 10 minute drive from the township of Yarra Glen and provides plenty of opportunities for a short stroll. Known for its wildlife sightings it’s also a delightful place to watch the boats and the world go by.

LUNCH AND BEYOND

4. Are you ready for a long lazy lunch? Stop by **Immerse Yarra Valley** – another place to admire the gardens and expand your palate beyond wine to craft beers and cider while enjoying a lunch of seasonal and locally grown delights.
5. **Greenstone Vineyards** showcase wines from the Yarra Valley and Heathcote on their picture-perfect deck with cheese platters and music regular parts of the menu. A winery tour is also offered for those who want to get behind the scenes.

TRY 5 OR 6

6. With it’s own little valley, **Fergusson Winery and Restaurant** is the place that will leave a lasting impression on you after two days of Alternative Taste travels. It’s hard to leave this magical setting where the fire roars in winter and the patio offers cool retreat in summer. Linger for dinner; share a moment at the cellar door and plan your return. The winery often has music on Sunday afternoons inviting you to ease back on the lawn and enjoy sundowners together.

Road Trip Yarra Valley

