

new south wales Hunter Valley



Heading north from Sydney you can choose the coastal route with its incredible beaches, or head inland for a wine-lover's heaven at the Hunter Valley. With more than 100 award-winning wineries, the Hunter is hard to go past – literally. Although the surrounding areas of Lovedale, Wollombi Valley, Branxton and Dalwood offer a quality selection of vineyards, the Pokolbin/Rothbury area is most well known. Its wineries read like a celebrity who's who in the wine business: McGuigan, McWilliams, De Bortoli, Lindemans, Rosemount Estate, Tyrrells Vineyards, Brokenwood Wines and Tulloch Wines.

Boutique wineries in the area include Constable & Hershon Vineyards which produces classic chardonnay, semillon, cabernet sauvignon and merlot; Ghost

Riders Vineyard which specialises in Hunter shiraz; and Tower Estate, which produces only 1000 cases each year of its shiraz, chardonnay and orange merlot.

In the Upper Hunter Valley region, Cruickshank offers a light cabernet rose, cabernet sauvignon and a blend of cabernet sauvignon and cabernet franc.

A trip to the Hunter Valley region could easily delay a traveller for more than a week, particularly if you time your visit to coincide with one of the area's renowned music festivals. Each year Wyndham Estate hosts Opera in the Vineyards, with great wines, gourmet delights, spectacular views and the exhilaration of opera. Tyrrells Wines takes another musical spin each year with its Jazz in the Vines event, usually held in late October.

More info: www.winecountry.com.au

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