



Italian Gourmet Safari to the Victorian High Country - 25 – 30 March 2012

SAMPLE ITINERARY ONLY

This is your opportunity to step into the culinary heaven you see on our TV show - **Italian Food Safari**. Join the extended families as they celebrate the Italian culture they brought to this incredibly beautiful part of Australia. We journey into the King and Ovens Valleys where many Italian families settled initially as tobacco farmers. Plus we'll have a day in the very pretty Kiewa Valley with two fabulous food experiences.

The lush soil and high altitude is now perfect for growing Italian varietal wines such as prosecco, nebbiolo, sangiovese, pinot grigio, dolcetto, arneis and barbera...Join us and taste these wonderful styles of wine that match so well with food. Meet many of the winemakers who are really putting these areas on the map.

Plus we will have a walk through pine forests and forage for pine mushrooms with Angelo Bonacci - the king of Fungi in Myrtleford, and we'll visit chestnut and walnut groves, explore the gardens of private estates and the kitchens of great cooks.

You will have an exceptional week of luxurious accommodation in country Victoria (Lindenwarrah in Milawa) combined with "kiss on both cheeks" warm Italian hospitality, countless "money can't buy" experiences including making our own pasta at a cooking school, enjoying time with 3 generations of food and wine loving families, al fresco lunches at long tables in the clear country air, visits to Italian winemakers in the King and Ovens Valleys, feasts prepared by legendary chefs, visits to producers, and much more...all with a backdrop of those lovely mountains - the beautiful Victorian High Country at its best.

Host and guide: Franca Norris

In the High Country: The Pizzini family, Miranda family, Dal Zotto family, Simone family, Bonacci and Norris families, the Crooke and Waddington families.

Day 1 – Sunday 25 March - Melbourne Airport - Meet Maeve at 11am at the Virgin Baggage collection area. We're picked up by our favourite driver Peter Hill in a luxury coach to drive to Milawa. We load up the bus and drive to Yarck for lunch. Banquet lunch at the Tearooms at Yarck. Then drive to Pietro Porcu's farm on the outskirts of Yarck for walk around and collecting eggs for brekkie at next stop. Drive to Milawa. Overnight Lindenwarrah. **L**

Day 2 – Monday 26 March - Breakfast at Lindenwarrah. Head to the King Valley to meet the Dal Zotto Family and spend the day exploring. Back to Milawa and a free evening for you to relax. Overnight Lindenwarrah. **B, L**

Day 3 – Tuesday 27 March - Breakfast at Lindenwarrah. We start our day in the pine forests outside Myrtleford and we will meet a local legend who is known as the mushroom man. If the gods smile on us, we will find some of the famed mushrooms, at the least we will have a lovely walk and great chat. We then go on to explore a walnut grove and meet a man who makes sensational nut liqueur - nocino. We'll have lunch in Beechworth and there will be time to explore the pretty centre of town and some lovely shops. Return to Milawa. Evening at leisure. **B, L**

Day 4 – Wednesday 28 March – Breakfast at Lindenwarrah. We start today with a view over the lovely King valley with Fred Pizzini who will take us up amongst his reserve nebbiolo vines to taste the fruit on the vine and to learn some of the history of the valley and how the Italian varietals came to be planted. We then pop in to meet Fred's son Joel who will be hard at work with their year's vintage then head into a hands on cooking class with Katrina Pizzini ...her gnocchi recipe is sought after and will be our first course...then up to nonno and nonna's garden for a couple more courses served with the Pizzini's wonderful wines. We then drive over to the Politini family for coffee and Josie's delicious home-made canola and biscuits. Light dinner with the inspiring Sam Miranda at his winery. Overnight at Lindenwarrah. **B, L, Light Dinner**

Day 5 – Thursday 29 March - Breakfast and then head off for day in Bright including lunch and visits to farmers. Al fresco lunch with Umbrian queen Patrizia Simone- she and her husband George and son Anthony have created a wonderful 2 hat restaurant in Bright...though today we aim to recreate the scene captured for *Food Safari* – a true al fresco feast on the long table by the stream...we will also visit Patrizia's great "finds" amongst the Italian expat community who grow and raise produce especially for her restaurant. This will include a walk through a beautiful chestnut orchard and visits to private estates. Visit Stanley Pub. Overnight Lindenwarrah **B, L**

Day 6 – Friday 30 March – Breakfast at Lindenwarrah then check out. Today we explore the lovely Kiewa Valley and visit the inspiring Sarah and Stephen Crooke who live on a beautiful historic dairying property that's been in the family for generations. From their Holstein herd they produce some exceptional milk, which makes some of the best ice-cream in the world. You'll try the famous Gundowring ice cream along with morning tea on the lawn. Further down the road is one of Victoria's beautiful country restaurants – Waddingtons at Kergunyah which sources much of its produce locally including the restaurant's vegetable garden...you'll meet the Waddington family who run the restaurant and bask in those great views over the valley. You can take the option of popping home from Albury (there is a service to Sydney at 4.50pm on Qantas) or head back to Melbourne with the bus. We would be back in Melbourne at approx 7 pm. **B, L**

Includes: 5 nights Luxury accommodation in Milawa, coach transport to Victorian High Country, meals as specified – 5 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 1 dinner, wines included.

Cost: \$2995.00 per person, twin share. \$3550.00 single. Deposit: \$450.00 per person, non refundable deposit at the time of booking.

For more information please contact **Gourmet Safaris** – 02 8969 6555 or info@gourmetsafaris.com.au
For bookings, please contact David Vuong Travel on 02 9516 2990

Terms and conditions:

Deposit and Payment: A **non-refundable deposit** of \$450 per person is required on confirmation in order to secure your reservation. Final payment is due 45 days prior to departure date.

Special Requirements: Please advise Gourmet Safaris of any special requirements such as Special Meals, Medical Requirements etc., as soon as possible. If you get motion sickness it is imperative that you bring with you motion sickness pills as we travel by boat and coach through sometimes winding and bumpy roads.

Travel Insurance: We strongly recommend you purchase a comprehensive travel insurance policy of your choice at the time of booking. Insurance covers cancellation fees payable for airline tickets, accommodation, loss of deposit, luggage etc. Normal travel insurance conditions apply. (Insurance may not cover trip cancellation due to pre-existing medical conditions). Please read your policy carefully.

Cancellation: If cancelling prior to final payment the deposit is non-refundable. After final payment is received a cancellation fee of approximately 75% applies. This percentage may be less depending on the date of cancellation. A cancellation fee of 100% is applicable within 14 days of travel. If cancellation is not due to pre-existing illnesses, travel insurance will cover most or all of the cancellation fee. Please read your policy carefully.

Pricing: All prices are shown in Australian dollars and are current at the date of printing this itinerary. If there is a dramatic fluctuation in the exchange rate or the price of services provided, which are beyond the control of Gourmet Safaris, Gourmet Safaris reserves the right to adjust tour prices accordingly, even though the balance of payment may have been made. This would only happen in unusual circumstances.

Exclusions: Excess baggage, extra meals, laundry, drinks, items of a personal nature and gratuities.

Itinerary Validity and Content: This itinerary is valid for the period of **2012** unless otherwise specified. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. Gourmet Safaris shall not be liable for any injury, damage or loss caused by any inaccuracy. Gourmet Safaris reserves the right to change tour arrangements or accommodations due to safety or security reasons, and will endeavour to provide alternative arrangements of the same standard as that originally booked.

Disclaimer: Gourmet Safaris is not a carrier or hotelier, nor do we own aircraft, hotels or coaches. The services Gourmet Safaris supplies consist of arranging and coordinating accommodation, tours and transfers, making bookings and issuing vouchers to be redeemed by suppliers if necessary. We exercise every care in the selection of reputable airlines, tour operators, coach operators, hotels and other suppliers of the various travel services which are used in these tours. It is important to note, therefore, all bookings with Gourmet Safaris are subject to the terms, conditions and limitations of liability imposed by the service providers whose services we utilise, some of which limit or exclude liability in respect of death, personal injury, delay and loss or damage of baggage. Because of this Gourmet Safaris does not accept liability for events beyond our control nor liability for accidents incurred due to actions taken at your own risk.

Clients' Responsibilities: It is your responsibility to obtain passports, health certificates or other travel documents where required for the tour. It remains your responsibility to ensure that these documents are in order and to meet any additional costs incurred as a result of failure to comply with such requirements. It is also your responsibility to obtain any vaccinations that may be required to travel.