



## Italian Gourmet Safari to the Victorian High Country 3 – 8 March 2024

### SAMPLE ITINERARY

Counting the sleeps! We are so looking forward to sharing culinary heaven with you.

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 Italians 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 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'll have a walk through pine forests and forage for pine mushrooms, and we'll explore the gardens of private estates and the kitchens of great cooks.

You will have an exceptional week of luxurious accommodation in country Victoria (Lancemore 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 guides:** Maeve O'Meara and Franca Norris

**In the High Country:** The Pizzini family, Miranda family, Dal Zotto family, Bonacci and Norris families, the Crooke and Waddington families plus Michael Ryan at Provenance in Beechworth, and the Simone family in Bright.

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**Day 1 – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March - Melbourne Airport** – For guests arriving today, meet at **11.30am** at the Virgin Baggage collection area at the airport. We're picked up by our favourite driver, Peter Hill, in a comfortable coach. We load up the bus and drive to Da Noi Restaurant in South Yarra, which is owned by chef Pietro Porcu for lunch (Pietro was also our guide on our beautiful Sardinia & Corsica Safari). Pietro will prepare a delicious Sardinian feast. We then depart for Milawa and settle into our accommodation. Overnight Lancemore Milawa. **L**

**Day 2 – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March** - Breakfast at Lancemore Milawa. We head into the beautiful King Valley and start up high amongst the vines with a view over the lovely King valley with Fred Pizzini and daughter Nat who 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. You'll enjoy a sparkling glass of their divine brachetto and then join Fred's wife Katrina who will share her light as air gnocchi recipe. You'll have the opportunity to taste some of the Pizzini's renowned wines in the cellar and with an al fresco lunch with some of the family. Back to Milawa and a free evening. Overnight Lancemore Milawa. **B, L**

**Day 3 – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March** - Breakfast at Lancemore Milawa. We start our day in the pine forests outside Myrtleford and pick up Franca Norris to guide us. We then visit Franca and Donald's lovely home and explore their cellar full of homemade salami and bottled tomatoes and taste homemade sensational nut liqueur - nocino. On the way to Beechworth we'll visit Snowline Orchard for a taste of their delicious Honey Gold Apples. We'll have lunch at the acclaimed two-hat Provenance Restaurant in Beechworth. After lunch we'll visit Gapsted Winery for a tasting and chat. Overnight Lancemore Milawa. **B, L**

**Day 4 – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March** – Breakfast at Lancemore Milawa. Today we explore the Kiewa Valley. Visit Yackandandah to meet artist Charles Sluga and wife Nancy. Time to explore the shops in Yack (as the locals call it). We'll then visit Myrtleford to explore and then drive to one of Victoria's beautiful country restaurants – Waddingtons at Kergunyah, which sources much of its produce locally including the restaurant's own vegetable garden. After lunch we'll visit the inspiring Sarah and Stephen Crooke who live on a beautiful historic dairy

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 for afternoon tea. We'll then we head back to Milawa. In the evening we will visit the beautiful Sam Miranda Winery and have a glass of prosecco and some delicious canapés and a walk through the vines. Overnight at Lancemore Milawa. **B, L, D**

**Day 5 – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March** - Breakfast and then head off for day in Bright. We'll start the day with a visit to the Australian Pumpkin Seed company. Franca recommends their dark chocolate coated pumpkin seeds! We'll see pumpkin seeds being crushed, have a cooking demonstration and a visit to the Sunflower planting for photos. Then onto our friends who grow yuzu, bergamot, many types of citrus and a visit to a chestnut grove to meet the 'man of the trees" Don Arden. In Bright we enjoy an al fresco lunch with Umbrian queen Patrizia Simone who created the acclaimed Simone's hatted restaurant in Bright...starting with a prosecco and antipasto by the river. Time after lunch to stroll through Bright. Overnight Lancemore Milawa. **B, L**

**Day 6 – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March** – Breakfast at Lancemore Milawa then check out. We drive to the King Valley to meet the effervescent Dal Zotto Family who are one of the long-established wine dynasties of the area. Patriarch Otto Dal Zotto will be joined by his wife Elena, sons Michael who's the wine maker and Christian who's the marketing guru of the family...every year we have the legendary bocce championship which is always great fun. We'll also do some hands-on cooking and enjoy a long lunch before heading back to Melbourne via the airport. We aim to be back at Melbourne airport by 6.30pm. **B, L**

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**Includes:** 5 nights Luxury accommodation in Milawa, coach transport to Victorian High Country, meals as specified – 5 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 1 dinner, most wines included. (On the days that dinner is not included it is because we will have enjoyed a lovely long lunch) Meals or salads or cheese platters available at our accommodation. Plus there's the Milawa pub a short stroll away where we are known to enjoy a glass with the locals.

#### **Terms and conditions:**

**Deposit and Payment:** A **non-refundable deposit** of \$500 per person is required on confirmation in order to secure your reservation. Final payment is due 60 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 **2024** 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