

CLARE VALLEY

Bungaree Station

Escape to the charmingly secluded Clare Valley and disappear into a weekend of intimate discovery. Hide away in a quaint little bed and breakfast or venture out to explore the rolling countryside by bike. Indulge in delicious local food and wine in the heart of Australian Riesling country.

- ▶ The wider Clare Valley is a region of plains, pastures and valleys, stretching 200kms long and 100kms wide.
- ▶ Located about two hour's drive north of Adelaide, the secluded Clare Valley is a hidden gem bounded by picturesque farmland. The region is made up of over 30 towns and many small villages. Its main industries are tourism, viticulture, cereal crops and merino wool.
- ▶ Jesuit priests planted the region's first grapes in 1851, just 15 years after European settlers arrived in South Australia. Today, Jesuits are still making sacramental wine at one of Australia's oldest and most unique wineries, Sevenhill.
- ▶ Wineries date back to the 1850s and international wine judges continue to rate the Rieslings and Shiraz as among the best in the world. Australian wine writer James Halliday said, 'Unlocking the secrets of the Clare Valley is a pastime open to all who visit this most beautiful part of Australia.'
- ▶ The Clare Valley has more than 30 cellar doors to visit, and a plethora of wineries which sit along a narrow 40km corridor between Auburn and Clare. A bike trail, aptly named the Riesling Trail, follows this corridor as it criss-crosses the Clare Valley through vineyards and wineries, scattered between each town and village.
- ▶ If you can't decide which cellar door to visit, follow the winding road to Annie's Lane. Home to the heritage-listed Quelltaler Estate and century old cellars, this beautiful winery makes for a picturesque afternoon. Sample some exclusive cellar door drops, mosey around the winemaking museum or listen to some live music at 'A Day on the Green' in March.
- ▶ Australia's first gourmet weekend was held in the Clare Valley in 1984. Thousands still make the pilgrimage to what is known as the 'heart of Australian Riesling', the Clare Valley, to celebrate the end of vintage each May.

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Clare Valley Fields

- ▶ The Clare Valley is home to an emerging gourmet food scene, presenting opportunities to taste the best locally grown produce served in beautiful historic buildings. Snack, nibble and munch your way along the region's new Clare Valley Food Trail. Here resident food-lovers use time-honoured methods to produce everything from grain-fed chicken and organic lamb to chutney and extra virgin olive oils.
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- ▶ While the Clare Valley is the perfect romantic getaway, Mintaro is a great town to visit with the kids. Lose your inhibitions and sense of direction at The Mintaro Maze. Made from 800m of conifer hedge, with beautiful fountains and giant-sized board games - it's the perfect spot for some afternoon fun and a picnic.
- ▶ For more serious cyclists, why not enter the Clare Classic? Commonly referred to as Australia's Gran Fondo, this famous endurance race takes cyclists on the grand tour of the historic township. From meandering country roads, to challenging terrain, participants will get to experience the true heart of this wine region.
- ▶ Meet the locals at one of Clare Valley's many markets and fairs, from the Auburn Markets, to the Clare Valley Food Wine and Art Market, and the Burra Show.
- ▶ The valley's rich cultural heritage dates back 160 years with historical towns such as Burra, Watervale, Sevenhill and Mintaro being preserved to this day as a tribute to the 19th century copper miners and early settlers.
- ▶ One of the greatest features of the Clare Valley is the large number of intact heritage buildings. Since European settlers arrived in the 1840s to share the land with the Ngadjuri people, a big effort has gone into preserving the region's history.
- ▶ Copper found in Kapunda in 1838 shaped the early history of the region; within 30 years, Burra's Monster Mine was the world's biggest mine. The mine closed in 1877, but the mine's tunnels have been preserved for visitors to explore.
- ▶ Pack your walking boots and uncover our heritage at nearby conservation parks. Discover the giant 50,000-year-old wombat fossil, wander past stunning native wildflowers or drop by and say hello at majestic colonial homes such as Martindale Hall.
- ▶ Red Banks Conservation Park is one of Australia's richest megafauna sites with a natural process of revealing its treasures.
- ▶ This region's weather is cool to moderate with an average maximum daily temperature of 13°C in winter and 29°C in summer.

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