

WORDS &amp; PHOTOS ANNIE WADDINGTON-FEATHER.

# Grape escapes

The Barossa Valley offers some of the best wine and fresh produce in South Australia and it can all be discovered on foot.

**M**ost people think exploring the majestic Barossa Valley requires long days in a car but now a number of great walking tracks mean you can put on your walking boots and not worry about who's going to be the designated driver.

At first glance, the wineries appear to be too far apart to walk between but there are a number of trails which take in wineries as well as showcasing the wildlife and stunning countryside.

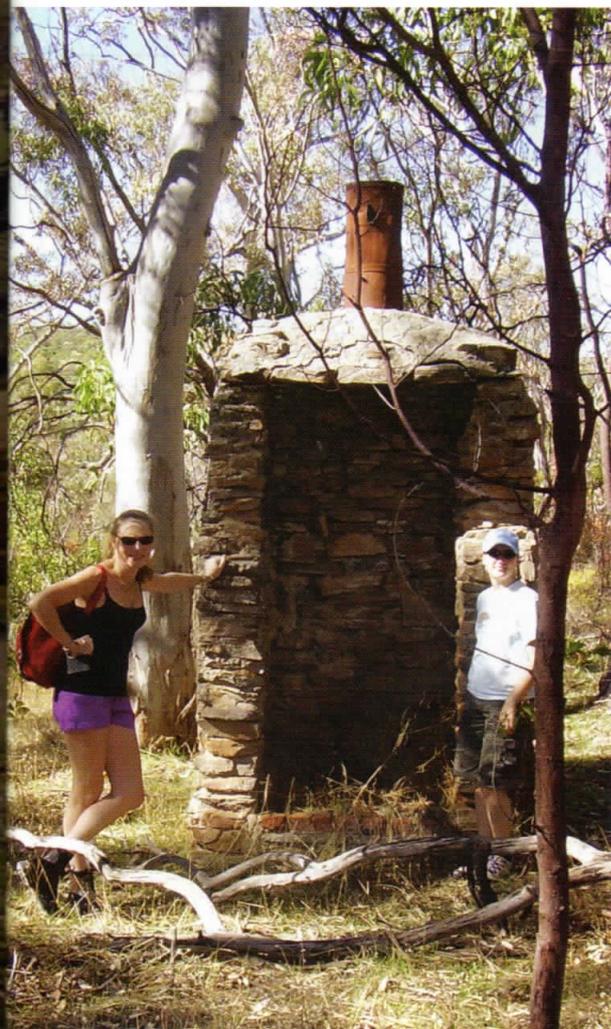
The Barossa Valley is positively bursting with wineries and gourmet delights. The early settlers took advantage of the fertile soils and Mediterranean climate and over the years the Barossa has developed a distinctive cuisine to complement its wines so you'll have plenty of good food to try – and there's no better way to work up an appetite than to go for a swift walk.

## Little Keiserstuhl Country Walk

The Tourist Office in Tanunda has a good map of the area and can tell you all about the available walking trails. One of the best walks in the area is the Little Keiserstuhl Country Walk.

Drive out of Tanunda, heading towards Gawler on the B19 for about 10 minutes. Turn left at the barrels along Krondorff Road. It's worth calling in at Rockford wines on the left hand side, for not only the wines, but also for the Krondorf Trading Company's delicious fresh produce.

Bev Poutney, the maker of these gourmet delights, is a lively character, who when not in the kitchen, is out dancing rock 'n roll and the jitterbug. With products ranging from spicy blueberry sauce and fig and chilli pickle to seasonally-





produced quince jelly and cumquat marmalade, the flavours of the Barossa have taken on a new dimension.

At the end of Krondorff road is Barossa Vines winery which is the start of the Little Keiserstuhl Country Walk.

Starting at Checkpoint K1, marked next to the gate, at the left of the winery, climb over the metal stile and begin the steep uphill walk. The views of the Barossa Valley from here are magnificent. Further up, the path begins to glisten with quartzite and mica schist deposits.

Clamber over another stile before the trail gives way to a dirt track lined by a variety of vegetation including swamp wattle, golden wattle, grass-trees and blue gums.

Further down the trail, just off the track there's an old chimney, complete with a rusty metal cooking pot. It's possibly the remains of

an old shepherds hut. Even along this rural dirt road your gourmet theme continues and you might encounter people looking for olive trees. "A group of us collect wild olives and make our own olive oil," one woman we met told us.

The Barossa Vines cellar door is a welcome sight at the end of the walk which serves a range of locally produced food.

### Para Road Walking Trail

Whilst in Tanunda another good walk to do is the Para Road Walking Trail. It's best done in the afternoon if you're staying overnight in Tanunda. Walking between the four wineries has a distinct advantage over driving, although your rucksack could be noticeably heavier by the end of the day if you're tempted to buy some fine wines.

# How to get great tasting lightweight hiking food.

Consider the food you take when you're bushwalking. When you're carrying it, light is good. When you're eating it, delicious is good. That's why owning a Fowlers Vacola Ultimate dehydrator makes good sense for bushwalkers.

### Satisfaction and saving.

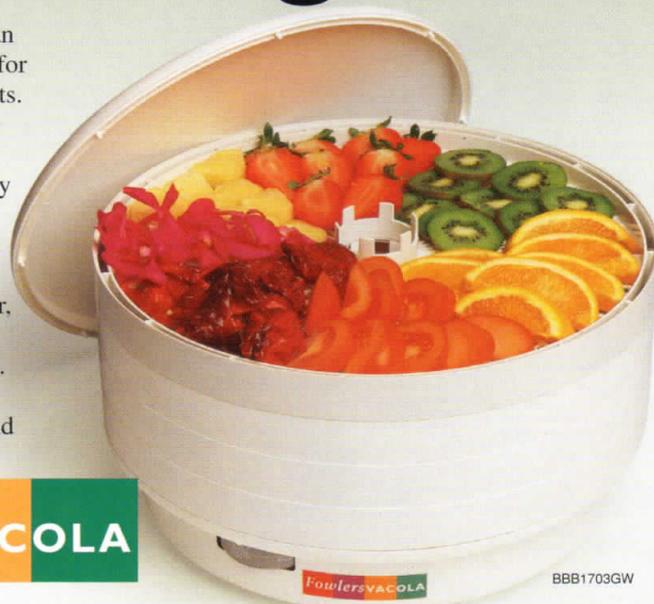
Dried foods make the ideal lightweight bushwalking meal, and when you make it yourself you save so much compared with shop bought dried food.

### Quick, easy and good.

The Fowlers Vacola Ultimate is easy to use. It dries food quickly and has a full range of accessories. Best of all it has a

thermostat control so you can dry at the right temperature for great tasting nutritious results. You can make fruit leathers, beef jerky, dried soups, vegetables, meats and energy foods at a fraction of the shop bought cost.

See the Fowlers Vacola Ultimate dehydrator at Myer, Mitre 10, Home Hardware, Thrifty Link and True Value. Or call us on 1800 814 444 for recipes, free brochure and your nearest stockist.



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**“Walking between the wineries has an advantage over driving, although your rucksack could be heavier by the end of the day if you’re tempted to buy some fine wines.”**

Fortunately, most wineries offer a delivery service or you could call back the next day to pick up any purchases.

To start the track, walk from the centre of Tanunda up Murray Street. It’s about a 20 minute walk and whilst it’s quite a busy road, you can stop off at Illaparra Fortified Store and Cellar Door. I have a weakness for port so couldn’t resist stopping at “the original home of fortified winemaking”. Although still morning, it was after 6pm somewhere in the world, so we sampled some of the port and were sorely tempted by the hand-made fortified Barossa products like chocolates and jellies.

Continue along Murray Street to Stanley Lambert winery, the start of the trail. Stanley Lamberts wine has “tantalised the palates of diners in some in some of the world’s best restaurants,” according to its website and so you won’t be disappointed. Turn right out of Stanley Lambert, retrace your steps along Murray Street and turn right onto Para Road. Soon you see the impressive entrance of Richmond Grove and once inside you see a magnificent building resembling a medieval Flemish castle, complete with turret and shuttered windows.

The smell of maturing wine is tantalising as you enter the cellar door and Richmond Grove’s internationally recognised wine can be enjoyed inside or on the tranquil shaded veranda.

### Scene serene

The short walk between Richmond Grove and Peter Lehmann wines is very picturesque. Walk over the Para River via a small wooden bridge and an antique looking wooden cart will remind you of the first settlers. The tall gum trees provide a cooling shade and the rustic looking Peter Lehmann’s winery beckons.

At Peter Lehmann’s, the party next to us were obviously knowledgeable about wines. I couldn’t help but overhear “nice bouquet”, “a little too floral”, “a bit on the dry side”. Feeling the need to gen up on my ‘wine tasting-lingo’ I asked our assistant for a few pointers. She happily obliged with descriptions, such as full blooded and fruity little numbers.

## Birdwatching...

Gitzo developed the revolutionary Leveling tripod (LVL) for those who need fast set up and leveling accuracy. The center column can be moved vertically, and independently inclined in any direction at any angle up to 15°. Extremely useful for wild life photographers and bird watching because the Leveling system allows the camera or scope to be set perfectly horizontal - easily and quickly when working on uneven ground.

The G2380 fluid head is specifically designed for photographers or bird watchers using long focal length lenses. Pan and tilt locks and separate friction controls are positioned on the same side for ergonomic, fast and precise action.

At a combined weight of 3kg, and only 74.5cm folded height, the GT2540LVL (tripod) and G2380 fluid head make the perfect combination for photographers and bird watchers.

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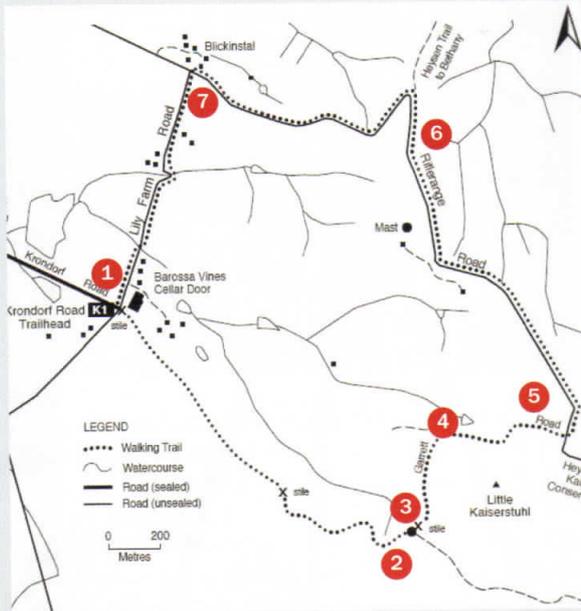
[www.gitzo.com.au](http://www.gitzo.com.au)

For your nearest stockist visit [www.adeal.com.au](http://www.adeal.com.au)

Walk Notes

**LITTLE KAISERSTUHL**

Time: 2hr | Degree: moderate



www.walkingtrailssupportgroup.org.au

**Walk notes**

1. Start at Krondorf Road Trailhead, Checkpoint K1 and walk up the hill.
2. There are two stiles to climb.
3. Beyond the last stile continue left from the track junction on Garrett Road.
4. Shortly before you reach Rifle Range Road you'll see an old stone chimney. Turn left into the road.
5. Go up the small hill with a communications tower. Rocky slopes on the right are the upper reaches of Schlinke's Gully.
6. Continue down the other side of the hill. Orlando winery lies in the valley.
7. Go left to join Lily Farm road and this will take you back to the carpark.



If you're hungry, Peter Lehmann's winery also offers a regional produce platter called 'A Taste from the Weighbridge' which includes locally-produced smoked meats (lachshinken, garlic mettwurst), relishes, pickles, olives, wood-oven breads, mature cheeses and locally grown almonds.

The phylloxera warning signs are in abundance as you leave Peter Lehmann's and walk beside vineyards to Langmeil winery. The massive wine vats give off a gentle hum, still hard at work producing your recent tastings. You'll spot plenty of kookaburras in the gums above.

The Langmeil Shiraz is perhaps the most famous as it's grown from some of the oldest vines in Australia. In 1843 a blacksmith named Christian Auricht planted rows of Shiraz vines and this vineyard is the source of Langmeil Winery's single vineyard Shiraz. This rare wine commemorates the pioneering spirit of the first settlers and their willingness to endure so much hardship for the right to keep their faith (he was Lutheran); it has been named The Freedom.

The old stone out-buildings at Langmeil are particularly interesting, housing old smithy tools and wooden carts. After you finish up here turn right onto Langmeil Road, and a 15 minute walk will take you back into the centre of Tanunda.

Resting my tired feet at the end of a long weekend of walking, I admired the great view down the Barossa and sipped a gorgeous sauvignon blanc. Bliss.



**NEED TO KNOW**

**How to get there**

From Adelaide take Main North Road (A20) to Sturt Highway and enter via Gawler and the Barossa Valley Way. Or, from Adelaide take Lower North East Road (A10) out of Adelaide and travel through Chain of Ponds in the Adelaide Hills to Williamstown in the southern Barossa. Barossa Valley Coaches offers a daily scheduled service between Adelaide and the Barossa, plus a 'Dial-a-ride' bus service between Tanunda, Nuriootpa and Angaston on weekdays. Visit [www.bvcoach.com](http://www.bvcoach.com) for timetable.

**Accommodation**

Whether you're after a heritage cottage, a simple hotel room, be pampered after a long days walk at a luxury resort, or enjoy the fresh air further at a campsite, the Barossa Valley has something for every budget. For more info visit [www.barossa.com](http://www.barossa.com), email [info@barossa.com](mailto:info@barossa.com) or phone 1300 852 982.

**Special events**

There are numerous food and wine festivals happening in the region throughout the year, such as the Barossa Gourmet Weekend (23-24 August) and the Barossa Wine Show (16-19 September), and many wineries have their own entertainment. The Para Road wineries have a joint event every year on the third Sunday in November.

**What they don't tell you**

It's important you stay on the designated walking paths wherever you go in the Barossa as SA is phylloxera free. This aphid-like insect, which attacks vine roots, continues to create havoc in Victoria since it arrived in 1877. It wiped out millions of acres of grapevines across Europe in the mid-1800s.

**Other walks**

There are other trail walks in the area such as The Barossa Goldfields walk which has three circuit walks and takes in the mining history of the region whilst if you're after a nature trail the Altona Scrub walk has two circuits. In addition, there are several historic town walks in the area.

**Contact details**

For walks in the Barossa check out [www.walkingtrailssupportgroup.org.au](http://www.walkingtrailssupportgroup.org.au)