

## News Vic

Jen Kelly

# Flash card for vineyard bargain

THE RACV will launch its new Regional Wine and Food Program on Tuesday, offering discounts of up to 20 per cent to its more than two million members at dozens of participating wineries, food producers and microbreweries in several major wine regions including the Yarra Valley and Mornington Peninsula.

Big-name participants in the Yarra Valley include De Bortoli and Punt Road Wines, offering 15 per cent discounts off wine, and Balgownie Estate, which is knocking 10 per cent off meals and 20 per cent off wine.

RACV members simply need to show their card at participating venues to receive the discount.

New businesses will be added to the program each week and areas covered include Gippsland, Bendigo, Geelong, the Grampians, the Otways, the Pyrenees and northeast Victoria.

The initiative is a partnership between VisitVineyards.com, an online culinary travel guide, and the RACV.

**More: [racv.visitvineyards.com](http://racv.visitvineyards.com)**

### Follow the art path

A NEW series of curator-led art tours offers visitors the chance to explore

Melbourne's three new art hotels, the city's best galleries and Prahran and South Yarra's auction houses. Art Aficionado Tours is the brainchild of Jane O'Neill, the in-house curator for Melbourne's three Art Series Hotels, The Cullen in Prahran, The Olsen in South Yarra and The Blackman in St Kilda Rd, each showcasing the work of a significant artist.

O'Neill already runs art tours of the properties for hotel guests and is now branching out to showcase the city's art to a broader audience.

The Inside the Labyrinth three-hour walking tour explores Melbourne's best commercial galleries and artist-run initiatives and leaves from Pellegrini's in Bourke St on Fridays at 2pm, for \$60 a person.

The Just Around the Corner two-hour tour visits well-established galleries and auction houses in Prahran and South Yarra, and departs The Cullen in Commercial Rd on Wednesdays at 2pm, for \$50 a person.

A third tour starting soon will take visitors by shuttle bus between the three art hotels on Saturday mornings, so it will no longer be only hotel guests who can see the selected artist's work throughout the hotel.



**DISCOUNT OFFER:** Wine lovers enjoying the hospitality at De Bortoli Yarra Valley estate (above) and The Cullen Art Hotel (below).



"We want to be quite democratic — we know that a lot of people are interested in seeing the art and we want to share that with people," O'Neill said. "It's quite important to

us that the hotels are open to the public in the way that galleries are.

"People can see an original mural by John Olsen, a selection of original works and sculptures by Adam Cullen, a portrait of Charles Blackman by Zhong Chen, as well as a selection of high-quality reproductive prints of Blackman, Olsen and Cullen."

O'Neill can also create personalised self-guided art tours for those interested in a particular artist or style of art, for \$60 a tour, including a list of galleries, map and suggested stops.

**More: Jane O'Neill, 0412 169 391, [curator.oneill@gmail.com](mailto:curator.oneill@gmail.com)**

**Send Victorian travel news to [victtravel@news1td.com.au](mailto:victtravel@news1td.com.au)**



## WIN

ONE lucky reader will win an overnight midweek getaway for two adults and two children at Mt Baw Baw ([www.mountbawbaw.com.au](http://www.mountbawbaw.com.au)), 2½ hours from Melbourne. The prize, valued at \$574, includes a night in the Altitude Apartment, a family lift pass, a one-hour session in the new Rock Spa Pool and a Bungee Tramp session for two children.

Prize valid Sunday to Thursday night only.

To enter and to see terms and conditions, go to [www.heraldsun.com.au/lifestyle/competitions](http://www.heraldsun.com.au/lifestyle/competitions). Vic residents only. Closes noon September 9, 2010, drawn 2pm on that day, winner published online on the same day.



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