

Australia Uncovered

G'day,

Welcome to the latest edition of Australia Uncovered, your guide to the latest Australian product news, hottest destinations and upcoming events.

This edition, we feature Mornington Peninsula as our Destination Profile. This holiday hot-spot in Victoria offers stunning

coastal scenery, vineyards, fabulous food, world-class golf, luxurious spas and so much more. For more information, or to book

any of the suggested tours, products or events for your clients please contact your local wholesaler.

Kimberley Coastal Camp Receives Makeover

The iconic [Kimberley Coastal Camp](#) has received a \$1 million makeover, with further upgrades planned for the coming years. Improvements to date include a new solar power system, handmade timber furnishings, ocean and earth colour themes, a custom built boat, unique 'Outback bar' and a new jetty. Kimberley Coastal Camp is open from late March to October each year, and its reputation for high quality



hospitality remains unchanged, with a staff to guest ratio of 1 staff member to a maximum 3 guests.

Gourmet Cycling For Softies

[Air Adventure Australia](#) has released a new Cycling for Softies itinerary showcasing a fun and unique way to discover Victoria's wine regions. Departing from Melbourne, the five-day itinerary sees participants cycle their way through the rail trails and country lanes of Victoria wine country including; Milawa, Myrtelford and the Ovens and Buckland Valleys. Throughout the journey guests are treated to the region's best food and wine and stay in luxurious boutique accommodation. Guests have the freedom to enjoy the scenery and cycle as much or as little as they please. There is even a back-up vehicle which people are free to hop on to when they fancy a break. Highlights of the tour include a two-night stay at the Lindenwarrah Boutique



The Mighty Murray River

South Australia Tourism have been seeing a huge increase in interest in houseboating following the launch of their latest campaign and competition on TV and online.

The campaign showcases the spectacular Murray River region including its vineyards, wildlife, scenery and towns. The best way to experience this unique region is with [Unforgettable Houseboats](#) who provide luxury, self-drive houseboat holidays for 2 – 12 people.

South Australia Tourism is giving one lucky winner the chance to win an Unforgettable Houseboat Holiday for them and 10 mates! The competition is open until March 19th and agents are eligible so make sure you enter online at holidays.southaustralia.com. Good luck!

Hollywood Stars Come to Darling Harbour

Bookings are now being taken for the new [Madame Tussauds](#)

[Sydney](#)

and can be made for visits from May 1st 2012 onwards.

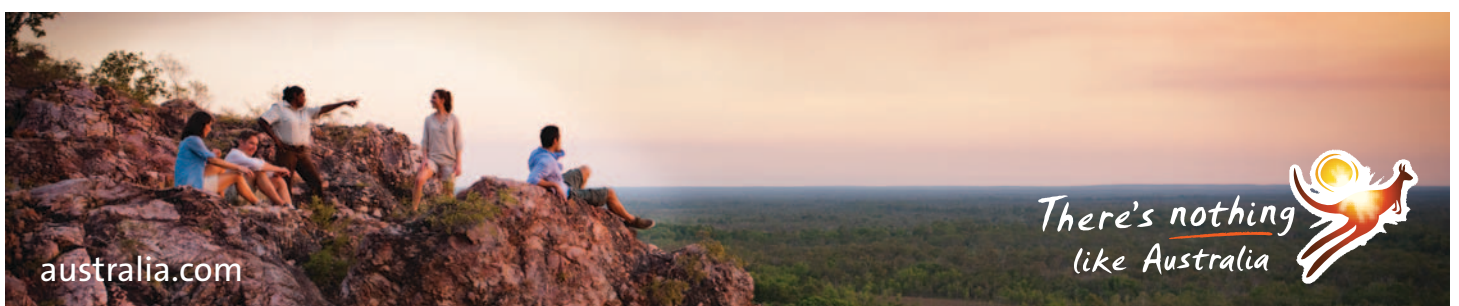
Offering the ultimate celebrity



experience, Madame Tussauds Sydney will feature more than 70 figures including Australian favourite stars Danii Minogue, Nicole Kidman and Hugh Jackman alongside A-list celebrities like Lady Gaga, Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie.

Madame Tussauds Sydney will open its doors in Darling Harbour alongside some of Sydney's most popular attractions; Sydney Aquarium and WILD LIFE Sydney.

Country House set amongst its own vineyard, private cheese tasting at the famed Milawa Cheese Factory, a visit to EV Olives as well as meals and tastings at some of the region's most popular wineries.



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PROFILE ON:



Mornington Peninsula

Quaint seaside villages, rolling vineyards, world-class golf courses and relaxing spas await at Victoria's [Mornington Peninsula](#).

Located just 90 minutes drive from Melbourne, this spectacular coastal region offers visitors a Mediterranean-like atmosphere alongside great Aussie hospitality.

Mornington Peninsula's elegant beachfront towns feature soft sand beaches with pristine swimming and surfing spots, native wildlife and walking trails.

Food and wine lovers are spoilt for choice with over 50 cellar doors, quirky cafes and seaside eateries serving up fresh local seafood.

World-class Coastal Golf

Mornington Peninsula is rapidly becoming known for some of the world's best natural golf terrain, with gently rolling sand-hills creating perfect contours and fast-draining sandy soils providing excellent year-round golf.

The Peninsula's natural coastal topography is ideal for classic links-style layouts and includes challenging courses designed by golfing greats including eight

of Australia's top 50 courses. This compact region boasts more than 19 courses all within a close proximity including numerous championship courses such as [The National](#), [Moonah Links](#), and [The Dunes](#).

Getting There

With such beautiful coastal roads, self-drive is certainly the best way to experience the Mornington Peninsula. From Melbourne, Mornington Peninsula is just a scenic 90 minute drive. Those who have been exploring the Great Ocean Road can also catch a car ferry from Queenscliff on the Bellarine Peninsula to Sorrento in Mornington Peninsula.



Heritage Parks & A-maze-ing Gardens



Mornington Peninsula is covered with manicured parks and gardens waiting to be explored. Visitors can get lost in one of the huge, garden mazes like the rose maze at [Ashcome Maze and Lavender Gardens](#) or discover bird-filled wetlands and gardens while navigating the [Boneo Maze](#).

The manicured grounds of many heritage mansions and private gardens are open to

the public year-round. The Briars Historic Park and Coolart Wetlands and Homestead are two fantastic options for a stroll.

The breathtaking historic property of Heronswood, with its heirloom flowers, fruit and vegetables will delight the senses. After a wander, visitors can even sit and enjoy lunch made from produce picked fresh from the garden.

Geothermal Springs and Relaxing Day Spas

Mornington Peninsula is blessed with Victoria's only natural heated thermal springs, which coupled with the fresh sea-air and stunning surrounds makes it a great place to relax and unwind. Visitors can drop in to the public pools at the

[Peninsula Hot Springs](#) and enjoy the naturally heated and healing mineral waters or treat themselves to a soothing session in a private outdoor mineral spring bath. Many of the region's accommodation options also feature luxurious day spas.



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Calendar Down Under

Events and Festivals

Check out these fantastic events and festivals across Australia that will take place over the coming months. For a comprehensive database of Australian events go to www.australia.com/events.

Grace Kelly: Style Icon Exhibition **11 Mar-17 Jun 2012**

Grace Kelly: Style Icon at the Bendigo Art Gallery in Victoria will highlight the spectacular wardrobe of Grace Kelly and examine her glamorous Hollywood image and enduring appeal.

Bendigoartgallery.com.au

Handa Opera on Sydney Harbour **24 Mar-15 Apr 2012**

For three weeks only, La Traviata one of the greatest operas ever written will be performed on a purpose-built shimmering stage on the waters of Sydney Harbour providing a stunning backdrop of the Opera House, Harbour Bridge and city skyline.

operaonsydneyharbour.com.au

Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show **28 Mar-01 Apr 2012**

Ranked among the top five flower shows in the world, the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show features the best landscape and floral talent that Australia has to offer alongside an extensive array of garden retail product.

melbflowershow.com.au

Telstra Drug Aware Pro **04-10 Apr 2012**

Some of the world's best surfers including Kelly Slater compete in this prime rated event at Margaret River in Western Australia's South West region. Visitors can watch surfing's elite take on the big waves and enjoy the festival comprising of surf, art and music.

telstradrugawarepro.com/

Byron Bay Bluesfest **05-09 Apr 2012**

Enjoy some of Australia's best blues, roots and folk music as well as some very special international guests at one of Australia's most iconic beach towns.

bluesfest.com.au

Targa Tasmania **17-22 Apr 2012**

Over six days of Targa Tasmania, up to 300 of the world's best touring, sports and GT cars compete in competitive stages on the Island's toughest roads. Competitors travel more than 2000 kilometres across Tasmania's scenic and mountain roads to challenge the best in their category.

targatasmania.com.au

Noosa Food and Wine Festival **17-20 May 2012**

Four days of superb cuisine, fine wines and fabulous foodie events featuring more than 200 top Australian and International food and wine personalities and producers plus world class entertainment

noosafoodandwine.com.au

Clare Valley Gourmet Weekend **19-20 May 2012**

Wineries partner with restaurants and entertainment to provide the ultimate Clare Valley experience of elegant wine and fantastic food.

clarevalleygourmet.com.au

Vivid Sydney **25 May-11 Jun 2012**

Vivid Sydney, the city's public festival of music, light and ideas will transform The Rocks and Circular Quay into a spectacular living canvas. Vivid Sydney will feature breathtaking immersive light projections, music performances and a free outdoor exhibition of interactive light sculptures.

vivid Sydney.com

Ningaloo Whale Shark Festival **28-29 May 2012**

A fantastic festival held in Exmouth to mark the beginning of the whale shark season. The festival comprises of a family day of fun with live music and entertainment, educational displays and of course, the opportunity to view the whale sharks.

ningaloo whalesharkfestival.com/

Gold Coast Airport Marathon **30 Jun-01 Jul 2012**

Runners are attracted by the spectacular coastal scenery and beautiful weather to compete in this major sporting event which includes a range of races to suit different abilities.

goldcoastmarathon.com.au

Great Barrier Feast **06-08 Jul 2012**

Celebrated chef Guillaume Brahimi will launch the third year of the intimate Great Barrier Feast series, with the first event taking place from 6 – 8 July. Held at Hamilton Island's luxury resort, Qualia the weekend will showcase the best of the Whitsundays and Australian haute cuisine.

hamiltonisland.com.au/feast

Mundaring Truffle Festival **30-31 Jul 2012**

A truffle-themed, gourmet weekend featuring leading Western Australian and National chefs. This fabulous experience features cooking demonstrations, tastings, markets and the world's longest truffle table luncheon.

mundaringtrufflefestival.com

NAB Barossa Gourmet Weekend **20-21 Aug 2012**

The leading winery cellar doors of the region pull out all the stops to showcase Barossa hospitality, a range of outstanding wines matched with delicious food and musical entertainment.

barossagourmetweekend.com.au



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