

Off Peak Weddings

- YARRA VALLEY & DANDENONG RANGES -

Photo: Rick Liston Photography

getting
hitched
your way

ISSUE 10

AUTUMN

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Photo: at Yarra Ranges Estate

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FIND YOUR SELF | MELBOURNE'S YARRA VALLEY & DANDENONG RANGES

Destination

Yarra Valley & Dandenong Ranges

Photo: at Riverstone Estate by Aria Photography

Overflowing with goodness, that's the autumn feels of the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges. In every direction, the abundance of harvest, the green fields of pasture, the grape-laden vines, the apples and stone fruit ready for picking surround us. Nature is our constant companion, a reminder that every season will renew itself, that we move on, and can rest in the cycles of life, just like a sweet marriage.

You have an open invitation to not just sample, but take a deep dive into the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges. We've got fresh ideas for Hens' Day itineraries oozing with Yarra Valley delights. Your home away from home awaits, and it is more glorious with each passing day.

Roll down the windows and your six senses will take you to places of delight. Open your arms and embrace the food and wine that grow beneath your feet - we've got ethical choices and minimal food miles covered. The earthy delights of this region are reason enough to make the trip- but there is more, always more. People make places and the characters you meet will leave lasting impressions. Start a new life, or celebrate an anniversary then take some of the magic back home. Add a touch of boho and this is the playground of your dreams.

Stay even longer and let the gentle ways of the Yarra Valley infuse you to the bone. Spend hours wandering the villages of the Dandenong Ranges on the hunt for local treasure. Pack a picnic and walk the secluded paths of the forests to find waterfalls and unexpected delights. The destination that you've been waiting for all those months, has everything ready for you right now.

Bring on the autumn in the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges. Let's harvest together.

Autumn menus with A Bit of Jam and Pickle

by Zoe Powell

It's the time of year when the weather turns cooler and the food in the Yarra Valley is bountiful. Caroline from A Little Bit of Jam and Pickle shares her favourite foods of the season and how to serve them up.

Once the cooler evenings kick in, we're ready to put aside salads and start thinking about warmer, slow-cooked dishes. My go-to ingredient is quince – be it in a paste, jelly or added to a slow-cooked tagine. Poached or pickled, they always add a little bit of an exotic touch. Apples and pears are also very good in autumn, and it doesn't get much better than a tarte tatin. And I get very excited for mushroom season. Pine mushrooms as they are such a treat and go well in pasta sauces, on tarts with Persian fetta or with chicken braises. Pomegranates are local and fabulous come autumn and I add them to just about everything.

I love a long table no matter what the season, but informal is key for me. I think having portioned plates for the 'star' dishes (meat, fish or any hot dishes really) and the 'supporting' plates such as salads and veggies placed along the table. Serving the main dish in advance can really help keep food waste and costs to a minimum. Groups of 2-3 smaller dishes, bread and condiments repeated along the table so everyone can easily access them also makes the table look bountiful. Factor this in when you are setting the table as you'll need to leave room for the food without disrupting the decorations and glassware.

And another tip – rug up and keep it outside with a fire close by. Have a pile of extra rugs, scarves and beanies on hand so guests are happy and warm for hours – frankly we all still need to socialise that little bit longer.



All Photos: Mike Emmett



Autumn dishes
Lamb & quince tagine
Cauliflower & pomegranate salad
Leek fritters
Fennel gratin
Soups
Apple & berry crumbles

Photos: Courtesy of Mike Emmett



Autumn drinks

- For wine – Yarra Valley Pinot Noir, or a Sangiovese or Nebbiolo
- For bubbles – Dominique Portet NV Brut Rose
- For a signature cocktail – Gin-based Moscow mule with Four Pillars Rare Dry Gin



A Bit of Jam and Pickle

Food by Caroline Gray. [A Bit of Jam & Pickle](#) combines the bits about Caroline's work she loves the most - teaching, creating products & cooking for appreciative folk.

Autumnal *Enchantments*

There is a magical quality to the arrival of autumn. One morning you wake up to find you've been transported to a new place of golden dreams. Overnight the leaves have turned and there is a new colour palette to enjoy that is the toast of photographers. Weddings are a little like that. One day you wake up and your wedding dreamstate becomes a reality. Today is the day! Life will never be the same. And it's all you, all real and all you've ever wanted.

The night skies of autumn are clear and bright. The Milky Way is your witness and the stars are your festoons. The afternoons are warm and perfumed by ripening fruits, the mornings fresh and invigorating. Whatever the time of day your wedding is planned for, the sense are enlivened – weddings are sensory celebrations after all.

Say I do in the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges because you've been many places in this world and this region feels like home. It's familiar but still exciting, real yet full of whimsy, vast yet able to hold you in an intimate embrace. Every orchard is an aisle waiting for you to walk down, every vineyard a postcard from your favourite place.

Marry your bestie and be surrounded by the best. Friends, family, food, wine – the ingredients of a happy day set against a backdrop that takes your breath away. Because once you make a connection with a place it's yours forever – love is like that.

Dare to dream of an autumn wedding in the Yarra Valley and Dandenong – Off Peak Weddings will help you make it real.



Photo: Jackie and Josh At Bulong Estate by Gold and Grit Photography

Kaz & Ben

Get Hitched

at Thornton

Meet the couple

Kaz is a Paediatric Occupational Therapist working in Early Childhood Intervention and Ben is a Personal Trainer who also works in Educational Support in a local primary school.

Kaz and Ben met through a mutual friend and have felt that their values and morals aligned from their very first day together.

Who proposed?

Ben proposed to Kaz on their favourite hill at Kaz's family farm in Thornton, Victoria. Kaz and Ben spent many hours hiking the property, admiring the views and having 'drinks on the hill' so it was only fitting that their ceremony also took place on top of this hill overlooking the Valley.

How did you choose your ceremony and reception venue?

Kaz and Ben had always wanted to be married on the family property as it has been one of Kaz's favourite spots on the farm and has now become a place they treasure together. They both love the relaxed, down-to-earth atmosphere this incredible scenery provides and the intimacy of the small ceremony with their family and friends.

Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions they were unable to proceed with plans of having a large marquee on the property, so Rochford Winery came to the rescue!

Photo: Rick Liston Photography



Photo: Rick Liston Photography

“We couldn’t have asked for a better venue to hold our reception – amazing food and drinks, incredibly professional and friendly staff who all contributed to a well organised, hiccup free event.”

What was your wedding theme?

Our wedding was focused on a very down to earth, relaxed and enjoyable day for our closest family and friends.

What made your wedding unique?

Our wedding ceremony location at the family property “Carramar” was very unique and meaningful for us and our families. The ability to have memories of our special day where Kaz grew up, on a property that has only ever been owned by one other family ensured that it was a wedding like no other. Many of the photo locations around the property hold important meaning to the family and it will forever be a day that is fondly remembered.

Is there a story behind your dress?

With only eight weeks notice, Kaz decided to wear a classic and timeless wedding dress for the ceremony and formalities at the Reception, before transitioning into a Dion Lee dress to dance the night away. Kaz’s veil was borrowed from one of her beautiful bridesmaids, Caterina Thompson.

Tell us about your wedding bands/other special elements of your day.

Kaz carried a small organza fabric bag in the pocket of her wedding dress that contained her maternal grandmother’s engagement ring and her godmother’s special brooch as a way of representing their presence with her on such a momentous occasion.

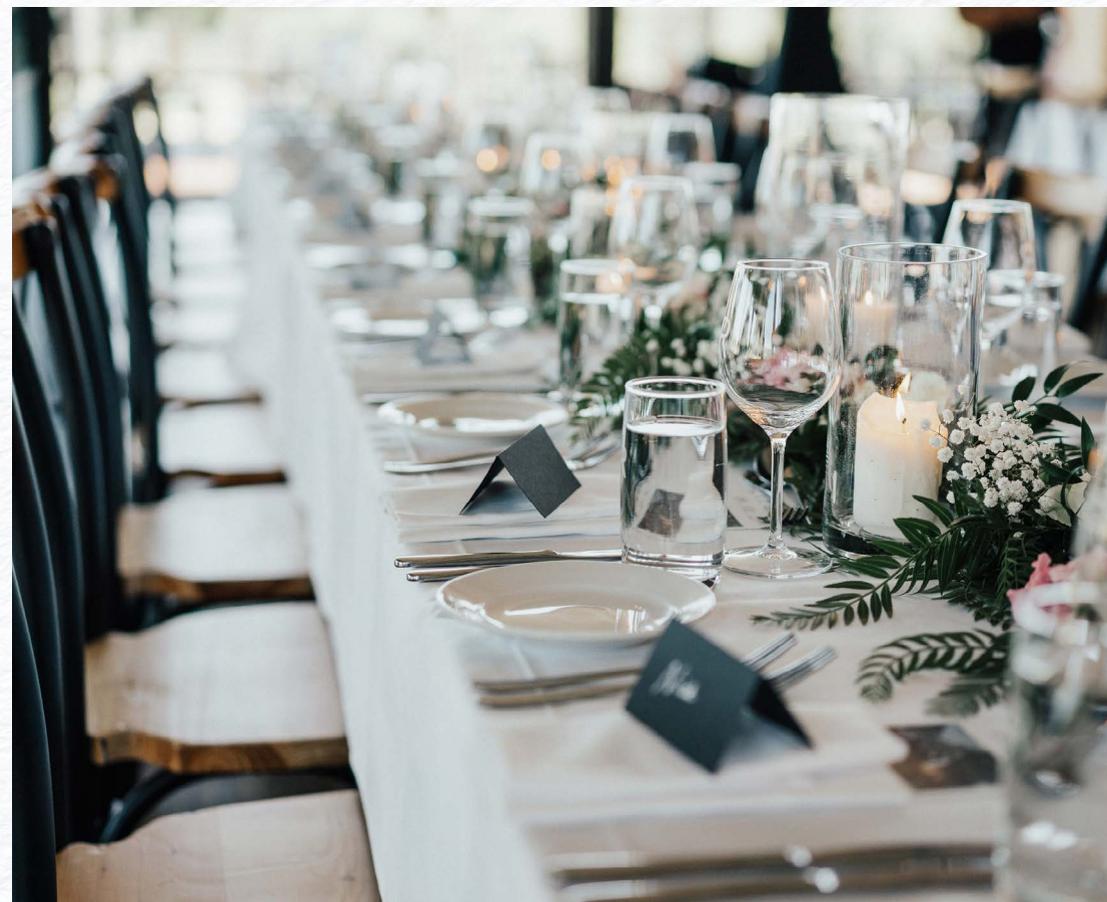


Photo: Rick Liston Photography

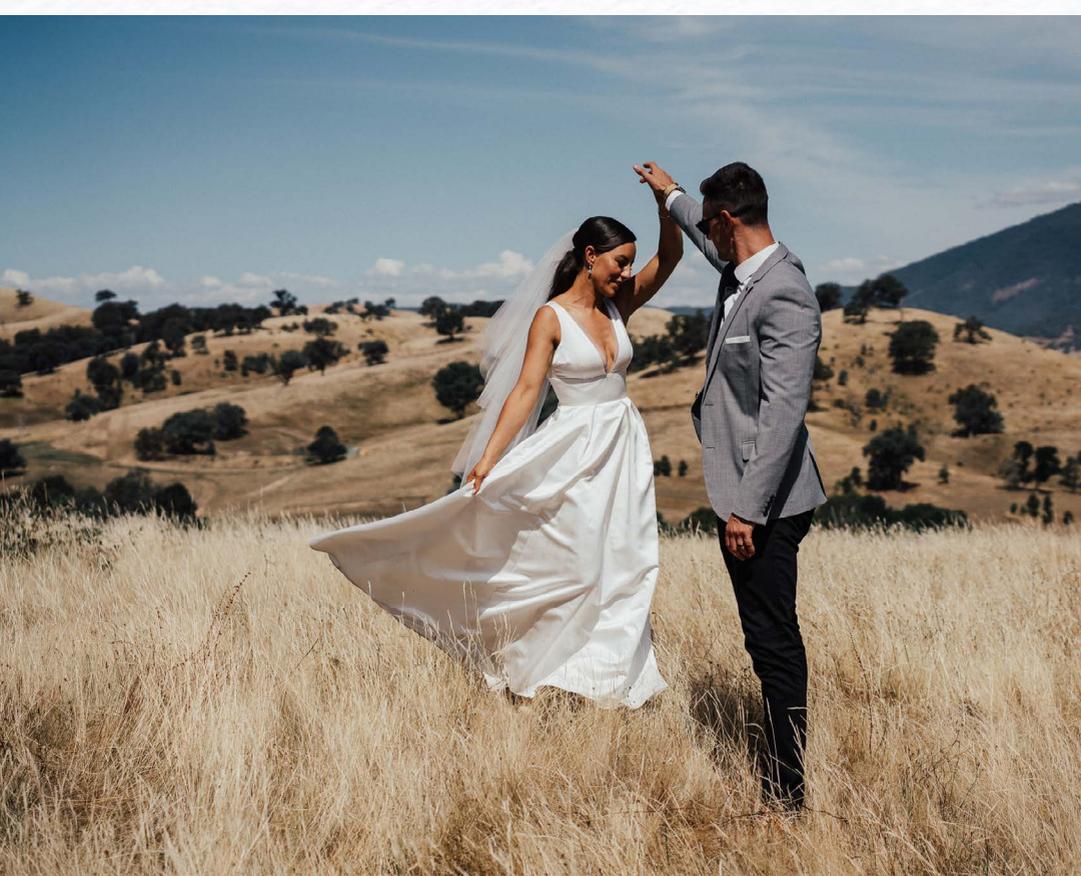


Photo: Rick Liston Photography

What makes your marriage?

“Our marriage is built on great communication, very similar morals and values, respect for another and a great sense of humour.”

What’s your best advice for planning the perfect wedding?

Our advice for planning the perfect wedding would be to ensure you can be flexible and realistic with your expectations for the day. Anything can happen and there is only so much that you can control.

What were the highlights?

Highlights for our day would include having time before the ceremony with our family and closest friends to enjoy their company and the quiet moments in the lead up to the formalities. We both felt that by having a few hours prior to the ceremony for the “first look” family and group photos really made the day feel more intimate and last a little longer.

Anything else you’d love to share? Especially iso related?

Both of us are usually fairly relaxed and carefree, however Covid restrictions (including sudden lockdowns and border closures) made us even more accepting and capable of accommodating date changes and being flexible with arrangements for the day.

This included a family member using Facetime during the ceremony and special moments to include relatives from New South Wales who were unable to attend due to border closures.



Photo: Rick Liston Photography



Photo: Rick Liston Photography



Vendor Credits

Photographer	Rick Liston Photography
Videographer	Glen MacKay - Director's Edge
Florist	Flowers of Yarra Glen
Ceremony	"Carramar", Thornton
Reception	Rochford Wines, Yarra Valley
Catering/Cake & kind	KB Cakery, Kylie Butler
Celebrant	Julie Byrne, Yarra Valley
Catering	Locavore Studio
Entertainment	Brendan and Sabrina Music
Engagment & Wedding Bands	Danny Lee Designs
Bridesmaid Dresses	Chancery the Label

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where you can make direct enquiries,
create 'favourite' lists and plan your day, your way!



Photos: Rick Liston Photography



Photo at Yarra Valley Estate, Edible Forest by Tizia May Photography

Food Miles

and ethical choices for the big day

by Zoe Powell

If there's one thing we've taken to in recent times, it's sticking close to home. So, it makes sense that Yarra Valley's food producers are also going local and reducing their carbon and global footprints. From an edible forest to sustainable wine practices, here's what some of the region's top food producers are doing to help the planet.

From kitchen garden to plate

You can't get more locally sourced than on site, so it's no wonder that after [TarraWarra Estate](#)'s kitchen garden took a hit last year thanks to COVID-19, the team is keen to get it back into full swing as soon as possible. Head chef Mark Ebbels says the silver lining has been the reimagination of the garden and what it offers. "We can be more strategic and have less of the common vegetables and more of the specialty items, and certain varieties that we want," he says. That also means planting a lot more of the same thing for consistency. And that consistency has flowed through to the kitchen, for diners and for weddings. "There's a whole world of ingredients but when you only have local, mostly plant-based produce, you can try different things. You want people to experience the Yarra Valley in the Yarra Valley."

Sustainable wine growing

Every aspect of [Oakridge Wines](#)' restaurant and winery has the utmost respect for the environment and a connection to the earth on site and in the wider Yarra Valley area. Chief winemaker David Bicknell and executive chef Aaron Brodie have a synergistic relationship in everything from farming to growing, cooking and winemaking. Most of the produce that appears on the menu comes from the established kitchen garden, with other ingredients sourced locally. But it's not just the food that is deeply rooted in sustainability. Oakridge is a member of Sustainable Winegrowing Australia, and uses cover crops following harvests to aerate soil, increase biodiversity, suppress weeds and maximise soil nutrients. There's also an insectarium that attracts insects, which supports pest management and increasing biodiversity. Oakridge spokeswoman Stacey Fitzmaurice says the winery's aim is to "keep it local, support Yarra Valley producers and reduce our carbon footprint".

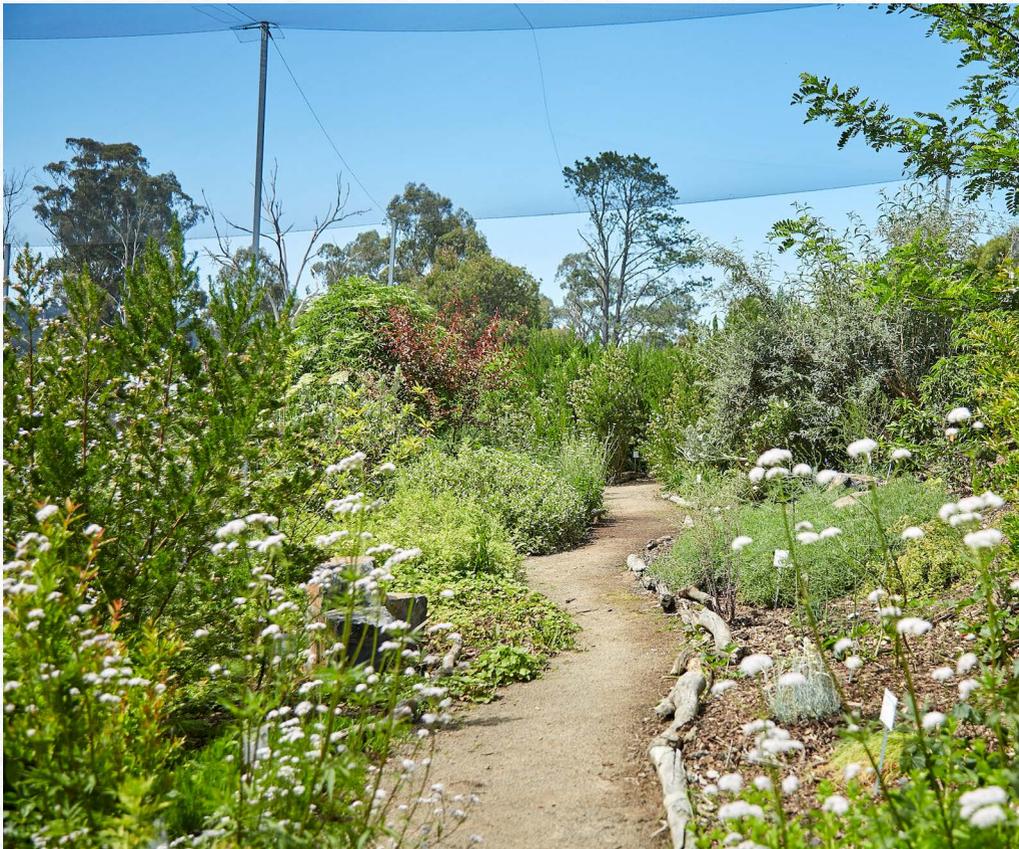


Photo: Mike Semple Photography

Garden-lover's paradise

You've heard about kitchen gardens, but [Yarra Valley Estate's](#) acre of Edible Forest is something else. The vision of owner Louise Ward, everything is planted there for a reason – edible, medicinal, bird-attracting or nitrogen-fixing. At this time of the year, the Edible Forest provides an array of produce including grapes, pears, apples, quince, elderberries, lily pily and hawthorn and Aronia berries – all supplying the kitchen. You can also take a tour of the Forest, take some plants home from the Edible Forest Nursery, or learn about fermenting in the Harvest Hub. You can also get your wedding photos taken there! Estate spokeswoman Katrina Reynolds says the Edible Forest highlights health and wellbeing and allows the kitchen to use "unique plants in everyday dishes".

Ethical fishing

In the foothills of the Great Dividing Range is [Buxton Trout & Salmon Farm](#), where you can throw a line into the Steavenson River and catch your own rainbow trout or Atlantic salmon. And if fishing isn't your thing, you can buy their hand-milked caviar or try their famous Mountain Ash smoked trout. Owner Mitch MacRae started renting the farm in the late 1980s and bought it in 1996. And the long-term sustainability is evident – it's Australia's oldest trout farm, having been established in 1958. No antibiotic chemicals or growth hormones are used, and it's from hatch to catch – the fish are bred on site and are sold ready to eat. Mr MacRae says the farm is popular with tourists and people looking for a day out. The farm's products are also supplied to roadside vendors, markets and restaurants.

For more information

[TarraWarra Estate](#) | [Oakridge Wines](#)

[Yarra Valley Estate](#) | [Buxton Trout & Salmon Farm](#)

How to Boho

Your Wedding with style

with Danielle Steele, Wild Heart Events
A collab at Folly Farm, Olinda

Here's all the inspo you need for a fun boho-inspired styled wedding. This photo shoot at the gorgeous Folly Farm, a hill station property (circa 1912) in the leafy Dandenong Ranges, is busting with great ideas for your own big boho-beautiful day.

Danielle Steele, the owner of Wild Heart Events, was inspired by many things at Folly Farm, which is also an organic blueberry farm. From the stunning Edna Walling gardens, to the old rock walls and the sweet Shepherd's Hut set among the field of Llamas, boho love was everywhere.

The shoot was designed to demonstrate how couples could still have a beautiful intimate wedding or elopement, even during times of Covid restrictions (and limitations on social gatherings and events).

The ceremony location was styled in a gently sloping field with a nearby thicket of silver birch trees. A rustic timber arbour, featuring a custom-made macrame backdrop, was styled with boho-style dried palms and flowers with an abundance of fresh roses in soft pink and ivory tones. Nearby a vintage rattan double-peacock chair was set up with a pretty vintage coffee table and macrame runner, ready for the Signing.

Zahara the 'Bride' wore a flowing lace boho-style gown and her gorgeous red hair was styled in soft waves with dried flowers scattered through it. 'Groom' Mitchell wore relaxed chinos with a White Linen Shirt, leather braces and a felt hat. The bridal bouquet and groom's boutonniere featured dried and fresh florals and foliage in soft pink and neutral tones.



Photos: Courtesy of My Scandi Style

The two-tiered naked wedding cake was styled with a customised macrame garland and more pretty fresh and dried florals. These were displayed on a rose gold plinth and cake stand.

A picnic for two was set up in the garden, with one of the beautiful rock walls as the backdrop. Vintage timber crate tables with scattered cushions in neutral tones, atop white quilts, set the scene for an intimate post-ceremony picnic. Vintage crystal and rose toned glassware, brass goblets, timber and gold cutlery and floral plates were featured, along with a lavish grazing board.

Around the garden, a beautiful macrame swing hung from a pear tree with deep purple clematis meandering up its trunk. In a nearby Chestnut tree, a double macrame swing-chair was hung, scattered with soft pink cushions.

Post-ceremony photos were taken with the llamas, around the garden, with a gorgeous baby-blue vintage Kombi, and more magical golden hour photos captured in the nearby forest.



Photos: Courtesy of My Scandi Style



Feel the love with this group of local Melbourne creatives

Venue Folly Farm

Cake Bec's Little Cake Place

Photography My Scandi Style

Tableware and Props Betty May Vintage Hire

Design, Styling, Pros & Flowers Wildheart Events

Extra Props Always Eventive

Hair Colour Me In Hairdressing

Macrame on Cake Birch Springs Fibre Studio

Make up AK Freelance Makeup Artistry

Bridal Gown Neishe & Co

Models Bride: Zahara Lingard

Groom: Mitchell Fisch

Meet Danielle Steele from Wild Heart Events

[Wild Heart Events](#) is a boutique design studio, specialising in weddings and other special events throughout Melbourne and regional Victoria.



Photos: Marcel Van Der Horst



Photos: Courtesy of My Scandi Style

International Destinations

without leaving the state

Plan your perfect escape wedding without leaving the country. The Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges offers some versatile and worldly ceremony and reception options that can transport you anywhere you want to go.

Find your perfect place for your themed wedding right here:

French chic and fabulous

The Parterre garden at [Alowyn Gardens](#) is inspired by the 15th-century gardens of the French Renaissance. Think Chateau of Versailles in Yarra Glen.

A touch of exotic Asia

[Blue Lotus Water Garden](#) in Yarra Junction is 14 acres of gorgeous lotus blooms, water lillies, ponds and pathways that form a tropical paradise. Plan ahead to catch the best blooms between December and April.



Photo: at Blue Lotus Water Garden



Photo: Rick Liston Photography

Bavarian beauty

The [Cuckoo Restaurant](#) in Olinda is a bespoke chalet with gabled eaves, a Viennese dining room and a Bavarian ambiance that makes it one of a kind.

A touch of Italy

[Massaros](#) in Kangaroo Ground is set among olive groves and vineyards with a distinctly Tuscan vibe. Admire the gardens, then the city skyline view.

Nordic wonderland

Head to Lake Mountain for snowscapes and a perfectly white wedding on the mountain.



Photo: atProjekt 3488 by Rick Liston Photography

Arty and across the water
(almost overseas!)

Projekt 3488 in Warburton has a post-modern industrial vibe that has been compared to MONA in Hobart.

English countryside Manor
Marybrooke Manor in the Dandenong Ranges is a Tudor-style mansion full of authentic charm and features. Set on acres of gorgeous sculptured gardens.



Photo: at Marybrooke Manor



Photo: by Quint Photography at Alowyn Gardens

The Anniversary

Return

by Zoe Powell

The magic of your wedding day is something you'll want to bottle and remember for years to come. And when it comes to recapturing the love and romance – and celebrating your anniversary – there's plenty of Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges venues that welcome you back and go the extra mile long after your big day.

1. Stay for free on your wedding night and anniversary – What better way to enjoy your first night as a married couple and then your first anniversary than with a complimentary overnight stay plus breakfast in a four-star accommodation suite? When you book your wedding at [Marybrooke Manor](#), that's what you get. With eight acres of lush gardens on the edge of the amazing Sherbrooke Forest, your ceremony, reception and accommodation is sorted.
2. A personalised touch – Weddings at [Sutherland Estate](#) are stunning and unique, but returning for your anniversary is extra special. Celebrate with a platter and a walk, or enjoy a romantic night in one of the towers and wake up to vineyard views and country air. You could even be treated to a special wine from the cellars from your wedding year.
3. A unique return – From childhood to your wedding day and into the future, [Puffing Billy Railway](#) is one of those places that permeates all stages of life. Get married in the heritage-listed Nobelius Packing Shed, in the stunning grounds of Emerald Park Lake, and then return to celebrate your anniversary. If you're looking for an even more spectacular experience – hire a private carriage, or charter the entire train!



Photo :Courtesy of Sutherland Estate



Photo: Courtesy of Puffing Billy Railway



Photo: at Riverstone Estate courtesy of Ashleigh Haase Photography

4. Always something special – [The Riverstone Estate](#) holds a special place in the hearts of those who get married there – so much so they return for years to come, often with growing families. Get married overlooking the rolling hills of the Yarra Valley and then return to the cellar door to celebrate your anniversary with a locally sourced food feast paired with amazing wines. Or order a picnic platter for two to have on the lawn,
5. Foodie feast – Get married at [Levantine Hill](#) with a perfectly put-together food and wine experience surrounded by picturesque vineyards, and return for bespoke food and wine flights, and the chance to try some of the world's rarest and finest wines. Couples are sent a voucher to wine and dine on their first anniversary – what a treat!
6. Beyond the wedding – When you get married at [Zonzo Estate](#), it's just the start of your experience. Boasting 230 acres of picturesque backdrops and three beautiful ceremony locations, the amazing property has couples returning to relive the food and scenery for anniversaries, birthdays, christenings – becoming a part of a family tradition. And if you can't be there in person for an anniversary, you can always enjoy their estate-grown wines at home.

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where you can make direct enquiries,
create 'favourite' lists and plan your day, your way!

Occupying Kids at *Weddings*

Weddings can be fun for kids. With a little planning at ground level, you can ensure that having children at your wedding is a joy for everyone. Whether they are members of the wedding party, the couples' own kids, or the children of your guests, children bring their own charm to your day and for many people are a non-negotiable. These kid hacks can help make your day:

- **Child friendly menus** – Keep it simple with kids. Don't expect them to eat what the adults are eating. Grazing tables and food trucks can be great options. Let go of the need for nutrition!
- **The right venue** – Choose a reception centre with plenty of outside space, grass for running or a playground.
- **Activities** – Create a kid zone. Hire some giant outdoor games (Jenga and Tic Tac Toe are easy wins), hire a clown or a petting zoo. Whatever it takes, right!
- **DIY jobs** – Get the kids working! Set up a table with flower crown making so kids can create for themselves and guests. Or create an icecream decoration station with all the trimmings so they can make the best icecream sundaes or milkshakes.
- **Ask for help** – Hire a professional to party plan the kids and take care of everything on the day. And at the end of the night, there are fabulous tours and transport options such as [Yarra Valley A2B](#) that can ferry children back to their accommodation for bedtime.



Photo : Dan Brannan Photography at Forest Weddings

Top Tips

1. Have a change of clothes packed for each child. Many kids find formal wear annoying so be ready with some cool comfortable clothes for a quick change after the ceremony.
2. Prepare a special gift for each child in the wedding party to look forward to.
3. Appoint a chief wrangler, preferably one for each child, to be a special someone they can go to. Events can be overwhelming for little ones.
4. Set a quiet zone/breakout room. Choose a venue that has a quiet room that can be devoted to kids. Have some familiar things set up, even a favourite movie for some downtime.

Fresh itineraries

for hen's days

by Zoe Powell

Forget the broken heels and hangovers, hen's parties have evolved from boozed-up bar-hopping to a more sophisticated affair. Whether you're after something indoors and arty or an adrenaline-raising, outdoor adventure, check out these itineraries that will be more fun than a party bus and a cheap wine hangover for you and your crew.

Indoor

Start your day getting crafty at the iconic [Montsalvat](#). Take a two-hour clay taster class at the historic community's new ceramics centre Clay Talk, where you will learn how to prepare clay, and then move to the wheel to create three masterpieces. While you're there, nibble on a selection of antipasti, cheese, sandwiches and petit fours, and sip on sparkling cuvee or non-alcoholic beverages.



Photo : At Montsalvat, courtesy of Clay Talk

After getting your hands dirty, meander over to [Fondata 1872](#). Enjoy Italian spritzers and tomato arancini canapes or French champagne and freshly shucked Coffin Bay oysters on the terrace overlooking stunning rolling views of the Yarra Valley. Then move to the private Terrace Room to indulge in a three-course shared Tuscan feast including antipasti, followed by a main course of the signature 12-hour slow-cooked lamb or ricotta gnocchi with pumpkin, sage and walnuts.

And no meal is complete without dessert – and the house-made tiramisu made in the traditional style with panna cotta and locally roasted espresso coffee will totally hit the spot.

After lunch, let your food settle with a leisurely stroll through Healesville's [TarraWarra Museum of Art](#) or [YAVA Gallery and Arts Hub](#). With rotating exhibitions and no shortage of talented artists, a tour of these popular Yarra Valley arts spaces is the perfect way to end a decadent day of food and fun.



Photo : At Trees Adventure

Outdoor

If getting fresh air and sunshine – and your heart racing – is more your thing, start your day with a few hours at [Trees Adventure](#) in Belgrave. With 15 flying foxes, plus balancing bridges, tightropes and a huge zipline among rare trees including a 150-year-old 'Home Tree' Algerian Oak, enjoy 360-degree views of native bushlands and forests while flying up to 25 metres above the ground.

Or perhaps you're more inclined to grab a bike from [Yarra Valley Cycles](#), [Girt by Dirt](#) or [Cog Bike Shop](#) and go for a ride along the Lilydale-Warburton Rail Trail. With 38 kilometres of recreational track, start and finish from any of the towns along the path and go at your own pace as you pass through picturesque farmland and bushland.

Then stop off for lunch – check out our [Top Picnic Spots of The Dandenong Ranges](#). And don't worry about packing your own food – grab a delicious lunch pack from [A Little Bit of Jam and Pickle](#), or try some traditional South Indian cuisine thanks to [Babaji's Kitchen](#). This is also a great way to test out potential wedding caterers!

After lunch, continue the foodie theme with a stop at [Rayner's Orchard](#) in Woori Yallock. Take a tractor tour of the working farm, and fill your baskets with the freshest of fruit – at least eight varieties are ripe for the picking every day of the year. Taking home the fruits of your labour really is the cherry on top of a magical pre-wedding day.



Photo : At Fondata 1872, courtesy of Georgia Fowler

Show your photographs to the world



Photos :Rick Liston Photography at Riverstone Estate

Get creative and let your photographer know your plans – there will be specific set ups or ways to get exactly what you need.

Weddings photos are a high priority when it comes to capturing your day forever, and it's worth thinking about all the ways you can share those images with the world after your big day.

Photo albums are classic and beautiful but when it comes to presenting your photos there's more than one way:

- The magazine – Put your desk top skills to use. Digital publishing means you can create and print your own wedding magazine. Try [Twenty Pages](#)
- Framed or floating – Check out your favourite gallery for new ways to hang images. Float mounting is a contemporary option with a minimalist vibe.
- Create an app – Yes there's even an app to create your own 'My wedding' app. Share the link and people can download to their smart phone.
- Print on anything – The world of printing is constantly experimenting. You can even print images on cement! Installation art for your home. Self-adhesive wall murals are also an option and you can change them out on a whim.
- The Premiere party – 'Cos a catch up is always good idea! Hire a projector, or even a movie theatre, or set up a backyard outdoor cinema and treat your nearest and dearest to a film festival of your day.
- Dedicated website – Many couples set up a website in advance of their big day to share information with guests. Evolve the site into your permanent online wedding album. You can ask guests to upload their own images.



Ten Ways to Change up your look on your big day



Photos : by Tin Drum Photography at Zonzo Esetate



Photo : at Araluen by Jerome Cole

1. Wake up PJ's – start the day the night before!
2. Breakfast lounge wear – glamorous understatement. Fresh off the yoga mat.
3. Hair and make up wrap – matchy matchy with your bride tribe.
4. THE DRESS – no more to say.
5. Post ceremony seasonal coverup – from wraps to denim or leather jackets.
6. Reception dinner – Ditch the train, the big skirts and the veil.
7. Party on the dancefloor – Get comfy, lose the heels, add a pop of colour.
8. Leaving outfit – That pink silk pantsuit totally rocks and is perfect for a late night cocktail just for newlyweds.
9. Sleepytime – Silky, luxurious stay-up-all night-reminiscing 1:1 loungewear – or whatever! You decide.
10. Brunch regroup – The morning after, keep the vibe alive with a jawdropping dress!

Winter Weddings

Winter is often an underestimated season for a wedding. Often our reservations are simply about rainy days and yet a few raindrops can fall any day of the year. If you're a winter person, the middle months of the year offer plenty of choice, and perfect off peak wedding planning. Make the most of the inner world with roaring open fireplaces, intimate settings and the rich offerings of a winter menu. 'Winter' is a theme of its own making!

Fireside vows, mulled wine and sipping whiskeys by the brazier – there are so many ways to embrace winter in your wedding. Gorgeous coats and hats feature – wedding dresses designed to cover, suits in their natural habitat. Set the dance floor alight with your moves. Every venue has an all weather game plan and sometimes the winter option is perfectly you. Underground cellars, stately homes, private dining rooms, a glass rimmed room with a view so that whatever is happening outside you're cosy and warm inside. And there are always umbrellas – clear and barely there or designed to match – the choice is yours.

Winter simply wraps around a wedding bringing people closer together. No need to wait. Getting hitched in winter in the Yarra Valley or Dandenong Ranges could just be your signature move.



Photo : at Riverstone Estate by Matt Elliott Photography

Photo At Riverstone Estate, by Altia Photography

Off Peak Weddings

- YARRA VALLEY & DANDENONG RANGES -

DIRECTORY

Celebrants



Virginia Lawrence
Marriage, Family and Funeral Celebrant

Weddings are my specialty. Based in Kallista, I know this area really well. I'm super-organised, keep calm under pressure, and will give you a lovely, heartfelt ceremony full of fun, happiness, joy, and love. Contact me for a coffee and a chat - obligation free - and let's see if I'm the one for you!

P: 0438 111 025
celebrantgin.com



Soulful Ceremonies
Marriage Celebrant

Christine Pedley of Soulful Ceremonies knows what an amazing wedding in the Hills feels like. She understands your wedding day is the most important day for you. A celebrant since 2010 (and resident of the Dandenong Ranges), Christine wants "Your Day" to be exactly "Your Way". With creativity and humour, she crafts a couples' love story into a soulful ceremony.

P: 0474 128 869
soulfulceremonies.com.au



Lisa Newman
Celebrant

Lisa is a popular Belgrave based celebrant with a zest for writing creative ceremonies that are NEVER boring! No matter how big or small your wedding celebration is, Lisa's genuine enthusiasm is consistent from start to finish. She relates well with people of all ages and you will feel at ease from your first meeting - which usually ends with a hug!

P: 0421 776 531
lisanewman.com.au



Maureen Miles
Celebrant

Looking for the celebrant who will take good care of you, make it easy and stress free and create a simple, relaxed, fun yet sacred and beautiful wedding ceremony? Say hello to Maureen.

P: 0412 863 652
maureenmilescelebrant.com.au



Weddings by Jess
Celebrant

Weddings by Jess is Melbourne's favourite wedding celebrant. She has been performing weddings for over eight years, bringing her warmth, humour and experience to every one of her lucky couples.

P: 0410 808 443
weddingsbyjess.com.au

Event Planners



Socially Styled Events

Simply put Socially Styled Events celebrate stories and relationships! Partnering with you, they create events that amplify the story you're wanting to tell. They draw on the moments, the emotions and the connections and turn them into an event you will never forget!

P: 0411 149 040
sociallystyledevents.com.au



Spa & Wellbeing



Miss Josie's Beauty Parlour, *Healesville*

Miss Josie's are skin treatment specialists. They've taken everything you love about the 1950s and given it a little twist. It is the perfect salon for the modern woman to enjoy a wide selection of treatments and specialised therapies with a focus on providing the right solution for every skin type.

P: 0428 298 098
missjosies.com.au



Nourish Day Spa, *Olinda*



Nourish Day Spa specialise in massage, facials, hand and foot treatments, pamper parties, couples packages – all with a holistic approach. Take time out of your day for a morning or afternoon of pure relaxation, the perfect distraction to take your mind off of any wedding stress you or the hens may have. Have an afternoon full of laughs and chats and create some new memories with your nearest and dearest. A Couples Package is the perfect way to restore post-wedding after a big day.

P: 03 9751 1029
nourishdayspa.com.au



Transport



Yarra Valley A2B

Private, Professional and Efficient return transport for wedding guests. Let YVA2B be your complete transport service for your wedding day/evening. Our Wedding A2B service will safely transport your wedding guests to & from your Yarra Valley wedding. Includes pickup and drop off after the reception. Enquiries are serviced by one of our wedding coordinators who will design a package to suit your size and budget.

P: 0455 041 051
yarravalleya2b.com.au



Stella Tours - Wedding Cars

A small boutique business offering a personalised wedding car service within the Dandenong Ranges & Yarra Valley regions. Imagine cruising with the top down in "Stella", a classic 1964 Chevy convertible – famed for her timeless lines and effortless class. Arrive in true 'Stella style' at your wedding in this iconic ride, and when it's time for the photos, Stella's there by your side. Drive off into the sunset together in true 'Stella style'.

P: 0476 785 356
stellatours.com.au



Yarra Valley Wedding Transfers

Yarra Valley Wedding Transfers is a family owned and operated transfer business based in the Yarra Valley. Yarra Valley Wedding Transfers strive for a high level of professionalism and offer personalised services to ensure that you and your guests arrive in comfort and style. From 2 seater sports to sedans to SUVs to mini buses, they can offer a package deal.

P: 0418 339 460
yarravalleyweddingcars.com.au

Transport



Vintage Collection

Vintage Fun have been providing chauffeur driven vintage and classic vehicles since 1983. They offer single vehicle hire for 2-12 passengers at a competitive price.

P: 0411 465 098
vintagefun.com.au

Caterers



Babaji's Kitchen

Unique. Delicious. Charming. Perfect for a relaxed festival-themed wedding with street food theatre from the land of coconut palms and spice, tropical 'Kerala' in South India. Specialising in authentic village style banquets, 'live' dosa & chaat/pani puri (street snacks), chai and Indian desserts, served from a colourful 'gypsy mobile kitchen' or vintage Indian street cart.

P: 0405 765 388
babajiskitchen.com.au



The High Tea Mistress

The High Tea Mistress is the creator of unique, mobile high tea experiences. They also create boutique Yarra Valley tours with our touring partners (some of which are exclusive). They have a team of professionals that offer workshops such as flower crown workshops, champagne, gin and whiskey masterclasses, tea blending workshops and high tea etiquette classes in conjunction with their signature High Teas.

P: 03 8727 2557
thehighteamistress.com.au

Caterers



Essential Caterer

Catering that's fresh, healthy and delicious, with flexible menu options that move from formal to fun – designed to suit your unique tastes. From a conference, to a wedding, to a casual meeting - we help you find the venue you've been longing for, and end-to-end management for stress-free event enjoyment.

P: 0417 527 037

essentialcaterer.com.au



A Bit of Jam and Pickle

Food by Caroline Gray. A Bit of Jam & Pickle combines the bits about Caroline's work she loves the most - teaching, creating products & cooking for appreciative folk.

P: 0402 270 792

jamandpickle.com.au



Florists



The Redwood Florist

The Redwood Florist creates gorgeous blooms for brides. Louise has extensive experience in the industry and views each wedding as a privilege, accepting only one wedding per weekend to give each bride complete focus.

P: 0438 324 463

theredwoodflorist.com.au

Photographers



Rick Liston

Rick Liston is a Yarra Valley wedding photographer who loves joining adventurous wild hearts on their crazy journey from lovers to lifers. Rick doesn't just take photos, he's here to help you navigate the daunting task of planning your wedding with invaluable local advice. Rick is relaxed and grounded. You'll get comfortable with him as a friend and be totally at ease on your wedding day to naturally reveal your own true, beautiful selves. Nothing awkward, he promises!

P: 0475 604 713

rickliston.com



Lei Lei Clavey Photography

Lei Lei Clavey is a Melbourne photographer. She loves capturing stories through her photography. Lei Lei's calm and relaxed presence will put you at ease on your special day.

P: 0404 836 773

leileiclavey.com



Directors Edge Videography

Your wedding film should be as dynamic as your life: filled with laughter, pride, hope, covert kisses and wild dance moves. Director's Edge Videography craft films that feel as magical, moving and relevant right now as well as into the future based on you and your narrative.

P: 0421 985 064

directorsedge.com.au



Accommodation / Venues



Healesville Sanctuary, Healesville

Nestled in the natural bushland setting of this iconic Australian sanctuary, the Brolga room is the perfect backdrop for your special day. Newly renovated with classic stonewalls and expansive lush lawns, the Brolga Room can host wedding parties of up to 200 guests. Part of the Healesville Hotel Group, Healesville Sanctuary is proud to consistently offer the finest service, and a dedicated, professional team committed to giving you a day to remember.

P: 03 5957 2813
yarravalleyharvest.com.au



Cloudehill Gardens, Olinda

Cloudehill's display garden includes an outdoor theatre, very appropriate for wedding ceremonies. The gardens are also perfect for wedding party photo shoots. The theatre includes a small pavilion that can either act as a soundshell for theatrical events, or as a very handsome 'arbour' for wedding ceremonies. The gardens are normally open from 9am to 5pm, however for wedding ceremonies and photo shoots, we are able to open (in summer) through to 8pm.

P: 03 9751 1009
cloudehill.com.au



Puffing Billy Railway, Belgrave

Situated in the picturesque and verdant Dandenong Ranges, you will find one of Victoria's most historic and much-loved icons - Puffing Billy Railway. From the newly opened historical Menzies Creek Museum to the beautiful rustic and intimate setting of the Nobelius Heritage Packing Shed, create the wedding celebration of your dreams in a truly authentic and unique wedding setting.

P: 03 9757 0700
puffingbilly.com.au



Vue on Halcyon, Chirnside Park

Sitting at the gateway to the stunning Yarra Valley, Vue on Halcyon offers a lovely backdrop for your wedding celebration. With uninterrupted views of rolling hills and rows of historic vines, this contemporary-style venue offers it all.

P: 03 9726 7111
vueonhalcyon.com.au



Massaros, Kangaroo Ground

When you picture a Yarra Valley wedding, you wouldn't be wrong to envision a vineyard backdrop. There are vines aplenty at the gorgeous Massaro's Winery, plus olive groves and gardens set in a gorgeous Tuscan-inspired setting with views towards Melbourne.

P: 03 9712 0548
massaros.com.au



Seville Estate, Seville

Enjoy private dining for your wedding celebration in a special and safe dining experience at the original family homestead at Seville Estate. Nestled into the landscape, within the surrounds of the newly established gardens and with stunning views of the valley, sits the Homestead, a stunning wedding destination, with private facilities and award-winning estate wines.

P: 03 5964 2622
sevilleestate.com.au

Accommodation / Venues



Immerse Winery, Dixons Creek

Nestled in the scenic Yarra Valley, Immerse is a breathtaking wedding venue, acclaimed restaurant, boutique winery and accommodation venue all rolled into one. Rolling hills of vines, picture perfect gardens, boutique accommodation, succulent food and two beautiful chapels plus spectacular outdoor ceremony locations.

P: 03 5965 2444
immerse.com.au



Ezard at Levantine Hill, Coldstream

At Levantine Hill, we bring together the unique skills of hatted chef Teage Ezard and renowned winemaker Paul Bridgeman to begin your journey for a perfect life together. Meticulously crafted menus that balance sumptuous flavours to complement our Levantine Hill wines, ensure you and your guests are guaranteed an unforgettable experience you will never forget.

P: 03 5962 1333
levantinehill.com.au



Araluen Boutique Accommodation, Yarra Glen

Award winning boutique accommodation, offering three luxury self-contained spa villas and a Lodge with four stylish accommodation rooms, each with private ensuite. Wedding groups have access to a bridal suite for wedding preparations, outdoor entertaining area for pre or post wedding gatherings and landscaped gardens for pre-wedding photography. The property can accommodate up to 20 people.

P: 0411 242 212
araluenlodge.com.au



Projekt 3488, Warburton

Boutique & owner operated, we are all about the details. We create an intimate, warm & inviting atmosphere - the perfect country getaway with a twist. We offer exclusive access to the entire venue & gardens for each event plus dedicated event planning & styling.

P: 0400 215 785
projekt3488.com.au

Accommodation / Venues



Forest Weddings, Kinglake

Dreaming of a forest wedding? Let your wedding aisle be the magical forest floor. Simply hire the venue and create your own magic or let Kinglake Forest Adventures take some of the details off your hands. You can bring your own food van or they can cater a wedding feast for you. Their beautiful camp can host up to 120 guests for a sleepover. Let them cook up a morning after breakfast. Make it a wedding weekend, not just a day. And make it the most wonderful day of your life.

P: 03 5786 5230
forestweddings.com.au



Bulong Estate, Yarra Junction

Bulong Estate Winery is a special place, perfect for celebrations – with a beautiful garden, venue and deck nestled in the middle of a huge landscape of vineyard and spectacular mountain views. Your guests will immediately relax with all the greenery around them.

P: 03 5967 1358
bulongestate.com.au



CountryPlace, Kalorama

CountryPlace is a fabulous accommodation venue for family and friends attending a wedding in the Dandenong Ranges. Their award-winning property offers 60 ensuite bedrooms inclusive of a two bedroom cottage set in impressive gardens and lawns providing the ideal backdrop for group photographs.

P: 03 9728 7000
countryplace.com.au/wedding-accommodation-dandenong-ranges



Arcadia Cottages, Olinda

Arcadia Cottages offers accommodation for couples and singles in 4 separate cottages, all hidden away in 3 acres of forested garden. Private Cottages. Log fires & Spas.

P: 0397511017
arcadiacottages.com.au



In the Valley, Yarra Glen

This gorgeous character property is perfect for wedding parties and multi-generation family celebrations, allowing all to stay together. Beautiful garden offers many areas for a picturesque ceremony and photo opportunities. Estate offers complete privacy. Accommodation for up to 30 guests..

P: 0397302818
inthevalley.com.au



Zonzo Estate, Yarra Glen

Zonzo Estate is an award-winning wedding venue located in the heart of the Yarra Valley. Zonzo prides themselves on offering wedding couples a memorable and stress-free day. From the moment you arrive, through to the ceremony and on to an unforgettable celebration. Create memories to last a lifetime over shared tables, abundant with food and paired with the perfect drop.

P: 03 9730 2500
zonzo.com.au

Accommodation / Venues



Valley Ranges Getaways, Dandenong Ranges

Stay the night before your wedding at one of Valley Ranges Getaway's beautiful properties. Your maids-of-honour might stay, or your mum and sisters? You can dress for your wedding at the property with room for photographers, hair and makeup attendants and the gardens are beautiful spaces for your photographs. Following your wedding, return for your wedding night as bride and groom or your family or bridesmaids may stay with their partners, while you sneak away to another of their gorgeous properties to be alone.

P: 1300 488 448
vrgetaways.com.au/bridgetobe



Marybrooke Manor, Sherbrooke

Marybrooke Manor is nestled on the edge of the majestic Sherbrooke Forest in the Dandenong Ranges. Built in 1940 and recently renovated, it offers a picturesque outdoor garden lawn area and chapel for ceremonies, as well as an elegant reception room and cosy bar. With 8 acres of manicured gardens for photos, a flexible range of all-inclusive packages tailored to your needs and 20 four-star accommodation suites, Marybrooke can be the perfect one-stop destination for your ceremony and reception.

P: 03 9755 2755
marybrooke.com.au



Chateau Wyuna, Montrose

Chateau Wyuna is a rustic, award winning wedding venue built around a 1920s log cabin and featuring a 1909 heritage listed country Chapel set in over 6 acres of natural Australiana-style gardens. With several outdoor ceremony areas and reception rooms to choose from, all-inclusive packages, delicious comfort-style food, space for up to 150 guests and guest accommodation immediately next door, Chateau Wyuna can be exclusively yours for your wedding celebration.

P: 03 9736 2555
chateauwyuna.com.au



Fondata 1872, Kangaroo Ground

Fondata 1872 is the contemporary revival of the iconic Weller's, originally established as a Cobb & Co circa 1872, it's a place where city style meets country hospitality. It is situated at the gateway to the beautiful Yarra Valley, approximately 45 minutes from Melbourne. The lovingly restored dining room comfortably seats 100 guests for any celebration.

P: 03 9712 0742
fondata1872.com



Oakridge Wines, Coldstream

Oakridge is a family-owned, Yarra Valley winery, restaurant and cellar door, originally established in 1978 alongside a ridge of oak trees. Located in the stunning Yarra Valley, and set among 10 hectares of vines and manicured lawns, Oakridge boasts sweeping views and one of Australia's finest food and wine offerings.

P: 03 9738 9900
oakridgewines.com.au

Accommodation / Venues



Riverstone Estate, Coldstream

The Riverstone Estate offers exclusive use of the property for weddings. The Estate is set on 75 acres of vines with panoramic views of the Yarra Valley. Riverstone offers breathtaking sunsets in a relaxed setting; with stunning locally sourced menus creating the perfect Yarra Valley Wedding. Combine the opportunity to dance the night away under a starry sky with any of their wedding packages and let their dedicated staff create memories that will last a lifetime.

P. 03 5962 3947
therivertoneestate.com.au



Yarra Ranges Estate, Monbulk

Offering five ceremony locations and stunning fairy lit reception centre with breathtaking views, Yarra Ranges Estate is the perfect canvas to bring your Pinterest dreams to life.

P: 03 9752 0638
yarrarangesestate.com.au



Fergusson Winery, Dixons Creek

Entering the grounds at Fergusson is intoxicating. Proud, rustic and romantic and set in among the soft curls of precious vines, stands the award-winning Fergusson Winery and Restaurant. This is a space for all kinds of weddings, from the classically beautiful, to the whimsical and creative, the rustic, vintage or farm style bash. The setting is lyrical, the food is sophisticated yet wholesome, and always made with love ... specially created to match a stunning wine list.

P: 03 5965 2237
fergussonwinery.com.au



Potters Receptions, Warrandyte

A wedding at Potters is a truly unforgettable experience. Set amid 6 acres of native landscaped gardens with breathtaking waterfalls, chandelier-lit reception, charming chapel & garden ceremony options, a bridal retreat, alfresco bar & wisteria-draped courtyard, Potters can cater to all desires. Property exclusivity, accommodation, experienced co-ordinators, local produce menu or option of external catering. Potters is the ultimate venue, just 20 minutes from the city and a gateway to Yarra Valley.

P: 03 9844 1222
potters.com.au

Accommodation / Venues



Olinda Tea House, *Olinda*

Nestled in the heart of the stunning Dandenong Ranges just 50km from the Melbourne CBD, the Olinda Tea House is a place like no other. With unrivalled ambiance, it is the perfect location to host your next special event. Whether it is your wedding, engagement, anniversary or birthday, this stunning secret in the mountain will leave your event much talked about. Relax in our modern environmentally sustainable building and enjoy the peace and tranquillity nature has to offer.

P: 03 9751 0556
olindateahouse.com.au



De Bortoli Wines Yarra Valley Estate, *Dixons Creek*

De Bortoli Wines Yarra Valley Estate is in one of the most beautiful corners of a region renowned for its beauty, making it a unique and memorable venue for your wedding. Beautifully landscaped gardens set against a backdrop of vineyards and distant mountains, create the perfect setting for your ceremony. Their experienced, helpful wedding team can tailor a wine and food package to suit your needs.

P: 03 5965 2271
debortoli.com.au



Foothills Conference Centre, *Mooroolbark*

Foothills Conference Centre offers the Bride and Groom and their guests the unique advantage of having their reception, ceremony and accommodation all within the same location.

P: 1300 341 630
foothillsconferencecentre.com.au



Sutherland Estate, *Dixons Creek*

Sutherland Estate has one of the most spectacular vineyard sites in Australia. Celebrate with elegance and style in the heart of the Yarra Valley, enjoying fine wines and stunning views.

P: 0402 052 287
sutherlandestate.com.au



Balgownie Estate, *Yarra Glen*

A unique advantage of having reception, ceremony and accommodation within the same beautiful location, alongside a host of other activities sure to enrich the essence of a destination winery wedding.

P: 03 9730 0787
balgownieestate.com.au



Yering Meadows Golf Club, *Yering*

In the heart of the Yarra Valley, the club's spectacular views of the Yarra Valley, spacious function room catering to all group sizes.

P: 03 9738 000
yeringmeadows.com.au

Accommodation / Venues



SkyHigh Mt Dandenong, *Mt Dandenong*

Situated in the breathtaking Dandenong Ranges, SkyHigh Mount Dandenong provides the perfect backdrop for an unforgettable wedding. Surround yourself in colourful landscaped gardens and a panoramic view of the city.

P: 03 9751 0450

skyhighmtdandenong.com.au/weddings-functions

TarraWarra Estate, *Yarra Glen*

Only an hour outside Melbourne, the 400 acres of heritage bushland and lush vineyards are among the most picturesque in Australia. Weddings here are an exclusive affair.

P: 03 5957 3510

tarrawarra.com.au

Read more stories and find out more about our
Off Peak Weddings partners on our website

offpeakweddings.com.au

where you can make direct enquiries,
create 'favourite' lists and plan your day, your way!

Photo : @Alowyn Gardens by Quint Photography



Photo: A Touch of Polish Photography

Off Peak Weddings

YARRA VALLEY & DANDENONG RANGES –

For more information:

email: hitched@offpeakweddings.com.au

Visit: offpeakweddings.com.au

 [offpeakweddings](https://www.facebook.com/offpeakweddings)

 [offpeakweddings](https://www.instagram.com/offpeakweddings)

Yarra Ranges Tourism respectfully acknowledges the traditional owners, the Wurundjeri people as the custodians of this land. We pay respect to all Aboriginal community Elders, past, present and emerging, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the history of the region.