



Cool in the country
Villa Vino, NSW Hunter Valley

The newest accommodation addition at award-winning Winmark Wines Estate is designed for couples. Snug, pitch-roofed Villa Vino looks almost like a little chapel and neatly fits the template of the tiny house category of holiday accommodation increasingly found across farms, rural properties and in beach settings. There is the feel of “borrowed space”, too, as broad views create a veritable hinterland of rows of grapes, mountains, with a working vineyard and dam beyond. The outdoor area includes a firepit and “camp kitchen” comprising a cooktop, microwave, toaster, coffee machine,

barbecue and pizza oven. A bathroom pod is right outside the sleeping quarters and a shared pool is easily accessed for a dip. The Winmark Wines estate also features a sculpture trail, perennial gardens designed by Paul Bangay, award-winning cellar door and art gallery plus a range of larger self-contained accommodation options for families or house parties. There’s a new event space, too, ideal for weddings or special occasions, seating 60, or 90 in party style. Expect kangaroos to bound about and the prospect of toasting sunsets with the estate’s premium range of chardonnay.

winmarkwines.com.au
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Hot in the capital
Floriade, Canberra

The national capital’s annual Floriade celebration, our biggest floral festival, springs to life on September 14-October 13, marking the 37th year for this much-loved, free-access extravaganza that attracts thousands of visitors. The always popular NightFest takes place each evening on October 3-6, with live entertainment and food stalls from 6.30pm-10pm; this is a ticketed event, on sale from July 15. Commonwealth Park, on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin, is at the core of the colourful month-long fiesta, famous for its masses of tulips and daffodils, and special events for 2024 include Dogs’ Day Out on

October 13, when owners are encouraged to bring along their furry pets, and the Floriade Community initiative, by which more than 300,000 bulbs and annuals are distributed to volunteer groups to plant and spread colour over the city’s precincts and suburbs. Visitors can take a piece of Floriade home with them on October 14 when the Great Big Bulb Dig takes place. Integrated sculptures and installations, family-focused activities and cultural celebrations are also in the mix. Check packages at ACT Accor properties, including Novotel Canberra in the CBD.

floriadeaustralia.com
novotelcanberra.com.au
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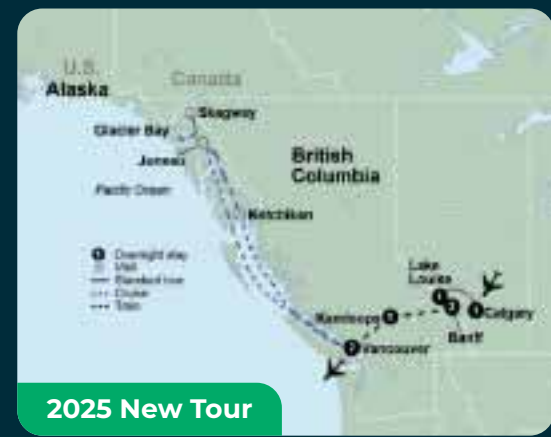
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