



Sea Zen Presents ...

the food lovers

**GUIDE TO *THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD*
AND *THE OTWAYS***



About this guide

We have been exploring places in the Otways to eat for over 20 years and have lived here full time since 2009.

In this Food Lover's Guide we share with you our favourite places, some obvious, some off the beaten track known only known to locals.

We hope you have the same pleasure we have had eating at these places of delight in the Otways.

**Rex and Sibylle
Wye River, 2015**

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RESTAURANTS AND CAFES

Our local – Wye River General Store and cafe

This hidden gem right in Wye River, has the best coffee on the Great Ocean Road, equal to any we have had anywhere in the world!

It even has its own pastry chef Pip who bakes at weekends and busy times, with artisanal sourdough bread and gorgeous French pastries. Our favourite is the Polish doughnuts, a recipe passed on from his grandmother.

Folks come at weekends from Melbourne and Lorne, just to have a great coffee in a great location.

Open for breakfast and lunch. (5289 0247)



Wye Beach Hotel

With good food and an amazing outlook over Wye beach, this is where we bring visiting friends and family for a truly Wye dinner experience.

Our favourites are the Fish and chips and the Fish stew (Bouillabaisse). Prices medium with large serves – beware the huge Parma it can feed two!

Open for lunch and dinner every day of the year



Chris's at Beacon Point, up Skenes Creek Road.

Our absolute favourite for special occasions - not only for the food but the unique views, through trees, across hills and paddocks down onto the town of Apollo Bay and the beaches and ocean. Awesome! The food is Greek inspired as many meals are based on Chris's homeland recipes. However there is a beautiful cosmopolitan range to the food and the service is exquisite. Our favourite is the Duck.

A mid range price restaurant for a time that's slightly special. (5237 6411)

LOCATION

About 45 minutes' drive towards Skenes Creek in the direction of Apollo Bay. Before Apollo Bay at Skenes Creek you turn right up Skenes Creek Road and about 10 mins later you see the sign on the right. Turn up a steepish drive and drive up the hill.



La Bimba, Apollo Bay

About 35 mins drive to Apollo Bay, in the heart of the main street and upstairs with a lovely view over the street and to the tea trees and the beach. One of our favourites as a drop in place, anytime. A casual café with excellent coffee, great breakfasts and lunches. During winter they occasionally have truffles, sliced on toast with olive oil and they regularly do very delicious paella – yum.

LOCATION 125 Great Ocean Rd, Apollo Bay / Ph 5237



Chill Tapas, Apollo Bay



Chill is a Spanish Tapas Bar and we have tried just about everything on the menu. Everything is delicious. It is a friendly place, kind of hidden on a back street (the street parallel to the main road. If you miss it just ask someone, it's very well known.)

There are some tables outside where one can linger with a glass of wine without being hurried up. The decor is bright and the whole ambience is welcoming. The Sangria is great in summer or winter; take it easy for the drive back.

LOCATION - 35 min drive to Apollo Bay. Phone 5237 1006

Fishermen's Co-op Fish and Chips at Apollo Bay Marina

Definitely one of our favourites, come summer or winter. Grab some fabulous fresh fish n chips and sit outside the Co-op and enjoy the view of the calm marina with the bobbing fishing boats of this working fishing village.

Drive through Apollo Bay and follow the sign to the Marina and golf Club. You can't miss it.



Crays are popular, especially at the annual Seafood festival in February

BRAE, Birregurra by Dan Hunter

4285 Cape Otway Road, Birregurra. Ph 5236 2226

Brae is Scottish for a hillside; a gentle slope. Brae is a modern restaurant set on 30 productive acres. A place to interact with nature and eat from the land. Menus are created with location in mind and reflect our connection to the land, the restaurant's pristine natural surrounds and the productive region in which it sits.

We haven't been but have read the rave reviews and comments from one of our guest couple. (see below). Each day the chefs take food from their own kitchen gardens, it doesn't get fresher than this.

Dinner, Thursday to Sunday /Lunch, Friday to Monday

COST

Yes the prices are huge but we had one guest couple who went for a special anniversary and said it was the most amazing and wonderful food experience of their lives.

Menu \$180pp / Optional matched wines + \$120pp

LOCATION

54 kms away, drive back towards Lorne then via Deans Marsh Road, about an hour to drive.



River Tea House, Lorne

We love this one for the ambience and the selection of teas. The cakes are good too. As you sit and munch you can enjoy the beautiful house wares and furniture from India, Indonesia, and Thailand.

River Tea House is open for breakfast and lunch and the menu includes - Coffee, Orange Cake, Scrambled Eggs with Sweet Herb Roma Tomatoes on Sourdough Toast, Bacon, Egg, Cheese, Spinach and Tomato Relish. LOCATION - 4B Mountjoy Parade Lorne, Ph 5289 2099



Chopstix, Lorne

Chopstix Noodle Bar is a casual dining / takeaway café offering the flavours of the orient in a modern and funky vibe. Very handy for a quick meal when out and about or a take-away to bring back to **Treetops**. There are hand rolled Japanese Sushi, an Indonesian Nasi Goreng, as well as Pavlova and ice cream topped with a raspberry dressing!

96 Mountjoy Parade. Lorne, 15 minutes drive from **Treetops**.



Maple Tree, Lorne

A very nice place and a little bit pricey so perhaps the place for a celebration. Maple Tree is located in central Lorne and overlooks the beach on the Great Ocean Road. Many ingredients are sourced from the Otway Ranges, the Victorian coastlines and local pastures. The kitchen celebrates this local produce and the menus evolve with the seasons.

Only 15 minutes drive from **Treetops**. 116 Mountjoy Parade, Lorne. Ph 5289 1004.



The Ridge Organic Food Store and Cafe – Beech Forest

20 Gardner Street, Beech Forest, Ph 5235 9273

Hidden gem with friendly service .A lovely place where everything is home-made or locally sourced and we find the food delicious and seriously good value. Great in winter with terrible weather outside and a fire blazing, very relaxing spot. In summer you can sit on the back veranda and look out over the valleys for miles and miles.



Near the 12 Apostles

L'Artisan Cheese Timboon and the Mouse Trap café are located in Timboon (former Timboon Farmhouse Cheese), close to Port Campbell on the Great Ocean Road.

Many **Treetops** guests have made a day of it with a trip to this place and a visit to the 12 Apostles at the same time.

They produce a range of organic French style cheeses with the most traditional techniques and recipes that third generation cheese maker and owner Matthieu Megard has brought from his home country. They only use local organic milk and are enthusiastic about making sure that the products reflect the Great Ocean Road "Terroir".



23 Ford And Fells Rd, Timboon. 140 km from **Treetops**, takes about 2 and a quarter hours through Apollo Bay and onto port Campbell. Then take Timboon – Peterborough road until Ford and fells Road.

Apostle Whey Cheeses

Watch local cheese makers work magic with curds and whey, treat your sweet-tooth to hand-crafted chocolates at GORGE Chocolates, and take home locally roasted coffee beans from Kazbah.

Apostle Whey Cheeses is 15 minutes from the 12 Apostles
9 Gallum Rd, Cooriemungle . 5598 7367



OTWAYS HARVEST TRAIL – SEE BROCHURE

Beyond the Great Ocean Road, in the Otways hinterland lies a land of bountiful fresh food. A land with a unique combination of aspect, soils, climate and farming practices that produce distinctive and exceptional flavours in fresh products to tempt all palates.

This Otway's Harvest Trail traverses some of the most fertile land in Victoria which grows some of the state's best produce. Breakfast can be enjoyed anywhere between Apollo Bay and Lorne before turning left into the Otway's hinterland. The Deans Marsh and Pennyroyal area is renowned for its berries, olives and wineries.

Further North, Birregurra is the hub of Otway produce and the perfect lunch stop. Heading back towards the Great Ocean Road via Forrest, which has a boutique brewery and an atmospheric cafe. Continue South through towering rainforest to Apollo Bay.

Enjoy a few hours, enjoy a day tour. Bon Appetit!

Pennyroyal Raspberry Farm

Pennyroyal is a working organic berry farm and B&B. Organically grown pick your own berries in season. Devonshire teas and farm produce in the cafe. About 1 hours drive from **Treetops**. See the Harvest Trail map.



Gentle Annie Berry Gardens

Picturesque valley setting. Pick Your Own in season – a huge variety pesticide free berries & orchard fruit. Farm preserves, licensed cafe. Gentle Annie Berry Gardens is nestled in the picturesque Pennyroyal Valley and is a pick-your-own berry farm using organic practices, with a licensed farmhouse café and local produce shop.

About 40 minutes from **Treetops**.

Open 7 days Dec-Jan 10am-5pm. /Closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays in November, February, March and April. Closed Christmas Day. Closed New Year's Day. (Season closed between end of April till beginning of November).

520 Pennyroyal Valley road, Pennyroyal Valley, Victoria. PH 5236 3391

Farm Foods And Provedore Birregurra

Enter the world of the boutique butcher. Free range meats and locally sourced products. Birregurra. Birregurra, 35 minutes from **Treetops**. Drive back to Lorne and then up the Dean's Marsh Road. 43 Main St, Birregurra. 5236 2611. See the Harvest Trail Brochure.



Forrest Brewing

Apollo Bay Road (Forrest is a small town, you won't miss it)
Forrest (03) 5236 6170

In the town of Forrest is a microbrewery/restaurant/mountain-biker-hangout run by the Matt and Sharon Bradshaw, a brother and sister team. The two converted the old general store into a no fuss stop. The food and beer is excellent and they are passionate about what they do. On some Sundays they have a band playing.

Our all time favourite drive in the Otways is to the Brewery.



Wines and Cheese

Gosling Creek

Have a good gander at the cool climate wines at this vineyard and cellar door nestled in the Otway Ranges: try the pinot noir, shiraz and riesling.



Otway Estate Winery and Brewery

Wet your whistle with a range of cool climate wines, premium handcrafted beers and farmhouse ciders served with platters of fresh local delicacies. 10-30 Hoveys Rd, Barongarook.



FARMERS MARKETS

Fresh, fresh and fresher. Yummy produce and gifts and nibblies.

Apollo Bay Farmers Market

The Apollo Bay Farmer's Market is on the third Sunday of every month @ the youth club in Apollo Bay. Lots of local produce like local meats, fruit and vegetables, Goats of Gaia soaps, home spun wool and woollen hand knits, herbs, local potted plants etc. From 9 am to 1pm and best to go early, take a coffee from nearby Café 153 (see Café notes.)



And there's more! When you stay you stay at our [Treetops](#) or [Sea Zen](#) accommodation you can check out the extra information, books and maps we provide.

BON APPETIT !!

Planning your next trip? We are often booked well ahead.
[Sea Zen](#) is a luxury romantic studio for couples at Wye River.
[Check our calendar](#) to reserve your next holiday now!