



FACT SHEET 2014

Location

Daylesford a mere 80 minutes' drive from Melbourne is a place of breathtaking scenery. Lakes, rivers, waterfalls, pristine bush and Australia's largest concentration of naturally occurring mineral springs combine with a colourful and rich history to offer a myriad of possible experiences for the traveller.

Known since the time of the aborigines as a place of healing, the region boasts the largest number of natural mineral water springs in Australia and the largest concentration of holistic therapists in the southern hemisphere. Whatever the latest in natural therapies, it is already here and probably being practiced by the very best.

A mecca for generations of artists drawn by the region's luscious light, locations and seasonal ambience; Daylesford continues to attract many well know contemporary artists and residents. The main street environs of the village offer a plethora of quirky shops, great bookshops, cafes, pubs and art galleries.

Food and wine are consuming passions here, and with good reason. A quirk of sunlight, soil and rain means anything in the ground almost grows itself. There's an undisguised pride amongst local producers, winemakers and restaurateurs. So expect to wine and dine very well in Daylesford and surrounds. With such a wide range of experiences from farm gates, markets, cellar doors, provadores, country pubs, wine bars to world class fine dining - you'll be spoilt for choice.

The village itself is surrounded by several thousand hectares of state forest. Walking tracks through the forest alongside rivers, lakes and waterfalls yield frequent encounters with an abundance of Australian animals including wallabies, wombats and koalas. For those wanting a little more activity in the fresh air there is horse-riding, guided walks, golf, fishing, cricket and more.

Access

Daylesford is located 80 minutes from Melbourne CBD and 60 minutes from Melbourne Airport. Limousine and helicopter transfers can be arranged on request.

We recommend that guests have their own car in the region – for maximum opportunity to explore. However Lake House is located within easy walking distance of the village and there are taxis available to take guests further afield.

Recommended Itinerary

Lake House is a standalone destination – and you'll barely scratch the surface of this vibrant village and countryside in 2nights.

A perfect destination for some rejuvenation after a long haul flight arriving into Melbourne – or pre departure of course – many guests combine the drive through to South Australia's The Louise & Kangaroo Island's Southern Ocean Lodge.

History, The Dream

In 1984 Alla and Allan Wolf-Tasker opened the doors of their 40-seater weekend only restaurant that had taken three years of (weekend) building to complete. At a time when regional Australia was anything but a considered destination for good food, Alla Wolf-Tasker had the remarkable foresight to establish a regional restaurant, with aspirations for fine dining and a sense of place.

History, The Dream – continued

With the clearing of a scenic, blackberry-infested paddock near Lake Daylesford and commencing the daunting long term process of encouraging local farmers to supply specialty produce, Alla's vision began to materialise. In no time word spread and 'foodies' began to seek out the "house on the lake". Reviewers heaped praise, awards were won - and in the process Alla succeeded in putting Daylesford on the culinary travellers' map.

That restaurant has now truly come of age and is part of the Lake House small luxury hotel complete with picturesque accommodation, 10,000 bottle Cellar and Salus Spa. The property is still privately owned and operated by the Wolf-Taskers alongside daughter Larissa and 120 dedicated staff.

A Few of our Awards

2 Chefs Hats/ Best Country Wine list – **The Age Good Food Guide**

Australia's Best Spa Experience – **ASPA Awards**

Gold Standard – **Conde Nast Traveller Annual Gold List**

One of the Top 101 Hotels in the World – **UK Tatler Travel Guide**

Best Regional Property – **Luxury Travel Gold List**

Australia's Best Regional Winelist – **Gourmet Traveller Winelist of the Year Awards**

A Hotel with Heart & Soul

Lake House is a tranquil retreat that includes thirty-three rooms and suites in either a waterfront or lodge setting. Six acres of country gardens extend down to the waters of Lake Daylesford and provide guests with immediate access to the lake shore and the Wombat State Forest beyond.

All rooms and suites are individually decorated and appointed with original artwork and amenities from the heavily Elemis range.

Situated behind a discreet gate, amongst its own gardens and with direct access to the lake foreshore, The Retreat at Lake House offers the opportunity for a more private getaway within the fabled Lake House grounds. Two sumptuously furnished bedrooms, fireside lounging areas, two luxury bathroom /dressing rooms and a fully equipped kitchen and bar areas, complete the picture of your ultimate romantic retreat.

Exploring the property is in itself an adventure. Guests may like to have a hit of tennis followed by tea and refreshments in the tennis pavilion, a glass of wine by the open fire or a game of billiards in the Lounge. Given the opportunity to explore the gardens guests will come upon the Kitchen Garden planted out with edible shoots and flowers, a myriad of sculptures and artwork from many of the region's top artists, extensive outdoor terraces overlooking the lake shore and established country gardens with everything from koala loved stringy barks to lilac, Daphne, quince, plum and apple trees.

Room Types

The Retreat

Perfect for two to four guests a stay in The Retreat begins with a private check in at your own gated entrance. Two beautifully appointed bedrooms have adjacent walk through dressing rooms. Magnificent bathrooms feature deep ceramic baths with overhanging chandeliers, separate generous showers and spacious vanities. Entertaining areas are plush and textured with deep lounges, enormous comfortable armchairs, open fires, soaring ceilings and lots of natural light.

The Retreat - continued

Views look out onto sunny terraces, European style courtyard with lavender, twisted vines and water feature and along the private path that leads to the lake shore. A fire pit is set and ready to enjoy in the evening under the starry skies and a heated sunken outdoor tub offers additional alfresco opportunities with cushion strewn day bed. All the usual essentials of a luxe fit out including Nespresso machines, Bose sound systems, heated bathroom floors and temperature controlled wine cabinet are provided, as is a full range of cable TV channels and Wi-Fi. But in particular, The Retreat at Lake House draws together elements of truly stylish, elegant country living with its high level of comfort, unique furnishings, works from the Wolf Tasker family's private art collection and an intelligently selected library.

Lake House facilities - tennis court, award winning spa and dining room - and the internationally acclaimed wine cellar are only steps away. You can also take advantage of the private massage pavilion and book an exclusive tailor made Retreat Spa Experience.

Waterfront Suites

With prime position overlooking the lagoon and the shores of lake Daylesford - each suite features superior king beds, plush sofa, with locally sourced Merino Wool throws, textured armchairs and soft furnishings in chartreuse, citron, champagne gold and mustard yellows. Suites feature original artwork from resident artist Allan Wolf-Tasker's onsite studio. A stone topped bar is stocked with regionally sourced sips and nibbles, Salus Spa's own sparkling mineral water, Nespresso Coffee machines. Ensuites have dual showers, double spa baths and heated bathroom floors. Flat screen televisions with a selection of cable channels, iPod docking stations and free in room Wi-Fi access are all at your fingertips.

Waterfront Rooms

These picturesque rooms complete with balconies overlook lake Daylesford. They have a king bed, plush sofa and armchair with botanical prints. Provincial style chairs and desk are set beneath a collection of local historic photographs, prints and original artwork from Resident Artist Allan Wolf-Tasker's on site studio. Flat screen televisions with a selection of cable channels, IPOD docking stations and free Wi-Fi are all at your fingertips. The contemporary ensuite includes dual shower.

Lodge Suites

Large & spacious Lodge Suites are individually configured and decorated. Each Suite includes king bed, spacious luxurious bathroom with European style bath & shower or large contemporary shower, walk in robe and outdoor lounge area with garden or courtyard views.

Suites are appointed with flat screen televisions, DVD players, in room mini bar, a selection of cable channels and free Wi-Fi access.

Lodge rooms

Individually configured and decorated rooms nestled between private courtyards, gardens and terraces - clustered around a stylishly appointed and comfortable lounge complete with billiard table and open fire.

The Artist Studio....

Allan Wolf-Tasker, Lake House co-proprietor and talented artist distributes his work to collectors worldwide. His studio is found onsite at Lake House and he welcomes guests to have a look at what he's

The Artist Studio.... - continued

currently working on. A selection of his works are on display throughout the property and in each of the individual guest rooms. His works feature on 12 collectors show plates that are used in the Lake House Restaurant and available for sale at Reception.

The Restaurant

In the kitchens, a talented team, under the guidance of owner and Executive Chef Alla Wolf-Tasker work from the ground up producing cutting edge, modern Australian cuisine with an emphasis on seasonal and regional ingredients.

The kitchen creates most items on the daily menu from the ground up – ranging from bread, charcuterie, preserves, smoked goods, chocolates and more.

A la carte menus change with the availability of new seasonal produce and will use organics where possible. The selection of Contemporary Australian dishes draws inspiration from all over the world including Alla's homeland of Russia and her original training ground of France.

As part of our overall policy of wherever possible reducing "food miles" and developing a personal relationship with actual suppliers – much of the produce used in our menus is regionally grown or produced.

Some of it is organic – but mostly it is the result of great care and passion on the part of small growers who are changing the face of agribusiness in our state, and for whom biodiversity and sustainable agricultural practices are firmly on the agenda.

The Farm

Since launching food group Daylesford Macedon Produce in the early 90s Alla has played a major part in the development and encouragement of producers in and around Daylesford. Five farms now supply the property with choice selection of organic and biodynamic produce. In 2010 a joint venture was launched between the Lake House kitchen and Mount Franklin Organics that involved an exclusive plot and exchange between the farm and the kitchen team *going out and getting dirty*. The relationship means plantings of hard to come by items such as black radishes will soon be seen on the restaurant table.

The Cellar

The wine lists features roughly 1000 labels and the cellar houses almost 10,000 bottles. The list highlights the best of the surrounding wine regions - Heathcote, Macedon & Sunbury, Ballarat & the Pyrenees alongside some of the world's most renowned labels.

Perfect for up to 16 people – The Cellar Room is a popular choice for private parties & celebrations.

Forage & Feast

An activity and indulgence packed two-night retreat for groups of six or more food and wine lovers. Including a region scavenger hunt around the producers, some hands on time in the kitchen and plenty of great food and wine – it's a challenging and delicious way to explore the Daylesford Macedon region.

Cooking Classes

A regular calendar of Cooking Classes are hosted by Alla in the demonstration kitchen. Recent participants include Peter Gilmore, Greg Malouf, Andrew McConnell, Ben Shewry. Adam D'Sylva, Sophie Grigson, Skye Gygell, George Calombaris and more.

The Salus Spa

The state-of-the-art Salus Spa designed with blond wood and splashes of Tiffany blue, is surrounded by waterfall fed streams with nine treatment areas offering the latest in spa treatments and technology. Walls are adorned with enormous paintings from renowned artist David Bromley's nude series.

Relaxation lounges feature plush banquets and recliners lined with soft, textured pillows inviting guests to linger after their treatment and prolong that pampering glow.

Idyllic tree top houses overlook the foreshore of the lake. Inside a deep geisha style tub is filled for each person with 100% pure mineral water sourced especially for Salus Spa. No additives or chemicals are added so guests receive the maximum benefit from these precious bubbling waters. A soak prior to a more extensive body treatment or massage is an ideal way to increase circulation, lymphatic systems as well as start the muscle easing process.

Still and sparkling mineral water is also bottled under the Salus label for guests to enjoy on site.

Signature treatments at Salus Spa capture some of the fragrances from each season found so abundantly in the surrounding Wombat State Forest and the local countryside. For example in Winter therapists source pine, eucalyptus, rosemary from the garden; in Autumn it may be a vintage & vine treatment using the antioxidants from the grape skins, Summer is fresh picked cucumber, mint and aloe vera; whilst spring offers old fashioned roses, citrus and violets.

These body treatments combine a soothing rhythmic massage utilising hot volcanic rocks and warm oil reducing tension and easing muscle aches. The body is then polished with fragrant mineral salts to remove rough skin. Whilst you are all wrapped up, a soothing face and scalp massage completes this nourishing experience. Finish off with a Hydrostorm where steam assists the absorption of essential oils whilst Vichy jets and waterfall showers rinse away the salt, exposing a beautiful soft skin – fresh, nourished and rejuvenated.

Perfect for pre wedding day pampering or hen's day celebrations – group packages are diverse and affordable.

Exclusive use of the spa means your group can wander from Mani/Pedi station to massage room – stopping for a glass of bubbles and a giggle with the girls in between. ½ day and full day packages are available.

Wellness Retreats

The Wellness Revolution has not been ignored at Lake House. Wellness packages combine a suggested program of activities including daily walks or runs through the Wombat State Forest with blissful accommodation, a selection of Spa Cuisine dishes and treatments in the Salus Spa to compliment the guests' desired results. Private Pilates, Yoga and Tai Chi have also become popular as well as acupuncture, naturopathy, kinesiology, tarot and esoteric healing.

Combined with a little sweet country air and plenty of relaxation space – Wellness Retreats are tailored to each individual.

Spa Cuisine at Lake House

Spa Cuisine uses the best seasonal produce as often as possible from local sources.

Menus are balanced with appropriate amounts of ingredients from all the critical food groups but without excess sugars, salts, fats and carbohydrates. It is not about denial.

Above all we believe that eating something truly delicious has always done wonders for the human spirit....



Spa Cuisine at Lake House -continued

and isn't that what wellness is all about anyway. Spa Cuisine dishes include:

- Daylesford Organics Zucchini in a warm custard, a crisp blossom and carpaccio style salad
- Local Meredith Chevre tortellini, baked ratatouille, smoky eggplant puree
- Warm gelee of local quince, toasted soft meringue topped fromage frais mousse, walnut gelato

Lake House
Hotel. Restaurant. Spa
On the shores of Lake Daylesford
www.lakehouse.com.au