

Off Peak Weddings

- YARRA VALLEY & DANDENONG RANGES -



getting
hitched
your way

ISSUE 7

WINTER

Photo: Rick Liston

Virtual Wedding
Tours

p.34

Married during Iso

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Directory of Services
- Locals Know

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Photo: Lemon and Lime. Courtesy of Potters Receptions

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



Destination

Yarra Valley & Dandenong Ranges

Photo: Courtesy of Riverstone Estate

Comfort and togetherness. Winter arrives with us already well practiced in the things we love most about the season. This year we emerge from the cocoon of these colder months in a much more gradual way, responding to the practical nature of our confinement, while seeking the reconnection to the world and each other that helps us feel whole. We have newfound skills in viewing life virtually, and in its own way this brings us to new vistas and people to connect with.

The Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges change with the season yet remain unchanged – beautiful, plentiful, restful – every day of the year. The vintage harvested in autumn makes its way into bottles and to our tables by special delivery, the feasting food is prepared and the home fires are still burning.

Because one thing is certain, like the change of seasons can be relied on, so too can we anticipate the opening of the cellar doors, the restaurants, the roads to nowhere and the coming together of family and friends to celebrate our renewed appreciation of life.

Nothing will matter – we will welcome the rain, relish the snowfalls and fall in love all over again with the experience of being alive in the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges. All that yearning, all that dreaming – it will carry you here.

Bella Weddings

Finding Italy in the Yarra Valley

With destination weddings enjoying a period of popularity, many couples will be feeling a little grounded in their wedding planning with the current restrictions on travel. If you've always dreamt of an Italian wedding, there is a uniquely Yarra Valley way for you to have your wedding closer to home and still hit the high note of a 'giorno del matrimonio' too. Right here, and soon.

The Yarra Valley has a long history of Italian life – it's been in our DNA for over a century, and there's an abundance of venues and suppliers that take pride in their cultural heritage. It's more than just location, location, location. These local destinations are infused with the glorious heart of Italian life, close to home, and a celebration of culture that will bring just the right 'bella Italia' to your day, your way.

You don't have to be Italian to appreciate the best of an Italian way of life and you can style your wedding day from subtle acknowledgement to full embrace.

Have your 'primo bacio' as a married couple in the immersive space at The Chapel at [Stones of the Yarra Valley](#) – the feel is simple, pure and calm, with thought given to every perspective.

Whitewashed walls and timber, treelined driveways and breathtaking 360 views will only enhance your beauty! Or explore The Capella at [Zonzo Estate](#), which is also exquisitely appointed for your ceremony.

Photo: The Farmhouse

While you can create a touch of Italy anywhere, there are several venues in the Yarra Valley that have already done it for you. [Massaros](#) in Kangaroo Ground, Stones of the Yarra Valley and [Meletos](#) are full of authentic charm, and luxurious in detail. Antiquities and uniquely restored and/or imported furniture and fittings provide heart-stopping beauty and a considered sense of place that speak to a design aesthetic and 'collectable' eye that has been refined through years of styling and hunting.

Stay over in a Tuscan styled villa (and not an airfare in sight). The Farmhouse Loggia at Meletos is stunning and truly a homage to the finer details of Italian design. The boutique hotel rooms are furnished with luxurious textiles, leather and vintage timber 'curated' to create the ambiance and joy of an Italian sojourn – design lives here as an artform. Perfect accommodation for a wedding and/or honeymoon, with worldly views across the vines and perfect photo opportunities.



Photo: Michelle Pragt at Massaros

The formal gardens at [Alowyn Gardens](#) will have you wistful with their beauty in an "I'm not crying, you're crying!" kind of way. Although 'French' in influence, the gardens, with their structured box hedges and gravel pathways, have all the features of a European sensibility and are stunning photo locations.

Add a little more flavour with Bocce on the lawn at [Punt Road Winery](#) (or hire a set up for your venue) and bring in some of the best gelati from [Bam Bam Italian](#) or [Yarra Valley Chocolaterie](#).

Fabulous photography

In search of a cobbled laneway, stucco sundrenched wall, retro vespa, salumeria, flower cart or a striped awning for an Italian-infused backdrop for photos? Locals know and [Rick Liston Photography](#) has his shutter poised and ready to show you some secret settings with full Italian charm – not to mention the thousands of vines planted in perfect rows that nod directly to a Tuscan landscape. You'll even find an Olive Grove at Massaros.

Top 10 Yarra Valley Wedding venues/Restaurants serving Italian cuisine

Long table lunches, grazing locally grown seasonal produce, fine dining and wood fired pizza – it's all here and delicious so you can 'mangiare' just the way you want to.

1. [Fondata 1872](#)
2. [Stones of the Yarra Valley](#) and The Stables
3. [De Bortoli](#) 'Locale'
4. [Zonzo Estate](#)
5. [Meletos](#)
6. [Soumah Estate](#)
7. [Massaros](#)
8. [DiVino Restaurant](#)
9. [Chateau Yering](#)
10. [Rochford Wines](#) – 400 Gradi and [Isabella's](#)

Italian Wines - love the local vino

Take the Italian theme all the way and choose Italian varietal wines grown in the Yarra Valley, such as:

- Arneis, Brachetto, Fiano/Fiano E Greco, Lagrein, Marzemino, Montepulciano, Moscato, Nebbiolo/Nebbiolo Rose, Nascetta, Pinot Grigio, Prosecco, Sangiovese, Savarro and Teroldego.

Wineries with Italian varietals include:

Innocent Bystander, Graceburn Wines, Soumah Estate, Giammarino Wines, De Bortoli, Rochford Wines, Graceburn Wines, Greenstone Winery and Sedona Estate.

Don't forget your 'before and afters' the aperitivo and digestivo. Whilst not necessarily made in the Yarra Valley, a full appreciation can certainly be developed here with these Italian classics. And there's always Four Pillars Gin because Negroni!



Winter hearts filled with love



Photo: Mike Semple

There's so much to love about winter. It's the perfect season for intimate occasions, for keeping each other close, shoulder to shoulder, heart to heart, facing the world together. For every couple who has had to postpone their big day, winter promises the wait will be worth it. There's time to re-evaluate – do the same things still make your heart sing? Time to plan – what's possible now that might not have been six months ago? Time to anticipate – the long game is marriage and that's worth waiting for. And time to enjoy being engaged because love is love.

Staying open to possibility and being flexible are the survival tactics of the day, but they are also terrific skills to master in wedded life. Big love is just as delightfully expressed in small intimate ceremonies, and if you simply can't wait to be betrothed, a tiny wedding can be created for you with ease in the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges. Outdoor garden or vineyard settings and celebrants that bring authenticity and charm to your day are part of who we are.

A great photographer can create the right kind of drama with a cloudy sky, many restaurants and venues are doing delivery and special catering – you can even get a delivered-at-home High Tea to celebrate. So if you're not ready and able to leave home, your wedding can come to you.

And for the couples who dream big and want to share their day with everyone they know, there's always the option of small ceremony now and big party later. Venues throughout the region will say welcome back. Virtual tours are one way to picture yourself in some of the most stunning venues without leaving home, so explore them all.

Winter is made for this. Find Your Self cosy and ready for your day, your way.

Kiara & Tristan

Get Hitched

@BulongEstate

Meet the couple

Six years ago Kiara, a Project Manager, and Tristan, a Human Resources Manager, were co-workers on a construction site in Gladstone in Queensland. They shared a mutual friend Steph, and Tristan had a habit of showing up whenever he knew Steph was with Kiara. His big moment of 1:1 time with Kiara came, however, when Kiara sought out his help to open the rusted closed door of a container one day. "I pride myself on being an independent woman, but it just wouldn't budge and Tristan couldn't move it either! Eventually I got it open because I am stubborn but from that moment, we've been in one continual conversation."

"Not long after, I booked some beachside glamping. Tristan invited himself along and from then we've been a couple. Somehow our relationship blossomed while we were both working 60-hour plus weeks on a construction site. I think we can attribute that to all the little gestures during that time. We had to catch a ferry to work, and there was a row of just two seats. Each morning, we would wait for each other on the newly titled 'lust seat' although it quickly became the 'love seat'"

"The funniest thing is we worked out we'd spent 15 years of our childhoods living in Gladstone and had many mutual friends, but we'd never met," says Tristan. "We think that meeting finally in our late 20s was serendipitous at the very least," says Kiara.



Photo: T-One Image
Location: Bulong Estate, Yarra Junction



Photo: T-One Image

Who proposed?

“Tristan is a master creator of romantic events,” says Kiara. “He orchestrated every last detail. I didn’t have a clue!” Having set up a few days leave with Kiara’s boss, Tristan told his unexpected bride-to-be to pack a bag for a couple of nights, and they headed in the direction of glamping accommodation (just like their first weekend away) in Daylesford. After some wistful looking at the gorgeous Clifftop at Hepburn Villa, and then driving past, Tristan sneakily doubled back to surprise Kiara with the news he had booked them a room. “I didn’t want her to think I was going to propose so I said nothing the first night, but the next day I booked us massages and the team at Clifftop helped me by setting up the room with candles, rose petals strewn up to the door, wine and two Go Pros. We got back to the villa and I flicked on a video on the TV. We’re pretty big Aussie hip hop fans and thought the marriage of Eso (from Bliss N Eso) and his wife was ideal. We’d always said we would love for our relationship to be as fun as theirs appeared. So I arranged for Eso to record a special message to Kiara. She watched it and finally realised what was happening.”

“He put in so much time and effort, He even got me the perfect Blue Sapphire ring one I’d pointed out three years earlier. Apparently, he’d taken notes back then and had it custom made,” says Kiara.

How did you choose your ceremony and reception venue?

“We wanted a wedding destination that would allow us to do as much as we wanted to ourselves. We looked at several wineries – we are both passionate wine lovers and enjoy good food – and when we met Monica at Bulong Estate we loved how flexible and supportive she was. The vistas were gorgeous and Monica was genuinely excited with our ideas. We knew we’d be able to do things our way – which wasn’t very traditional.”

What was your wedding theme?

“We are both massive music and festival lovers as are our friends. We wanted a wedding that was a party that we just happened to get married at. So we created the theme of a music festival we named ‘Ellery Dayze’ a play on our surname. It started as a joke, but it was a perfect expression of who we are and what we love.

A sign at the front gate welcomed people to ‘Ellery Dayze’ and I made backdrops for three sound stages, which were all outdoors among the vines. Along with three other music acts, we invited a surprise band – a ‘Daft Punk’ tribute band with full set up and we had DJ sets. We had it all – even stubby coolers for guests and wristbands – just like a music festival,” says Kiara.

A chill out area was set up with bean bags and couches with an emphasis on comfort. “Our ceremony was super-relaxed. We had chairs on one side and picnic rugs and huge cushions handmade by Kiara. The feel was modern boho with festoon lights, and cane peacock chairs for the formalities. It was all about what we wanted – not what we thought we should have or do. That was the theme – no rules, no traditions unless they made sense to us and we valued them.”

“Guests were treated to a grazing table, followed by a set menu from two food trucks (one for burgers and one Vietnamese) and a dessert bar and wedding cake. “People could just eat what they wanted when they wanted to – in between some serious dancing!”

Is there a story behind your dress?

“I didn’t know what I wanted to wear so I tried on dozens of dresses and eventually had one custom made that was a little of each dress I liked. My whole design ethos was comfort and easy elegance. I wanted a dress I could dance in for hours,” says Kiara.

Kiara and Tristan had five attendants each. The women decided what style of dress they wanted in a ‘pinky-red’ colour spectrum. The guys wore a navy suit of their choosing. Tristan, although planning to wear a floral jacket and be the centre of attention, chose an eye catching pinky-red jacket.



Photo: T-One Image

Tell us about the special elements of your day.

Tristan wrote his own vows and included 15 references to music festivals in the copy. People were giggling as they caught on. Kiara wrote hers from the heart – unique and sentimental.

Tristan’s wedding band has a blue sapphire to mirror the beauty of Kiara’s engagement ring and connect the two pieces.

The DIY aspect of the wedding was present in every element of the day. Kiara made many of the props, all the bonbonniere (succulents in hessian bags), did the flowers, backdrops and neon sign, designed all the invitations and wedding website and did some of the baking for the dessert table.



Photo: T-One Image

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

“Have a fixer – close buddies who are go-tos on the day and can deal with the bits and pieces you don’t need to know about on the day,” says Tristan.

“I loved having a sense of control and I love planning, so I took my spreadsheets to a whole new level making my own custom designs for planning, scheduling and budgeting,” says Kiara.

“They are so good”, says Tristan, “they should be available to everyone. We were stress-free on the day because it was planned so well.”



What were the highlights?

“Our families are a big part of our lives, so they were a big part of our day. Colleen Byrne, our aunt, was our celebrant and did an absolutely amazing job – it was really special having someone who knew us so well do the ceremony. Our mums were our witnesses and a cousin was an absolute legend with organising the set up on the day. It was perfect to have them all involved. More than two-thirds of our guests came from Gladstone to share our day, which was wonderful.”

The couple honeymooned on a private island in Indonesia and the Maldives via Singapore – a blissful time that was blistering hot! They now live in Brunswick.

“Kiara and Tristan had a very clear vision of what they wanted to achieve. And their guests were all on board enjoying the festival feel, the live music and the sense of fun that surrounded them. The whole event reflected what they are as a couple, lots of love and laughter. It was a first for me having multiple bands scheduled in different locations as well as furniture installation and multiple suppliers for the one event. But I loved helping Kiara and Tristan achieve their wedding day vision and I had a great time too.”

Monica Blanchfield, Bulong Estate Winery



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!

Vendor Credits

Photographer T-One Image

Florist Tesselaar Flower Market

Ceremony and Reception Venue Bulong Estate

Catering/Cake & kind Ministry of Cakes

Celebrant Colleen Byrne

Entertainment Harlow and Hart, Taylor Piggott
(Unplugged Entertainment),
Discovery - Australia's Daft Punk Tribute
Band

Engagement Rings Custom Jewellery Co

Wedding Bands Her: Brilliant Earth, Him: GN Jewellers

BRIDE CREDITS

Bridal gown designer Look Book Bride

Earrings Reigning Queen

Bridesmaid dresses Mixed

GROOM CREDITS

Groom team The Suit Concierge

Number of Guests: 72 / **Budget:** \$27,500 / **Wedding Date:** 23 March 2019



Photo: T-One Image

The perfect wedding wine selection

in the Yarra Valley



By Nicole Esdaile, Wine Consultant

The Yarra Valley is one of Australia's oldest and most renowned wine regions. The abundance of wineries and the beauty of their surrounding vineyards not only provide the perfect location and a romantic backdrop for wedding celebrations, they also offer unique and diverse, 'one-stop' opportunities to 'dazzle' guests with memorable wine experiences.

There really are no 'rules' to selecting wedding wines. It is 'your day' and most wedding venues will let you do it 'your way', but if you do choose to hold your wedding at a winery, it is customary and often obligatory, that you serve the wines made by the house'. Fortunately, in the Yarra Valley that means you can be confident that wines will be of excellent quality!

It is important to ensure the bride and groom get to drink what they like, and with so many stunning winery settings to choose from, the wine range may actually be one of the deciding factors for true oenophiles.

How many wines should we offer?

As a premium, cool-climate wine region, the Yarra Valley produces a fine array of styles and varieties that are absolutely perfect for weddings and celebrations; all pair well with food; and suit a wide range of tastes.

The usual recommendation is to 'keep it simple', but limiting guests' selections to a sparkling wine for toasts, and only one white and one red wine over dinner, reduces the enjoyment for many guests and the advantage most winery venues offers. Guests coming to a Yarra Valley wedding, particularly a winery wedding, will be expecting great wine, and as there is opportunity for providing a broader choice, doing so will only enhance the experience.



An ideal Yarra Valley wedding wine selection would include:

- One sparkling wine – ideally available throughout the event – not just for the toast!
- Two white wines – a fresh, bright, crisp Pinot Gris; and a more complex Chardonnay, the Yarra Valley's flagship white variety
- A crisp Rosé – a very fashionable inclusion and a great Yarra Valley style – no matter what the season!
- Two red wines – a bright, spicy Pinot Noir for the younger demographic; and a stylish Shiraz or Cabernet Sauvignon for the traditionalists.

Yarra Valley wineries and venues will be well equipped to assist and advise with your wine selection. Winery event staff should be able to inform and make recommendations to your guests.

How many bottles will we need?

No one wants to run out of wine at a wedding! The wine service at most winery venues is conveniently packaged into the per guest price, and is usually limited by the hours of service, rather than the volume of wine served. The winery will generally allow 1-1.5 bottles of wine per person, ensuring thirsty guests are adequately compensated by non-drinkers. Package 'upgrades' are usually available, adding Reserve or the winery's 'top range' to the selection.

Some venues may charge 'on consumption', which, while preferable in some cases, makes budgeting difficult, particularly when weddings are notorious for high volume enjoyment.

The usual balance in consumption is approximately 65% white wine and rosé, to 35% red wine. There is not a lot of seasonal variation, although guests tend to favour lighter Pinot Noir style red wines in summer. Everyone needs at least one glass of Sparkling wine for the toast!



Photo: Courtesy of Balgownie Estate

All in the detail

Your new best friend could be a wedding planner

.....



Photos: Alexandra Paffenholz Photography

Many wedding and event venues these days are blank canvas spaces that provide lots of flexibility and the scope to create whatever look and feel you desire. A Wedding Planner helps select and lock-in all of the different suppliers, including the venue, photographer, celebrant, band, caterer, etc and co-ordinates all of the logistics on the day, with careful consideration of all of the practical things like council permits, generators, rubbish removal and wet weather options. They bring your vision to life and make sure everything comes together perfectly for your ceremony and reception.

It can sometimes be hard to know where the line is between a Wedding Stylist, Wedding Planner and Wedding Florist. Danielle Steele of Wild Heart Events can incorporate all of these services into one: wedding styling, wedding planning, on the day assistance, and floral design and prop hire, overseeing the entire process and event, from start to finish, taking care of any wedding-related queries or stress, creating run sheets and schedules and being the main point of contact for all your wedding vendors so you can relax and enjoy your day.

Whether you need a Wedding Planner or not really depends on how hands-on and DIY-inclined you are. It also depends on whether you want to spend the days leading up to and the morning of your wedding setting up, or relaxing and enjoying this time with your family and friends. Many venues do not pack-down at the end of an event, so unless you fancy you (or your guests) taking down decorations and removing rubbish, it's easier to outsource. Some couples decide to handle everything themselves to save money, but often they underestimate the time, effort and logistics involved in executing a wedding.

How does it work?

Coming up with the ideas and concepts for an event is just one part of a Wedding Planner's role. "Initial Consultations are usually 1.5 hours+ and involve couples downloading all of their ideas so far (this is why we all love Pinterest!). This helps us get to know each other and gives me a really good feel for what you envision for your wedding," says Danielle.

"There are hours of planning preceding the event, including essential site visits, and some set-ups can take the team several days to execute. Every little detail, including your budget – from the moment you and your guests arrive at the venue to the time everyone leaves – is considered and executed seamlessly."

What about flowers and props?

"Flowers and styling work hand in hand with each other, so by handling both of these, we can make sure everything is cohesive and the theming is spot on. We can take care of all the flower and foliage elements for your wedding. From bouquets and buttonholes, right through to table arrangements, garlands, arbour & backdrop styling or elaborate hanging installations."

Wild Heart Events also have an extensive range of props available for hire, including a beautiful new Boho Collection. They have a network of fabulous local suppliers to source extra items and services that are needed. This can save hours of trawling the internet and driving around town trying to source things yourself.

How early do you need to start planning?

"We have been engaged by a number of clients who realise a couple of months (and once only weeks!) before their wedding that there was a lot more involved than they initially thought. But it's great to start early and have time to explore all the options and enjoy the process."





Hire a Wedding Planner if you:

- are stuck for design ideas or inspiration or are not sure where to start
- have too many ideas and styles you like, and you are having trouble making these work together
- want to see your vision come to life
- have a difficult venue or location to set-up and style
- have a short bump-in and out time at your venue
- don't want the stress of doing it yourself
- don't want to burden your family and friends
- want to be prepared for potential disasters – like rain
- don't want to pack up after your event
- want to relax and enjoy the lead-up to your wedding or event

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.

They are based in the Dandenong Ranges in leafy Selby, founded and run by Creative Director Danielle Steele, who has a background in advertising and interior design and a life-long love of art, design, colour and creating beautiful things, and all things botanical.



Photos: Marcel Van Der Horst

wildheartevents.com.au

Virtually yours

Inspect your top wedding venues without leaving home

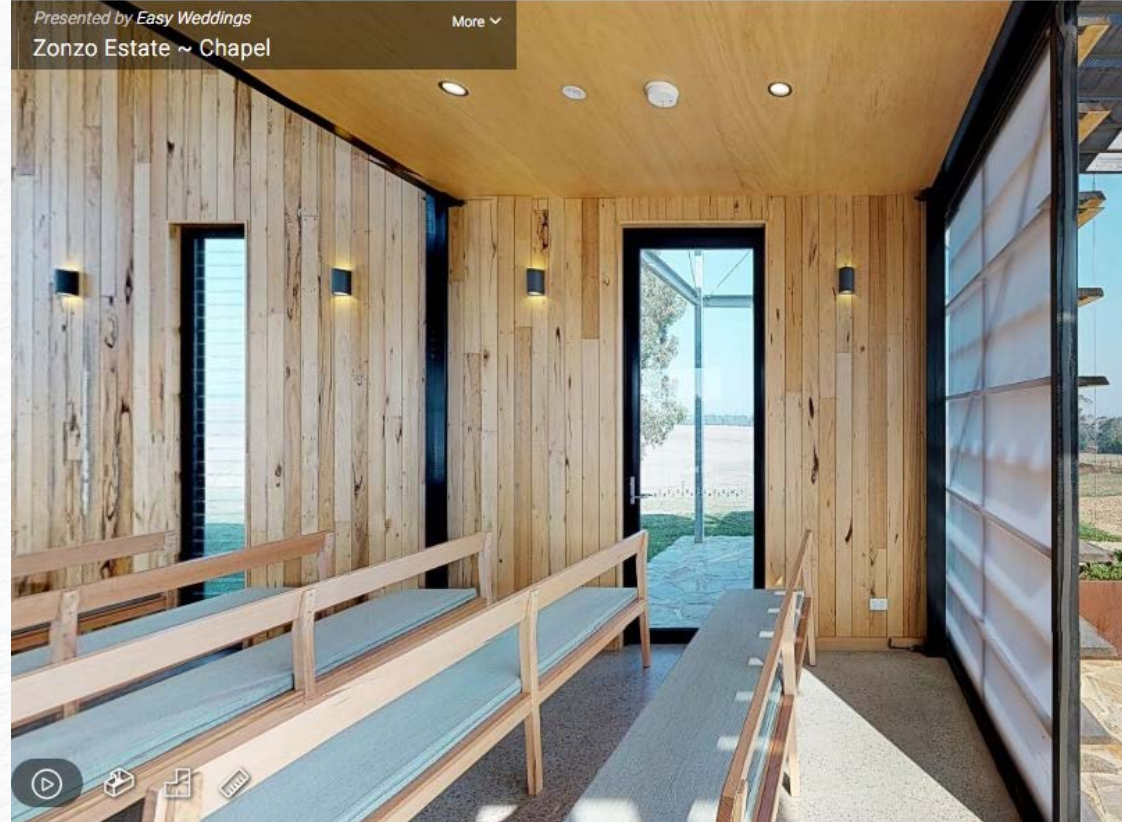
One of the most exciting moments in wedding planning, after finding the 'Yes Dress' (or outfit), is the discovery of the perfect wedding venue for your ceremony and reception.

Many couples start planning with a preferred venue in mind – a place of romantic significance such as the site of a first date, or perhaps a venue that they've always known was the one. Or perhaps everything is up for consideration, and it is the search that helps you nail what you really want. Typing the words 'wedding venues' and 'Yarra Valley' or 'Dandenong Ranges' into your browser is just the beginning.

Venue inspections come in many forms and in recent months many wedding destinations have taken the step of 'going' digital for inspections. This is great news for those who can't wait, for the couples that can't sleep at 3am and for times when travel is restricted (for reasons that can only be described as viral!). There are a host of venues in the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges that are offering virtual inspections at any time that suits you and are only a click away.

Digital inspections give you a great taste of a venue without having to go there in person, and may be offered as:

Google 360 tour – Check out the [Zonzo Estate](#) or [Projekt 3488](#) 360 tours on their websites, where you can experience the feeling of stepping right inside the venue and surrounds exploring wherever you want to go. Look up, down and all around.

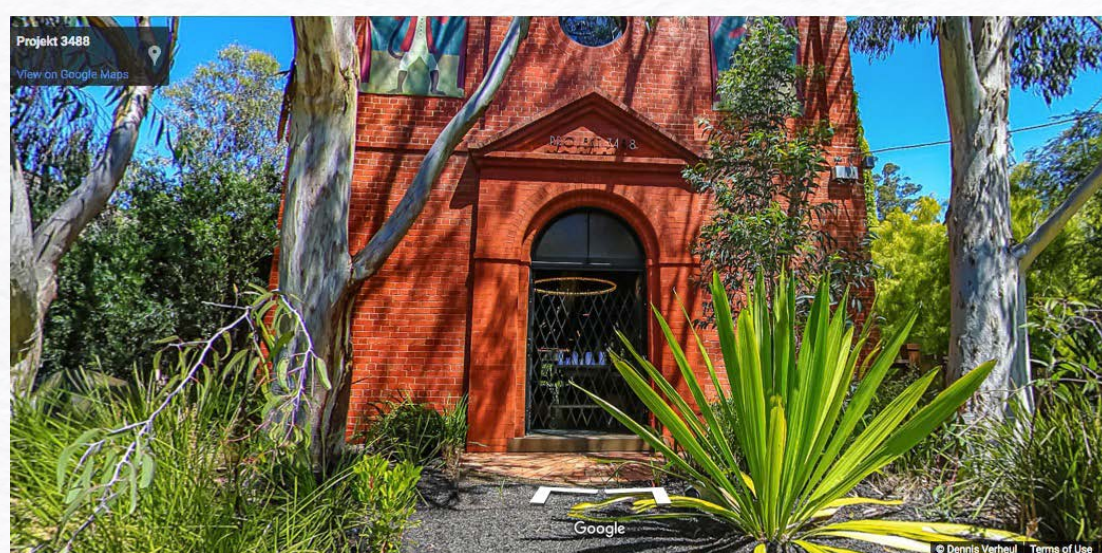


Click image to view

VR Tour online - Zonzo Estate's The Grounds tour is a fabulous way to do a walk through and get a sense of the space and outlook. Zoom in for a close up.

Virtual Inspections/video call tours – This is a great option if you want to ask questions as you go along. The wedding team will walk you through showing you highlights and chatting about features as you go. Facetime or Messenger tours are generally by appointment

Walk around video – Access an 'anytime video walk around' of a venue. Usually found on the venues website or YouTube channel, or sent via email on enquiry. See [Marybrooke Manor's video tour](#) as a great example.



Click image to view

What makes a virtual tour so valuable?

Short listing potential enquiries

- Streamline your research time, and minimise your 'go-sees', virtual tours are also great if you're planning your wedding from further afield.

See a venue at its very best

- Cruise through a variety of set ups and options, check out different seasons or times of day, and examples of other weddings.

To show suppliers and vendors the ins and outs of a location

- Once you've decided on a venue, it's super easy to talk through your needs and desires with suppliers with a virtual reference to work from.

Revisits for dreaming and styling

- You can only take in so much detail on an in-person site visit, so a digital tour is a great reference to have as you imagine what goes where, and how the venue is going to look with your gorgeous self in it. And you can check it out again and again, whenever you want without having to make another appointment.

Provide a sense of excitement for guests

- Sharing the digital tour with guests in advance is a great way to build even more excitement, and give guests from further away (especially overseas) an insight into where they are coming.

Many venues will offer a variety of options for you to choose from and it is often useful to do a virtual tour before a physical tour so you can be super prepared for your inspection. Happy wandering!

Venues offering virtual tours include:

Marybrooke Manor - Virtual Walk throughs can be arranged by: enq@marybrooke.com.au or on 9755 2755

Chateau Wyuna - Virtual Walk throughs can be arranged by: cwyuna@bigpond.com.au or on 9736 2555 to make an appointment.

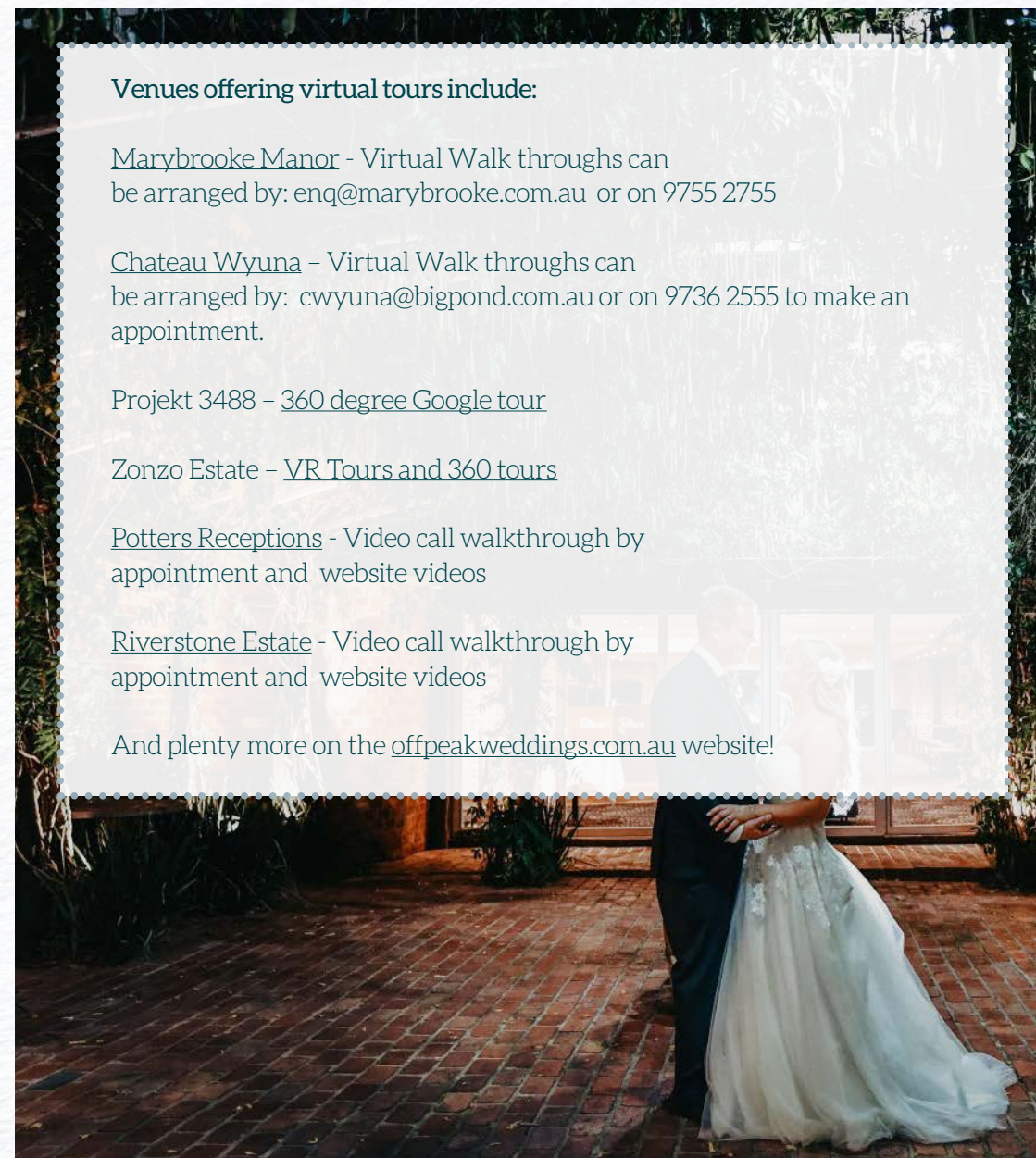
Projekt 3488 - [360 degree Google tour](#)

Zonzo Estate - [VR Tours and 360 tours](#)

Potters Receptions - Video call walkthrough by appointment and website videos

Riverstone Estate - Video call walkthrough by appointment and website videos

And plenty more on the offpeakweddings.com.au website!



Fabulous places for getting ready *especially for brides*

What is the secret to a totally chilled, luxurious, gorgeous lead up to the grand event? A fabulous venue that you can settle into and call your own while you connect, prepare and pamper. Rachel Hanson from [Araluen Boutique Accommodation](#) has welcomed many bridal parties seeking a sweet 'home away from home' experience for getting ready and beyond.



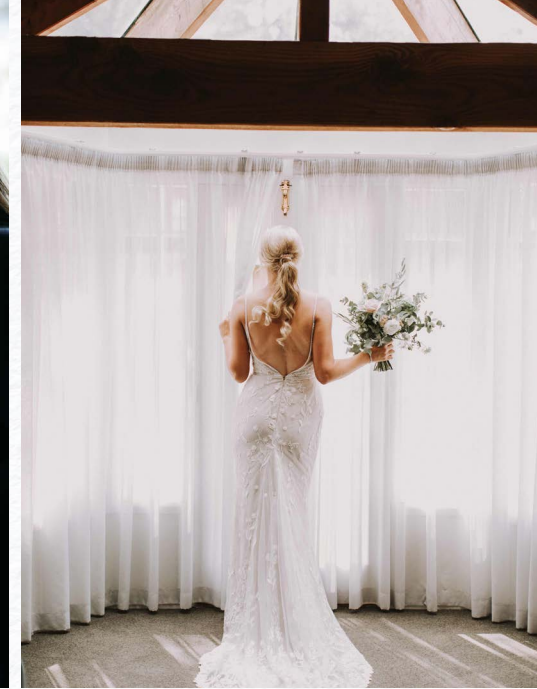
Photos courtesy of Araluen Boutique Accommodation

Planning an 'away-from-home' wedding has many advantages and is a fabulous way to gather your bridal party together and bring ease to wedding day preparations. Here are some great reasons to consider an accommodation wedding package not only for you, but perhaps even for the whole family!

1. Everyone is together – Weddings are one of those times when you want everyone special close at hand and involved in the wedding preparations, especially your bridal party. Families also come in so many shapes these days that it may not be possible to get ready 'at home' so a neutral space may be a stress-free space. At Araluen there is even a wedding day room, a space large enough for wedding day preparations for the whole family.
2. Gather your special people the night before – The majority of wedding groups arrive the night before allowing them the opportunity to have a pre-wedding gathering after their wedding rehearsal. Also a great time for a little pampering with in-house massages!
3. Gorgeous setting – The destination wedding is one of the most popular wedding themes and the opportunity to arrive early and leave later is all part of the treat. When you've attended to every tiny detail of a wedding in planning, having a gorgeous setting for 'getting ready' and 'pre-ceremony' photos can be a compelling reason to choose boutique accommodation where elegance is right there curated for you. 'Reveals' are also becoming very popular and being in the same venue allows for this to happen seamlessly.
4. Service and amenities – Boutique accommodation comes with personalised service – you'll have a team at hand that is there to smooth the edges and make sure every moment goes to plan. And it's also possible to book rooms for the bride and groom to get ready at one venue without seeing each other.

5. Holiday feels and extended celebrations – Some couples book for a third night to relax, reminisce and unwind away from home after guests have left. This also opens the option for a DIY post-wedding (next day) gathering for catchups, especially with family and friends that may have travelled a long way to see you. It's super easy to have the venue cater a special lunch or afternoon tea with all the trimmings included.
6. Convenience and simplicity – Choosing accommodation close to your wedding venue is just easier – there's less time in a car for a bride's dress to crease and wedding transport costs may be more manageable. Wedding suppliers are happy to travel anywhere these days. Some add a travel fee, but in the grand scheme of wedding costs, this is nothing for the simplicity it can bring to your wedding day.

With Rachel Hanson, owner, Araluen Boutique Accommodation



Photos courtesy of Araluen Boutique Accommodation & Rick Liston Photography

Starry, starry nights

by Rick Liston

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What I love about taking my couples out into a field for a starry night photo is that it is quite likely the only photo like that they may ever have taken in their lives. Technically speaking, it is the most difficult photo of the day, and a lot of conditions have to be right in order to get it. This is what makes it so spectacular when you get to show the couple the result after they've been standing together in a field in the dark. The slow shutter speed of the camera reveals a nightscape we're incapable of even seeing with the naked eye, so it's mesmerising to discover what's up there above you.

There is another beautiful by-product of taking these photos. They actually give the couple an opportunity to come outside, into the night air to spend a few quiet moments with each other, standing together, holding one another and breathing as one in order to be as still as possible.

You seldom get a chance to just be with each other on your wedding day, as strange as it sounds, let alone under an awe-inspiring sky of stars, which if you're used to living in the city, you may not often have the chance to see.



Photo credit: Rick Liston, rickliston.com





Photo credit: Rick Liston, rickliston.com

Married during iso

by Virginia Lawrence, Marriage Celebrant

When Covid-19 threatened Chris and Bec's special day, they decided to act quickly. Even though they had worked on their dream wedding for over a year, they decided that the party and all the trimmings could wait. They just wanted to get hitched and face this thing together.

Having a celebrant mum made things a little easier. A quick phone call confirmed the marriage could be fast-tracked to the next night to beat imminent restrictions on gatherings. Preparations began. Phone lines ran hot. By the next day, a select few had been invited, the stunning gardens at Cloudehill locked in, a Facebook watch party organised. Restaurant staff rushed to provide individually wrapped picnic boxes before they went into lockdown that lunchtime. Bec's mum learned how to make a bouquet and buttonholes from YouTube. A photographer friend organised childcare and drove up to the hills. Family members who couldn't be there wrote heart-felt messages of support. Others drove around with various errands, and everyone changed plans to get there. A ceremony, full of love, was hastily written.

The wedding was streamed via a mobile phone to Facebook. More than 60 people watched live, over 200 watched later – and then the story was featured on [7News!](#)



Photo : Lauren Murphy Photography

Instead of handshakes, kisses and hugs there were elbow bumps, foot kicks and heart thumps. A special cleansing ritual signified washing away the frustration, stress and anxiety felt before the wedding. The few guests spaced themselves out along the garden borders to watch this loved-up couple join in matrimony. And at the end of the ceremony, a big surprise. Phoebe, the vocalist from the would-have-been reception band, popped up on a video call to perform the planned wedding dance music.

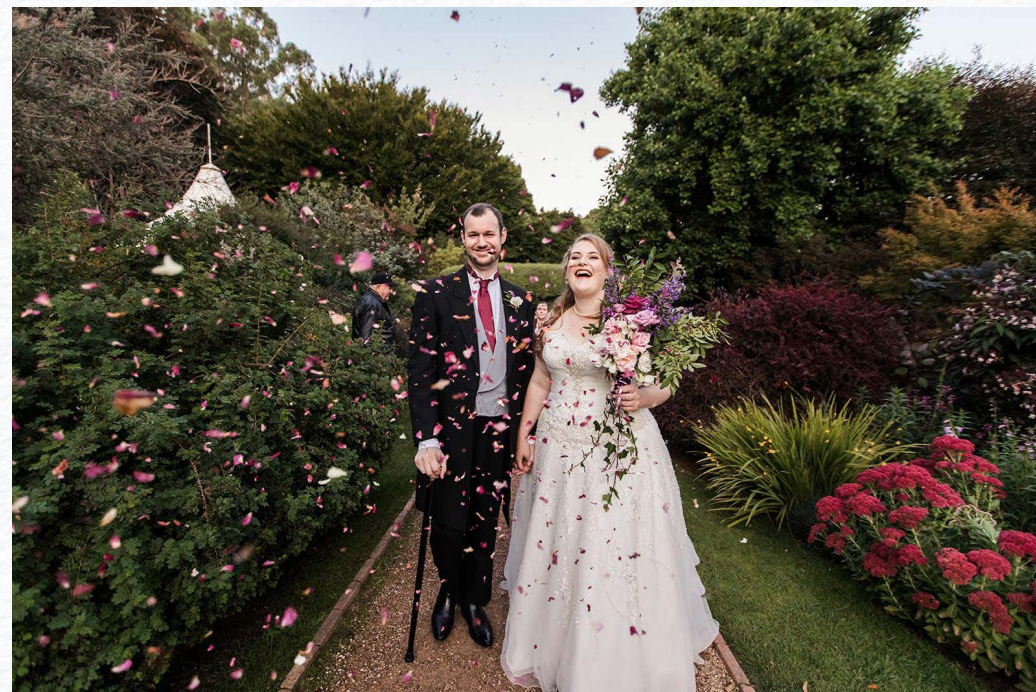
Enjoying the stillness and peace of the garden as night fell and the stars came out, we all left behind our worries and concerns and remained magically cocooned in a beautiful bubble of love for a few precious hours.



The experience will be treasured in our joint memories forever. Why? There weren't any presents, fancy cars, fabulous styling or a chance to party. What made it extra special was the way that so many rallied together to overcome disappointment, demonstrate support, and make something very special happen for this much-loved couple with just a few hours' notice.

"It was the perfect wedding we hadn't even dreamt of," Bec said.

Special thanks to: Lauren Murphy Photography, Melissa Jayne Artistry, Jeremy Francis, Cloudehill Gardens, Seasons Restaurant at Cloudehill, Phoebe Dubar, Phoebe and the Night Creatures



Photos : Lauren Murphy Photography

15 modern bonbonniere ideas that guests will love



Tiffin



Timber coasters
stringybarksupplies.com.au



Succulents



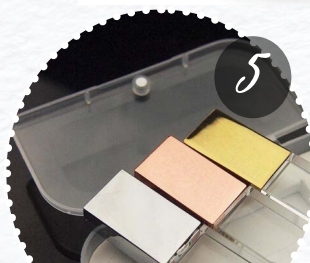
Tea light holders



Hand-made jar of scented hand cream



Wine - your own blend and label



USB of the dance floor playlist



Personalised snow globe



Cute keepsake tin of breath mints



Wooden laser-cut place name



Flower seed packet



Donation to a charity



Home-made, bite-sized desserts or sweets



Personalised Gin bottle



Personalised chocolates

Springtime Weddings

Spring arrives into our lives in a flourish of new green and fresh hopes. Gone is the need to hibernate, the warm breath of a spring breeze beckons us outdoors to celebrate in a burst of life. If you had to pick a season for falling in love, spring delivers with its blossoming flowers and sunshine. Weddings and celebrations of love just feel right in springtime – the musicians, the painters, the poets all knew it and so do we.

All around the Yarra Valley, the once dormant vines shoot tiny tendrils of love towards sunny skies. The English gardens of the Dandenong Ranges burst into life in a mad display of love and colour, and wattle blooms in tiny orbs of gold. A sense of place for a wedding is guaranteed just by being among our fabulous flora and fauna.

If you've been waiting (and haven't we all) to come out of hibernation, springtime erases the need to ponder. Those vows whether shared with 10 or 50 or the whole world (hello Zoom wedding) are more than just words, they are tiny seeds planted right here, right now, that promise a lifetime of sweet abundance. Springtime is ring time. Happy I Do lovebirds. And here's to a time when we can gather feely, dance wildly, and all embrace your new life together.

Photo : Courtesy of the Redwood Florist

LOOKING AHEAD





Off Peak Weddings

- YARRA VALLEY & DANDENONG RANGES -

DIRECTORY

Celebrants



Robynne Mauger

Rainbow Authorised Civil Marriage Celebrant

A relaxed, creative, alternative celebrant who meets your values with heart and soul and who will work with you to bring just the right amount of colour and sentiment to your special day.

P: 0417 124 814

rainbowcelebrantynarravalley.com



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, Dandenong Ranges

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

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

Locally owned and operated Private Small Group Luxury Tours and Transfer company in the beautiful Yarra Valley. Let Yarra Valley A2B drive you in style A2B and back again.

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. They offer a wide range of transfers from weddings to general transfers to and from the Yarra Valley as well as the airport and CBD. Begin your new chapter with them. 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: 0491 721 208
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

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

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

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

Accommodation / Venues



Wiggley Bottom Farm, *Badger Creek*

A small boutique pet friendly farm stay who can host small weddings in a very attractive unique venue. Pets are welcome.

P: 0411 608 400
wiggleybottomfarm.com.au
littleweddingsyarravalley.com.au

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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

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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



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

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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

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Herd Bar, *Healesville*

Boasting a late licence, Herd Bar caters and is welcoming to all, offering sensational service, ambience in an unpretentious relaxed space, a must-see destination whilst meandering the glorious Yarra Valley. A perfect location for a special event, right in the heart of Healesville.

P: 03 5962 7677
herdbar.com.au



Accommodation / Venues



Kinglake Forest Adventures, 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 5771 1287

kinglakeforestadventures.com.au/weddings



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

Ideally appointed and perfectly located, this boutique Yarra Valley bed and breakfast is ideal for wedding guest accommodation.

P: 0397302818

inthevalley.com.au



Elmswood Estate, Wandin East

Deriving their name from the mature Elms that line the private driveway, Elmswood Estate is situated in the renowned Yarra Valley wine country. The stunning all-glass Pavilion, complete with floor to ceiling windows, and extensive viewing deck allows you to take in the breathtaking 180 degree panoramic views overlooking 25 acres of vineyard - the perfect backdrop for your most memorable of days to say "I do".

P: 03 5964 3015

elmswoodestate.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



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



Tramonto Kitchen and Bar, Coldstream

Tramonto Kitchen and Bar is a picturesque venue located on the top of a hill at a working vineyard in the stunning Yarra Valley. The award-winning restaurant and 'marquee in the vines' overlooks acres of vineyards giving it 'a taste of Provence feel' with its sun-filled, north-west views over rolling hills. The lawn, backdropped with vines, is the perfect location for an intimate wedding ceremony that can be enhanced with strolls and photos in the vineyard.

P: 0413 565 781

tramontokitchenandbar.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



Cuckoo Restaurant, Olinda

Australia's first ever Smorgasbord restaurant set in a Bavarian-style Chalet. The Vienna dining room is ideal for receptions with views of the gardens – great for drinks, appetisers and perfect for a garden wedding in the hills. The Cuckoo Restaurant caters to your guests with an extensive buffet, or two choices or alternate drops. Buffet guests get it all, from fresh daily made soup, seafood entrees, hot roast meats, speciality dishes, salad bar and fresh in-house baked cakes, Desserts, pancakes and ice cream. Weddings from 15 to 300 guests.

P: 03 9751 1003

cuckoorestaurant.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



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



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



Boat O'Craigo, *Healesville*

Boat O'Craigo are a family owned, boutique wine producer in the Yarra Valley. The beautiful property in Healesville provides a stunning location for your special day. They offer a relaxed event created by you. Call the events co-ordinator to discuss your event ideas.

P: 03 5962 6899
boatocraigo.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

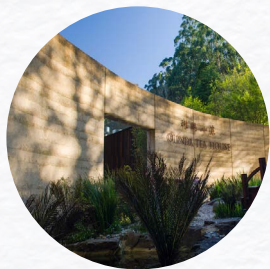


Marysville Holiday and Caravan Park, *Marysville*

Small Holiday and Caravan Park set on the banks of the Steavenson River in Marysville. Offering small weddings up to 50 people to ensure a quiet secluded event. Sunday to Thursday events preferred. Look out over the small rambling river in a quiet spot of the Park. An ideal spot for that intimate romantic event.

P: 03 5963 3247
marysvillecaravanpark.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



Eagles Nest Luxury Mountain Retreat, *Narbethong*

If you are after a unique intimate wedding venue with rustic charm, then Eagles Nest is for you. With a picturesque background for photos and the tranquillity of a temperate rainforest, you will truly not find anything more magical. The 10 acre private estate is suitable for weddings of up to 80 guests and can marquee several areas. Every wedding couple will have their own personal planner and your wedding will be tailored to your own needs and requirements. A true rustic experience.

P: 0418 694 332
loghomeholidays.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



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



Woods Sherbrooke Receptions, *Sherbrooke*

Woods Sherbrooke is the dream venue for your small, intimate wedding. Accommodating 30 plus guests with standard and premium all-inclusive packages.

Art Deco building in a beautiful garden setting.

P: 03 9755 2131
woodssherbrooke.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



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
foothillconferencecentre.com.au

Accommodation / Venues



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



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



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



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



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!

Coming up in the spring issue:

1. Prop shop and scene setting made easy
2. The lost art of corsetry
3. Last forever florals

Off Peak Weddings

For more information:

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– YARRA VALLEY & DANDENONG RANGES –

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.