



wine-region-tours.com

Coonawarra, Mt Benson, Padthaway &
Wrattenbully
Limestone Coast
South Australia

For Winery and Cellar Door Information please scroll down



...are You with Us?

Tours

For Limestone Coast, Mt Benson, Padthaway, Wrattenbully & Coonawarra wine tours,
.....or [winery tours throughout Australia and New Zealand](#), contact us

Accommodation

Dartmoor Homestead - B&B Guesthouse and Cottage



Your Host Jane Frost, has brought an extra dash of style and character to South Australia's South East - also known as the Limestone Coast - and an international reputation for its first class food and gracious hospitality.

This beautiful, historic, heritage listed country house complex is situated just 1km from the town centre.

Set on 3 acres, it is surrounded by trees and birds and borders the Naracoorte creek. Built of freestone from C1842 to C1890, it was part of the original Naracoorte Station Run comprising 90 square miles.

30 McLay Street, Naracoorte, SA, 5271

Phone: +61 (0)8 8762 0487

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Mobile: 0408 600 930

E-mail: dartmoor@rbm.com.au

Web: www.rbm.com.au/dartmoor

Chardonnay Lodge
Honeysuckle Rise at Highbank Vineyards
Robe Lifestyle Properties

➔ On the Way

-from Victoria via the Glenelg Highway 22kms east of Hamilton.

Royal Mail Hotel

Extensive renovations to this historic hotel provide breathtaking views of the Southern Grampians. Fine dining a la carte restaurant, casual style bistro, bars and luxury accommodation available.

For serious lovers of food and wine.



A La Carte fine dining, has a seasonal menu featuring local produce in a city sophisticated menu. Many foods such as bread, preserves, desserts & cake are all made on the premises.

Best Country Hotel Restaurant 2002 (Australian Hotels Association),

Listings in Australian Gourmet Traveller Restaurant Guide 2001/2001, Top 10 Country Restaurants - Mietta's Eating and Drinking Guide 2001/2002.

Highly commended by Tucker Seabrook in the Australian Wine List of the Year Award 2002.

Parker St (Glenelg Hwy), Dunkeld, VIC

Phone: +61 (0)3 5577 2241

Fax: +61 (0)3 5577 2577

Email: info@royalmail.com.au

Web: www.royalmail.com.au

Restaurants

- Hollick – the only winery restaurant in the Coonawarra/Penola area
- The Gallerie - Wine Bar, Robe

Attractions and Events

- Wilsons at Robe - Gallery
- loaves & fishes, Robe
- mahalia coffee - the baristas' choice, Robe
- The Wild Mulberry Café, Robe

All listings are recommended by us for quality, customer service and general interest
 Detailed listings in all categories appear in order of their confirmation
If your guests expect excellence, please email us about advertising on this site

Coonawarra Wineries Wineries & Vineyards

Name ①	Nearest town ②	Facilities	Cellar Door Hours ③
Balnaves of Coonawarra	Coonawarra		9-5 Mon-Fri, 10-5 weekends & Public Holidays
Banks Thargo Wines	Penola		
Blok Estate	Coonawarra		10-4
Bowen Estate	Coonawarra		10-5 daily
Brand's of Coonawarra	Coonawarra		8-4.30 Mon-Fri, 10-4 weekends & Public Holidays
DiGiorgio Family Wines	Coonawarra		10-5 daily
Ey Estate	Coonawarra		
Flint's of Coonawarra	Coonawarra		
Gartner Wines	Coonawarra		10-4 Mon-Sun
Highbank Vineyards	Coonawarra		By appt. Cellar door sales at Warners Cottage, Riddoch Hwy
Hollick Wines	Coonawarra		9-5 Info
Jamiesons Run Winery	Coonawarra		10-4.30 Daily
Jim Barry	Penola		
Katnook Estate	Coonawarra		9-4.30 Mon-Fri, 10-4.30 Sat, 12-4.30 Sun
Kidman Wines	Coonawarra		10-5 daily
Koonara Wines	Coonawarra		
Ladbroke Grove Wines	Coonawarra		10-4 Wed-Sun
Lawrence Victor Estate	Penola		10-5 Thurs-Mon, weekends & public holidays
Leconfield Coonawarra	Coonawarra		9-5 Mon-Fri, 10-4.30 weekends
Lindemans	Coonawarra		
Majella Wines	Coonawarra		10-4.30 daily
Murdock Wines	Coonawarra		
Orlando	Coonawarra		
Parker Coonawarra Estate	Coonawarra		10-4 daily & Bushmans Inn, Penola
Penley Estate	Coonawarra		10-4 daily
Pepper Tree Wines	Coonawarra		
Punters Corner Wines	Coonawarra		10-5 daily
Redman Winery	Coonawarra		Daily
Reschke	Coonawarra		
Rymill Coonawarra	Coonawarra		10-5 daily
St Mary's Vineyard	Penola		10-4 daily
Wetherall Wines Coonawarra	Coonawarra		By appt
Wynns Coonawarra Estate Winery	Coonawarra		10-5 daily
Yalumba -The Menzies Wine Room	Coonawarra		10-4.30 daily
Zema Estate	Coonawarra		9-5 daily

Mt Benson Wineries & Vineyards

Name ①	Nearest town ②	Facilities	Cellar Door Hours ③
Barkmill Vineyard	Kingston/Robe	☒	
Baudin Rock Wines	Robe	☒	
Benson Hills Vineyard	Cape Jaffa	☒	
Black Wattle Vineyard	Robe	☒	
Cape Jaffa Wines	Cape Jaffa	☒	10-5 daily
Cape Thomas Vineyard	Robe	☒	
Dawson Estate	Robe	☒	Daily at Robe - The Gallerie Wine Bar
Guichen Bay Vineyard	Robe	☒	
J.R.Ling Vineyard	Robe	☒	
Karatta Wine	Bray	☒ ☒	
Kreglinger Australia	Cape Jaffa	☒	
Limestone Coast Vineyard	Robe	☒	
M.Chapoutier Australia	Kingston/Robe	☒	Daily
Meridian Vineyard	Robe	☒	
Mount Benson Vineyards - see Wehl's			
Mt Benson Premium Estate	Kingston/Robe	☒	
Murdup Wines	Robe	Yes	Daily
Norfolk Rise Vineyard	Mount Benson	Yes	Daily
Port Robe Estate	Robe		
Ralph Fowler Wines	Cape Jaffa	☒	Daily
Terrossa Vineyards	Cape Jaffa		
Wangolina Station	Kingston/Robe	Yes	Daily
Waterhouse Range Vineyard	Robe	☒ ☒	
Wehl's Mount Benson Vineyards	Robe	☒	10-4 daily
Wrights Bay Vineyard	Robe	☒	

Padthaway & Wrattenbully Wineries & Vineyards

Name ①	Nearest town ②	Facilities	Cellar Door Hours ③
Browns of Padthaway	Naracoorte		Cellar door at Padthaway Estate
Heathfield Ridge Wines	Naracoorte	☒	10-5 daily
Henry's Drive Vignerons	Padthaway	☒ ☒	
Morambro Creek Wines	Naracoorte	☒ ☒	
Padthaway Estate	Padthaway	☒ 🍷 🏠	10-4 daily
Russet Ridge Winery	Naracoorte	☒	11-4.30 Thurs-Mon
Stonehaven Winery	Padthaway	Meals, Functions, Gallery	10-4 daily

Limestone Coast Wineries & Vineyards - other areas

Name ①	Nearest town ②	Facilities	Cellar Door Hours ③
Haig Vineyard	Mount Gambier	☒	10-5 Daily
Wirrega Vineyards	Mundulla		By appt
Yackadale Wines	Lucindale	☒	By appt

Legend

① Green text indicates link to the winery website	🌿 Organic and/or preservative free wines
② Access street-directory.com.au and enter state and Nearest Town = suburb for area map	① Wine Education, which may include winery and vineyard tours
③ As Cellar Door hours may change please check with the winery web site or ask us	🎵 Musical Events
🍷 Dining	👁 Views, sightseeing
🏠 Accommodation	🎨 Art or Craft Gallery
☒ Mail order	👤 Attraction
☒ No cellar door	🌿 Local Produce

Road conditions

Regional Towns	● State Capital ○ City ✈ Airport	Major Highway = MH Main Road = MR Minor road = MI	Kms	Hours/ Minutes
Coonawarra	● ✈ Adelaide	MH via Dukes H'wy/ Princes H'wy	402/ 429	4.15/ 4.30
Coonawarra	● ✈ Melbourne	MH via the Western & Glenelg H'wy	417	4.30
Coonawarra	● ✈ Melbourne	MH/MR/MH via the Great Ocean Road & Princes H'wy	548	6.30
Coonawarra	○ ✈ Mt Gambier	MH	59	0.45
Naracoorte	● ✈ Adelaide	MH	361	
Naracoorte	● ✈ Melbourne	MH	376	4
Padthaway	● ✈ Adelaide	MH	338	3.30
Robe	● ✈ Melbourne	MH via Penola & the Western/Glenelg H'wy	469	5
Robe	● ✈ Melbourne	MH/MR via the Great Ocean Road & Princes H'wy	622	6.30
Robe	● ✈ Adelaide	MH via Princes H'wy	342	3.30
Mt Gambier	● ✈ Melbourne	MH	415	4.30
Mt Gambier	● ✈ Adelaide	MH	455	5

Minor roads to wineries are sometimes unsealed, particularly within vineyard properties.

Weather on the Limestone Coast

Coonawarra - Latitude: 37.30 S Longitude: 140.83 E Elevation: 59.0 m

Monthly Averages: High Degrees C° = ↑ Low Degrees C° = ↓ Rain days = ☁

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
↑	27.8	28.3	24.5	20.8	17.1	14.4	13.9	14.8	16.2	19.3	22.1	24.8
↓	11.6	12.2	10.3	8.2	6.7	4.5	4.6	4.9	5.9	7.2	8.6	9.8
☁	7.2	5.3	9.9	13.4	16.6	19.2	21.6	21.6	18.4	14.5	11.9	9.9

Robe - Latitude: 37.16 S Longitude: 139.76 E Elevation: 3.3 m

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
↑	22.6	22.7	21.3	19.3	16.7	14.7	14.0	14.6	15.9	17.9	19.7	21.1
↓	13.8	13.9	13.0	11.9	10.4	8.9	8.4	8.7	9.3	10.4	11.5	12.9
☁	5.3	5.0	7.5	7.5	11.9	16.5	18.7	21.0	19.6	16.4	13.2	9.6

Padthaway - Latitude: 36.60 S Longitude: 140.49 E Elevation: 37.0 m

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
↑	28.3	28.8	25.7	21.5	17.8	14.9	14.2	15.5	17.2	20.5	23.3	26.4
↓	12.2	12.2	10.5	8.1	7.3	6.0	5.2	5.9	6.6	7.5	9.0	10.9
☁	5.7	4.4	6.9	10.2	14.4	17.2	19.8	19.4	17.6	12.8	9.2	7.9

Naracoorte - Latitude:-36.95 S Longitude: 140.74 E Elevation: 58.0 m

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
↑	28.1	28.8	25.5	21.4	17.4	17.4	14.2	15.4	17.2	20.2	22.9	25.4
↓	12.2	12.6	10.9	8.6	7.0	5.2	4.9	5.4	6.5	7.7	8.9	10.8
☁	5.2	4.3	6.2	9.7	13.5	15.5	17.0	17.1	14.9	12.2	9.1	7.3



Visitor Information Centres

Robe Visitor Information Centre
Open daily Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm,
Sat - Sun 10am - 4pm
Public Holidays 10am - 1 pm,
Mundy Terrace, Robe, SA 5276
P: +61 (0)8 8768 2465
W: www.robe.sa.gov.au

Naracoorte Visitor Information Centre
Open daily Mon - Fri 9am - 4pm
MacDonnell Street, Naracoorte, SA 5271
P: 1800 244 421
F: +61 (0)8 8762 0745
W: www.naracoortetourism.com.au

Penola/Coonawarra Visitor Centre Open week days 9.00am - 5pm, Sat. 10 am - 5pm, Sun. 9.30am - 4pm 27 Arthur Street, Penola, SA 5277 P: +61 (0)8 8737 2855 W: www.wattlerange.sa.gov.au	Padthaway/Bordertown Visitor Information Centre Open daily. Mon. - Fri. 9am - 5pm, Weekends/Public Holidays 10.00am - 4.00pm. 81 North Terrace, Tolmer Park, Bordertown SA 5268 P: +61 (0)8 8752 0700 F: +61 (0)8 8752 0644 W: www.tatiara.sa.gov.au
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General Regional Information

Limestone Coast Wine Region

Best enjoyed over several days, whether you travel south from Adelaide or west from via either the rugged Grampians or the spectacular Great Ocean Road, as you drive through the Limestone Coast you will find fascinating contrasts and similarities, moving from the coast into the hinterland.

Why the Limestone Coast? Everywhere you look there is limestone. From the craggy, weather beaten outcrops on the present day coastline, to the golden blocks that are still used to build houses. Chalky white roads weave their way through the vineyards, pine forests, farming and grazing lands, which are all rooted in the fertile limestone soils of the region. Look underground and you'll discover a honeycomb of limestone caves. They hold the answers to the Limestone Coast's fascinating past

Today, the Limestone Coast occupies a narrow coastal, strip in the south east corner of South Australia. No matter where you are in the Limestone Coast, you are no more than 120 kilometres from the present coastline.

The Limestone Coast is a rich and prosperous area, stretching from the Glenelg River on the Victorian border up to Talem Bend and back to Bordertown. This entire region sits upon a series of ancient coasts built from limestone.

How it all began: For over 25 million years, the Limestone Coast region was submerged beneath the Southern Ocean. The warm, shallow waters extended inland as far as the present Naracoorte (Comaum) Range, also known as the Kanawinka Escarpment. In fact, this was the original coastline of the continent of Gondwana

During this time, tonnes of marine crustaceans and shells fell to the sea floor and were cemented together to form limestone. Limestone is a soft, white, porous rock, formed over millions of years from the compacted shells of marine animals.

But about 1 million years ago the sea began retreating. This resulted from ocean water freezing into polar ice caps as well as an uplifting of the land.

The Coasts: A sequence of ice ages caused the sea to retreat. Each time the sea retreated, the old sand dunes and coastline were left stranded. A new coastline would then form further out. Over hundreds of thousands of years a series of 14 stranded sand dune ridges were formed. They run roughly parallel to the present coastline. These ancient coastlines are the ridges that now segregate the region.

Scientists regard the ancient limestone coasts as the world's best example of a sequence of ice ages

This process of coast formation continues today. Drive alongside the Coorong National Park, renowned as a "Wetland of International Importance" and you will see history repeating itself.

The Caves: Just below the surface a network of limestone caves is continuously being sculptured. The limestone is like a giant sponge, an aquifer soaking up the rainwater as it seeps through the soil. As the water moves through the underground aquifers, it slowly dissolves away the limestone. Eventually sections of the limestone collapse and caves or sinkholes are formed. As the water table has dropped, over time with the retreating sea, caves once filled with water are now dry.

Terra rossa over limestone. The foundation on which the legend of Coonawarra was built; a unique soil composition which has given rise to many of the nation's finest red wines, known and respected the world over for being unique in flavour and quality. The mantra which has been sung by the chiefs of Australian wine industry since the 1890's to explain Australia's "other red centre" has consistently been lauded by critics, consumers and show judges alike

Famous as it is, wine is but an entree to this rich and fertile region. For the land itself is special; an ancient limestone ridge created when the great Southern Ocean once covered these lands, now blanketed by deposits of rich alluvial soils atop its porous surface, a labyrinth of deep caves and vast underground water reserves

beneath. This complex land is the secret to the prosperity of much of the Limestone Coast, from beef cattle farms to the lush forests.

The Limestone Coast's restaurants and cafes reputation for flavour-rich foods and strong links to the land also lead the visitor to the fascinating natural history attractions throughout the region. To understand this land for yourself, get below the surface - literally - by descending into the world heritage-listed limestone caves at Naracoorte.

Coonawarra/Penola

Located South Australia, halfway between the state capitals of Adelaide and Melbourne, Coonawarra is an exceptional region, where the rich Terra Rossa red soils produce some of the finest wines in the world.

Historic Penola is rich in tradition and full of hidden treasures worth exploring. As you wander through the township the many National Trust buildings and privately owned residences provide a postcard reminder of a by-gone era.

Penola was founded in 1850 by Scottish born Alexander Cameron, a pastoral pioneer who squatted the area in 1845. Paving the way for future generations he built the first timber dwellings and was known by his contemporaries as the "King of Penola". Founder's Day is celebrated annually on April 4th and during Penola's 150th celebrations in 2000, a John Dowie bronze statue of Alexander Cameron was unveiled to commemorate his achievements and those of his fellow pioneers.

Another prominent figure in Penola's history was Scottish born John Riddoch. Settling in the area in 1861, he had a profound impact on the district. His crowning achievement was the establishment of the Penola Fruit Growing Colony in 1890, renamed Coonawarra in 1897. This sowed the seeds of Coonawarra's internationally renowned quality wine.

The two-storey mansion "Yallum Park" was completed for John Riddoch in 1880 and many of the early buildings in the district were opened or had their foundation stones laid by this man of vision. He was a local Member of Parliament for many years and the Riddoch Highway is so named to acknowledge his contributions.

Famous colonial poets, Adam Lindsay Gordon, William Ogilvie, and Penola born John Shaw Neilson, left behind a legacy of poetry inspired by their experiences of rural life in this district.

Blessed Mary MacKillop, anticipated to be Australia's first Saint, together with Father Julian Tenison Woods founded the religious order, The Sisters of St. Joseph, in Penola 134 years ago. In 1867 the Woods MacKillop Schoolhouse was established for the children of the district. Mary MacKillop taught in this historic building and the Mary MacKillop Interpretive Centre was opened in 1998.

Petticoat Lane, the oldest residential part of Penola, allows you to wander through historic timber and stone cottages, which retain much of the charm and character of yesteryear. Red gum kerbing as well as rose and lavender plantings enhance the lane's character as an example of days gone by. Petticoat Lane is a State Heritage Area.

Mt Benson/Robe

The Mt Benson region is situated on South Australia's magnificent Limestone Coast between Kingston and Robe.

Wines & Vineyards - The maritime influence of the Great Southern Ocean moderates the year round temperature of the region and produces fruit of a distinctive character. The beds are highly aromatic with richly developed fruit flavours. Hints of mulberrys and blackcurrant predominate on the palate and the tain structure is fine and velvety. The intense lively colour of the wines adds to their drinking pleasures. The white wines are again highly aromatic with superb fruit flavours. Hints of apricots, melons and good natural acidity means wonderfully balanced wines that are receiving great acclaim in discerning wine circles.

Mount Benson Vineyards planted the first grapes in the area in 1989 and produced their initial vintage in 1992. The area has since rapidly expanded. Mount Benson's gently undulating Terra Rossa soil over limestone is easily penetrated by the vine roots. The ample supply of high quality water, mild maritime climate and relatively low frost risk make for ideal growing conditions yielding an excellent standard of fruit.

Community Title Developments - The first title Limestone Coast Vineyard was established in the Mount Benson region in 1997. Limestone Coast Vineyard is planted to Shiraz, Cabernet and Merlot. The property is owned by multiple investors, the majority of which are city based and managed by a local team of viticultural specialists.

Due to the success of the first vineyard a second vineyard titled Guichen Bay Vineyard was established in 1998. This vineyard is planted to Shiraz, Cabinet, Merlot, Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc.

In the historic seaside resort of Robe itself, you can experience the charm and fine hospitality of this popular holiday destination. Laze on Long Beach or indulge in the distinctive local wine, fresh seafood and regional produce. Explore the diverse coast or encounter Robe's seafaring past; its heritage buildings and their legends. Wild cliff tops towering over crashing waves, sparkling, family beaches, tranquil lakes, glassy surf accessed through mountainous dunes with dense vegetation

The Obelisk shipping marker on Cape Dombey stands 40ft high and 100 feet above sea level. Built in 1855, the Obelisk's alternative red and white bands helped guide mariners and can be seen from 20kms at sea. An icon not to be missed!

The Old Gaol held prisoners from 1860 until 1881. After several escapes the outer walls were reinforced with steel boilerplates from the shipwrecked Admella. A crumbling ruin until 1995, the gaols walls are now restored and great to explore.

The Outlet, at the end of Drain L, is one of the many man made drains that converted the South East from swamps to fertile farmland. Walk the footbridge and spot the abundant bird life, or try your hand at fishing with the tide.

The Lake Butler Boat Haven is home to Robe's fishing fleet and recreational craft. A natural freshwater Lake originally accessed by a slipway, a channel was cut through to sea in 1964. Visit the Fisherman's Memorial that honours lives lost at sea.

Factory Bay is the perfect place to see Doorway Rock. Further around is the Robe Lighthouse, built in 1972 to replace the Cape Jaffa Lighthouse.

Beacon Hill Lookout Tower gives a panoramic view of Robe, including Long Beach, Lake Fellmongery, Cape Dombey and Lakes Eliza, St Clair and George.

Long Beach is 17kms Long and one of the few beaches in Australia that can be driven on. Long Beach is accessible from December to May when a Beach Patrol Officer may be on duty, but keep on firm sand and watch the tide.

Lake Fellmongery (aka The Ski Lake) was given its industrial sounding name in 1853 when wool salvaged from a shipwreck was washed in this freshwater Lake.

Little Dip Conservation Park stretches from Robe to Nora Creina along the Ocean beaches. Foot access is available 13kms along Nora Creina Road. Beach Buggies and motor cycles are not permitted. For vehicle access contact National Parks (Ph: 08 8768 2543).

It is said that during the years of the Victorian gold rush in the mid 1800's, the government imposed a high levy on those gold diggers arriving in Melbourne. So high that it prompted many of the enterprising immigrants seeking their fortunes, the Chinese in particular, to disembark in Robe, and walk to the Victorian gold fields; a distance of up to 400 kilometres.

Padthaway/Bodertown

Nowadays Padthaway is also regarded as one of Australia's premium wine districts, with meticulous rows of vineyards as far as the eye can see. But the historic reminders remain - including the luxurious Padthaway Homestead, which towers high above the hills and tree tops. The name Padthaway is Aboriginal for "good water".

The two-storey 1882 mansion offers luxury accommodation and fine meals, and its overseer's cottage has been transformed into a cellar door sales outlet. The nearby Stonehaven Winery situated south of the town is another major drawcard, and is one of the most technically advanced wineries in the nation.

The dramatic sculpture at the entrance to Padthaway is a new attraction, and is the work of Limestone Coast artists.

Padthaway also has a nine-hole golf course uniquely carved out of bushland, with scrapes overlooking the valley and town. One thousand hectares of native vegetation also awaits exploration in the Padthaway Conservation Park

Bordertown is the entry point for many visitors to the Limestone Coast arriving from Victoria and began as a halfway depot for Police Commissioner Alexander Tolmer on the Gold Escort between Adelaide and Mt Alexander (Victoria) during the goldrush of the 1850s. Steeped in history and the birthplace of former Prime Minister Bob Hawke, the town is ideal either as a stopover point or touring base for the surrounding Tatiara district.

Situated on the Dukes Highway between Adelaide and Melbourne, it is surrounded by fertile land planted with cereal crops, pasture seeds, vegetables and wine grapes. The town boasts the only known natural colony of white kangaroos in Australia, and is the southern gateway to the desert parks of Ngarkat and Big Desert, which exhibit a colourful carpet of wildflowers during spring.

Poocher Swamp is a wetlands reserve set amongst magnificent red gums several centuries old, and is ideal for picnicking and yabbing. During the winter months, when the swamp is flooded, you may see water swirling down a large runaway hole into vast underground tunnels. You may also take a self-guided walk around the Moot-Yang-Gunya Swamp Eco Trail and discover of native bird life.

A drive past more majestic red gums takes visitors to Clayton Farm - a property frozen in time, which features original thatched buildings classified by the National Trust, and vintage farm machinery.

The nearby historic township of Mundulla is also well worth a visit. The Mundulla Hotel was rebuilt by the National Trust in the 1970's after virtually being resigned to ruins and now features a gallery, tearooms and a restaurant.

The town of Wolseley lies 13 kilometres east of Bordertown. During World War II it was an important railway junction and the site of a fuel storage scheme. The area is now best known for its farming and flora, with local businesses including a Gladioli Farm and Lavender Estate among its colourful attractions to which visitors are welcome, by appointment.

Wrattobully/Naracoorte

Set against a backdrop of majestic river red gums, the Wrattobully Wine Region lies between two very famous neighbours, Coonawarra and Padthaway, and comprises a spectacular vista of vines radiating out from Naracoorte in all directions. The name Wrattobully is Aboriginal for "land between the swamps".

Although a relatively new wine region, the flavours, intensity and opulence of Wrattobully fruit from this gently undulating red soil captivates wine lovers. Cabernet Sauvignon is of an especially high quality, but so too are other rich reds, with Shiraz and Merlot certain to please.

George McEwin planted five acres of grapes in Wrattobully in 1885. More than a century later, the merits of this splendid Terra Rossa soil are still being recognized. Local farmers have switched from grazing to grapes, and have been joined by a number of leading wine companies adopting the latest viticultural practices. Today, more than 2300 hectares of land is under vine and with Wrattobully already attracting it's share of gold medals, the region's reputation for world-class wine production continues to grow.

Local schools are also ensuring a rich inheritance of wine making for students; Lucindale Area School has planted 1.5 hectares of Cabernet Sauvignon and 1 hectare of Pinot Noir grapes, which it processes under its own Yackadale label. Naracoorte High School, meanwhile has established a 4 hectare vineyard called "Highcorte".

The nearby Lucindale district is experiencing similar success. The first grapes were planted here thirteen years ago by the DiGiorgio family, which had arrived in Australia five decades earlier, bringing a passion for wine and food. Their first vintage to be released is from 1998 under the "DiGiorgio Family Wines" label, and its success has led to continual expansion, with the family recently purchasing a winery and cellar door outlet at Coonawarra.

National Parks of the Limestone Coast

For further Information visit www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/southeast

The Coorong National Park

Canunda National Park

Ewens Ponds Conservation Park

Bool Lagoon Game Reserve

Tantanoola Caves Conservation Park

Naracoorte Caves National Park

Dingley Dell Conservation Park

Little Dip Conservation Park

Piccaninnie Ponds Conservation Park