



dining with a view COUNTRYSIDE

Not all up hill and down dale

Erin Munro nominates five of the best with rural vistas.



Yering Station Yarra Glen

The Yarra Valley is renowned for its wineries, so it should come as no surprise that it's home to many a scenic spot to snack. Yering Station is where Victoria's first vineyard was planted, back in 1838. Still a family-owned and run winery, it boasts a number of aesthetic drawcards, including its extensive gardens, original avenue of elms, a heritage-listed barn and its cellar door; built from a converted early winery building. The restaurant, built into a striking stone edifice with views of the Yarra Ranges, has a seasonal menu that draws on local produce and complements Yering Station's wines. yering.com



Yabby Lake Moorooduc

Yabby Lake Vineyard on the Mornington Peninsula brings a taste of the city to the countryside, with a menu created by The Lucas Group. They're the group founded by hip restaurateur Chris Lucas, responsible for jazzed-up Melbourne institution Chin Chin and its trendy basement bar Go Go. The produce used is mostly locally sourced and there's an emphasis on fresh flavours. Everyone who eats there gets a view: diners can either sit indoors by the window, or outside on a wide verandah or table set up on the grass. The prospect is of rambling vineyards, distant hills and native scrub and bush. yabbylake.com



Lake House Daylesford

In the heart of spa country, Lake House has long been a favourite for foodies who visit Daylesford. Seated on the shores of Lake Daylesford, its restaurant - run by head chef David Green - affords views across the lake and into the hills and tall trees that frame it. Menus are altered twice each season. Husband and wife Allan and Alla Wolf-Tasker are the owners of Lake House, and built the estate up from an ex-mining site 30 years ago. Set on 24 hectares, the property now features walking paths for guests, sculptures and artworks from artists in the region and an orchard and kitchen garden nestled in its grounds. lakehouse.com.au