

SUPERSIZED HOLIDAY ISSUE!

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New Look

**MEGHAN
VS
KATE**

HOLIDAY FROM HELL

**TEARS, TANTRUMS
AND WALKOUTS**

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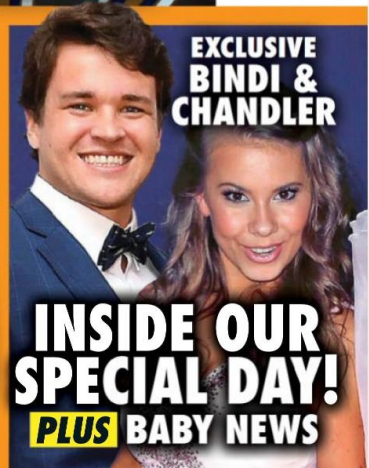
**ONLY
IN NEW
IDEA**

**KARL &
JASMINE
FIRST
BUMP PICS!**



**• THE GUESTS
• THE DRESS
• THE VENUE!**

**BRAD
& JEN'S
SURPRISE WEDDING**



**EXCLUSIVE
BINDI &
CHANDLER**

**INSIDE OUR
SPECIAL DAY!
PLUS BABY NEWS**



WINE TIME

APRIL GLOVER EXPLORES
THE HIDDEN GEMS OF
REGIONAL NSW



The EcoHut was unlike any place I've stayed before.



From stunning views to cheese platters, what more could you want?



The welcoming townsfolk of regional NSW are determined to let the world know they are not just a stop along the way.

I'd previously overlooked Wagga Wagga, Tumut, Gundagai and Tumbarumba in favour of bigger cities across Australia. But as I discovered on a recent trip, these parts of NSW are worth a visit.

My trip kicked off in Wagga, where I learnt that this part of Australia is home to some of the best winemakers. Mark Saddler, a proud Wiradjuri man who runs Bundyi Cultural Tours, ferried us across his homeland, starting with a Welcome to Country ceremony to wish us safe travels.

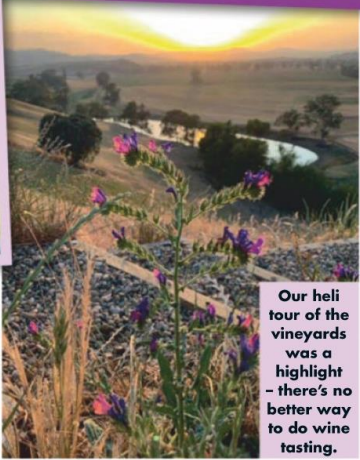
On the road, Mark spoke passionately about Aboriginal culture. He taught us that every rock, blade of grass or piece of bark tells a story of those who walked the garray (land) first. When you visit Wagga you'll



TO GO
Qantas operates flights to Wagga via Sydney. For more information check out visitsw.com.



We stopped at Tumut River Brewing Co to learn all about beer – and try some, of course!



Our heli tour of the vineyards was a highlight – there's no better way to do wine tasting.

want to see the region in the most intimate way – so book a tour with Mark.

The first cellar door I visited was Borambola Wines, where our wine was served with an incredible cheese platter. From velvety cabernet sauvignon to a delightful brut, this vineyard is a must-see. One of its bestsellers, the Double Joy Dry Rose, was even named after Prince Charles, who described his 'double joy' at tasting Borambola's wines.

FINDING NIMBO

Nestled behind the flowing Tumut River in Killimicat is the state's best kept secret. My friends and I arrived just before sunset at Nimbo Fork Lodge, a retreat at the northern end of Kosciusko National Park, and my jaw dropped at the spectacular views. The lodge boasts a bathtub with a view of the trees, a four-poster bed and a verandah perfect for a quiet drink. But you'd be mad

not to enjoy the sunset at Nimbo's restaurant, which overlooks the valley.

I was treated to a vibrant display of colours as I sipped tempranillo from Gundagai. Dinner was an Aussie feast – lamb and kangaroo. The soft sounds of the river lulled me to sleep and I woke up to a gorgeous sunrise, followed by a delicious breakfast.

UP IN THE AIR

The next morning, I embarked on a 'vine to wine' adventure on a helicopter, courtesy of TrueNorth Helicopters.

There's no better way to see the wineries. I was choppered out of Killimicat and on to the first stop – Johansen Wines, a family-owned vineyard in Tumbarumba. Helle and Tom Southwell swept us inside their quaint cellar door for more tastings. Johansen's merlot is delicious but the gamay – a red wine which is served chilled – was my top pick.

Next, we were up in the sky again over the Snowy Mountains to Courabyra Wines, a vineyard at the foot of the mountains. We sipped the Courabyra '1 of 11' shiraz and enjoyed a decadent

lunch on a balcony overlooking the vineyards.

Tumbarumba put on a dazzling show for us when we touched down at Obsession Wines. It also has the stunning Braymont Garden, home to one of only four tree churches in the world and the perfect place for a stroll with a glass of prosecco.

OFF THE GRID

My second night was spent at an off-grid hut at Kimo Estate, luxury rural accommodation in Nangus. To say the EcoHuts are an Instagrammer's dream is a huge understatement – it's sleeping under the stars for those who want five-star living.

I couldn't believe my luck as our driver led me up the hill to my hut, named Fergos – one of only three EcoHuts. I was amazed – the shower overlooked the rolling plains, but I could bathe in serene privacy.

After soaking in the paradise, we were treated to a meal at Windies

Cottage. Later, after admiring the canopy of stars, I headed to bed for a peaceful sleep.

However, Kimo's crowning jewel is the sunrise that peeks over the mountains, flooding the room in colour. I honestly didn't want to leave. It's hard to describe just how magical this place is – you'll just have to see for yourself.



You just can't beat this view – especially with wine!