

GO BY EXPRESS WINE TRAIN TO THE HUNTER VALLEY ITINERARY

Wine Train Package includes (From \$399pn per couple):

- Return economy **express train tickets** from Sydney Central station to Singleton station (Only 7 stops) with pre-reserved seating
- **Meet & Greet** with return transfers from Singleton Railway station to Hunter Valley Resort
- **Accommodation** at Hunter Valley Resort
- **Breakfast vouchers** (\$15pp each day)
- Entry to Hunter Valley Resort **Wine Theatre experience**
- Onsite **vineyard inspection** followed by **wine tasting** with resort's Cellarmaster

Day 1.

09:29 Depart Sydney Central Railway station (3 hours) – Cafe & toilets on board train (included)

Departing from Sydney's Central Railway Station every morning, it heads north from Sydney. The WINE TRAIN is not a city train. Only 7 stops and this express train will have you alighting in the Hunter Valley at lunchtime.

No need to show your eTicket prior to boarding, just go to your pre reserved carriage and seat. The conductor will come through the train when underway. Enjoy food and beverages from the Café Car, and of course there are toilets on board too. The best part of the journey is the scenery from the large windows.





10:00 Hawkesbury River scenery – After departing the suburb of Hornsby, enter Kuring-gai Chase National Park.

The 40,000 acre park was declared in 1894 and is the second oldest national park in Australia. It is 16 miles north of the Sydney Central Business District and generally comprises the land east of the [Sydney-Hunter Valley Freeway](#), south of the [Hawkesbury River](#).

This area is also where much of the sandstone used for Sydney's Harbour Bridge and the many heritage buildings around the city was sourced. On many of the Hawkesbury sandstone outcrops throughout the area, rock engravings can still be seen which reflect the traditional spiritual and totemic beliefs of the local Aborigines. By the 1820s settlers had taken up land around the Hawkesbury River, growing small plots of maize, onions, potatoes and hay.



You will cross the [Hawkesbury River](#) over one of Sydney original bridges. It was constructed long before the road bridges north. The Hawkesbury River Railway Bridge completion in 1886 saw the linkage, not only of the significant Sydney to the Hunter Valley Railway link, but also in effect the railway systems of South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland were joined by continuous rail with the opening of the bridge. The bridge was a major technical achievement at the time: it was the fourth largest bridge constructed in the world, one of its caissons reached 49m, had the deepest bridge footing in the world and it was the longest bridge in Australia, pushing bridge design and construction techniques to the limit. You will see a second set of piers on the right hand side. These were for the this original 1886 bridge. Due to over 100 heavy freight trains every day throughout World War II, damage caused by these excessive loads meant construction of the current new bridge in the 1940's.





The journey now continues past the many oyster farms/beds in the river through the Woy Woy tunnel and onto the Central Coast, then west into the Hunter Valley.

This is the original home of the famous Sydney Rock Oysters!





10:45 Central Coast and Hunter scenery

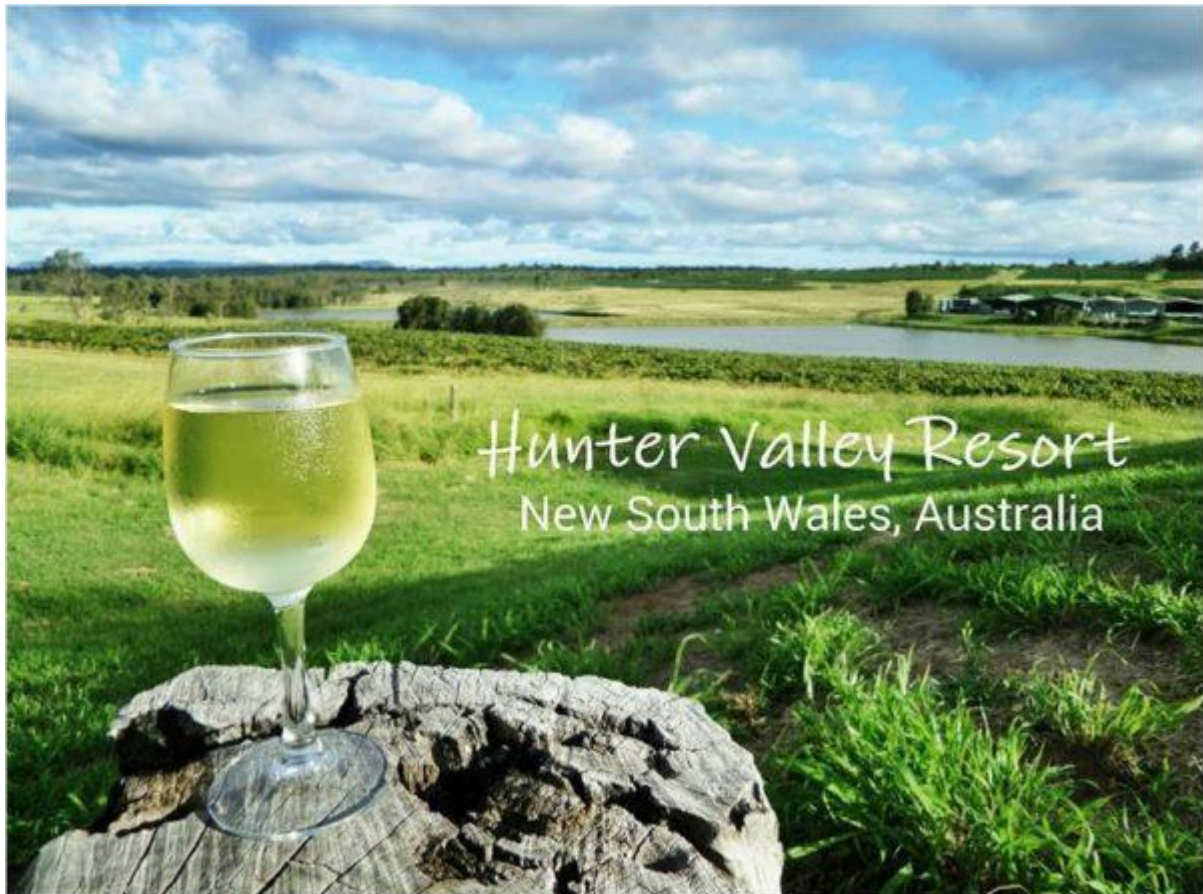


12:40 Arrive Singleton Railway station (Hunter Valley) with Meet & Greet and return transfers from station to Hunter Valley Resort in our Mercedes Benz



13:00 Arrive at Hunter Valley Resort

Hunter Valley Resort is not one of those 'big' international chain resorts. Rather a 4 star country inn, or lodge, with only 35 rooms and cottages nestled on 70 secluded acres within their own 50 year old shiraz vineyards.



The owners ([Helé family](#)) have been in the hotel business for 4 generations. It's their home with two generations still living onsite working in the business every day. This is why Hunter Valley Resort is like no other...



What is there to do without a car??

There is also a large selection of day tour options including iHop (Hop On/Hop Off buses) where you can experience cheese factories, chocolate factories, local heritage, the famous Hunter Valley Gardens (largest in Australia), and during Nov- Jan, each night see their Christmas Light display (Over 2 million lights!)

Hunter Wine Theatre experience (included) – 10:00am and 15:00pm daily.

The fun side of seeing a winery in action is when the grapes are being picked and put through the crusher at the winery – which for The Hunter Valley happens only in January and February. For the rest of the year action at in winery is generally pretty quiet. Not so with the new Hunter Wine Theatre...

So we have condensed a whole year of winemaking into a short 15 minute visual presentation.

You will experience up on the big screen:

1. The Hunter's wine heritage, Australia's oldest wine area.
2. How grapevines are maintained
3. See the annual grape harvest
4. The grape crusher in action
5. The actual winemaking process:
 - Fermentation (Conversion of fruit/sugar into alcohol)
 - Filtration of the 'new' wine
 - Racking and barrel fermentation/storage
 - Blending of wines
 - Bottling process

Then – on with the lights and a 15 minute wine tutorial with the Cellarmaster.

There is a big difference between a wine tutorial and a wine tasting.. A wine tasting is where you taste various wines and hopefully like them, and purchase a few to take home with you.

A wine tutorial is where we take you on a learning experience with a bracket of 4 wines. Here we teach you how to taste front palate sweetness, acidity, and back palate tannins, and most importantly exercising your nose to appreciate the bouquet of wine. It's that simple...



16:00 Time for rest – Onsite at Hunter Valley Resort is electric bikes hire, Segway back country tours to see Kangaroos, or Horseback riding, visit the Brewhouse and try the 12 craft brews, take a carriage ride, play tennis, swimming.... Or just finish that book!

18:00 Optional Dinner onsite at Hunter Valley Resort (own cost)

20:00 Accommodation at Hunter Valley Resort



Day 2.

Next morning, do a **Hot Air Balloon ride** over the Wine Country (Own cost)

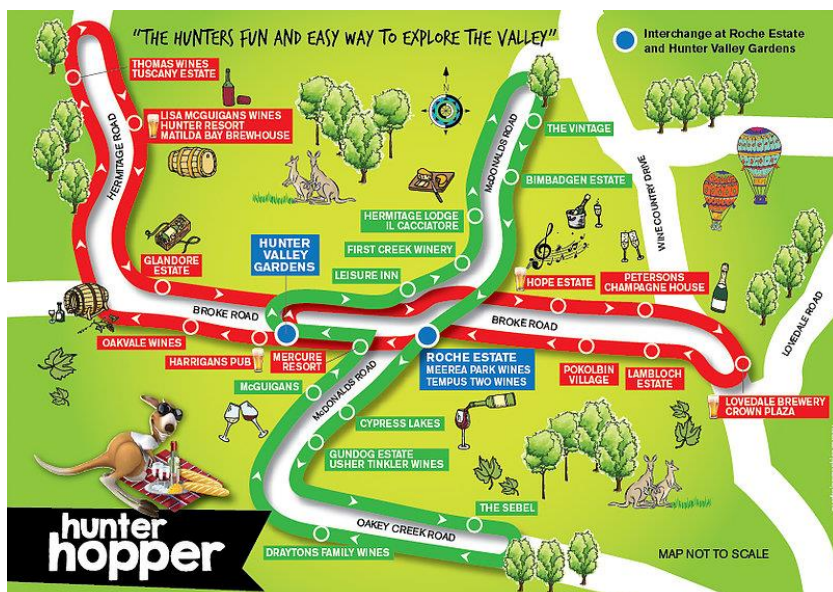


08.00 Enjoy breakfast at the hotel (\$15pp vouchers included)

09:00 Onsite vineyard inspection followed by wine tasting with resort's cellar master (included)

Also within easy walking distance are five Winery 'Cellar Doors'. The Chocolate Nip shop, Sculpture Garden and Gallery feature at some of these Cellar Doors. Also several restaurants...

Optional Day Tour – Hop on Hop off Bus, or Gourmet Lunch Tour, pick up from Hunter Valley Resort to tour the region (*departures may vary – not operated by us)



18:00 Optional Dinner onsite at Hunter Valley Resort (own cost)

20:00 Accommodation at Hunter Valley Resort

Day 3.

10:00 Enjoy breakfast (\$15pp vouchers included)

10:30 Free time to do onsite optional activities eg: Segway, riding horse, riding electric bikes or enjoy the 3km walking track...





12:00 Back to the reception, and wait for the transfer to Singleton Railway Station (included)

13:24 Train departs Singleton Railway Station to Sydney (included)

16:38 Arrive Sydney Central Railway Station

1. Optional Hunter Valley Hop On/Hop Off bus service around the wine country

iHop service: <https://www.ihophuntervalley.com.au/ihop-by-day/>

2. Wine Train Package includes:

- Return economy express train tickets from Sydney Central station to Singleton station (Only 7 stops)
- Meet & Greet with return transfers from Singleton Railway station to Hunter Valley Resort
- Accommodation at Hunter Valley Resort
- \$15pp breakfast vouchers each day
- Entry to Hunter Valley Resort Wine Theatre experience
- Onsite vineyard inspection followed by wine tasting with resort's Cellarmaster

TRAIN TRAVEL INSTRUCTIONS FROM SYDNEY TO SINGLETON STATION (HUNTER VALLEY)

- **Arrive at Sydney Central Train Station by 9.00am** – Train scheduled departure is 9:29am (Be early – please note there is only one train per day so don't miss it!)
- There are two areas at Sydney Central station
 - City trains
 - **Country trains – this is where you must go.**
- Please go to **Platform 2** (platform number and departure time may change – please re check morning of departure – ask for help from the Information office).
- Your Car number (Carriage number) is on your ticket – as is your seat number.
- The train will take 3 hours approximately and will stop at: Strathfield; Hornsby; Gosford; Wyong; Fassifern; Broadmeadow and Maitland. **Very important....** When you see 'Maitland' train station, **please prepare to exit the train at the next stop which is Singleton** (approximately 30 minutes). (If you miss this stop, you will have to arrange your own taxi from the next station 'Muswellbrook' which can be a +\$200 fare)
- Your transfer at Singleton station will be waiting for you (Look for a white Mercedes van – registration: "01-HVR") – please call the resort on 02 49987777 (extension – 1) if there is any question – Enjoy your journey!

TRAIN TRAVEL INSTRUCTIONS FROM HUNTER VALLEY TO SYDNEY CENTRAL STATION

- **Please reconfirm your transfer time with reception on the morning of your departure** (Approximately transfer time is around 12:00noon – 12:30pm – Please note there is only one train per day so don't be late for your transfer!)
- Scheduled train departure time from Singleton to Sydney is 13:24pm (Please note: departure time may change – reception will keep you posted)
- Your Car number (Carriage number) is on your ticket – as is your seat number. **You must stand on the platform next to where your Car number (A, B, C, D, E, F, or G) is painted on the platform** – as the train only stops very briefly.
- **Looking at the train tracks, the train will come from the right.** If a train comes from the left, do not get on it as that train is not going to Sydney). Please ask for help from the train inspectors if you are unsure.
- The train will take 3 hours approximately and will terminate at the final stop – Sydney Central Station
- Enjoy your journey!

[BOOK DIRECT – CLICK HERE](#)

NB: PLEASE NOTE WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY CHANGES TO THE NSW TRAINS TIMETABLE, SERVICE AVAILABILITY, STRIKES, OR TRACK WORK WHICH REQUIRES ALTERNATE TRAVEL BY COACH.