

PLAY  
September 18th, 2018

## The Top Things to do

When Victorians want to get away for a few days of peace and relaxation, Daylesford is one of the first places that come to mind. With its cosy pubs, breathtaking scenery and easy access to wineries, bathhouses and country walks, it's a hard decision picking the top things to do in Daylesford...but we think we've done a pretty good job.

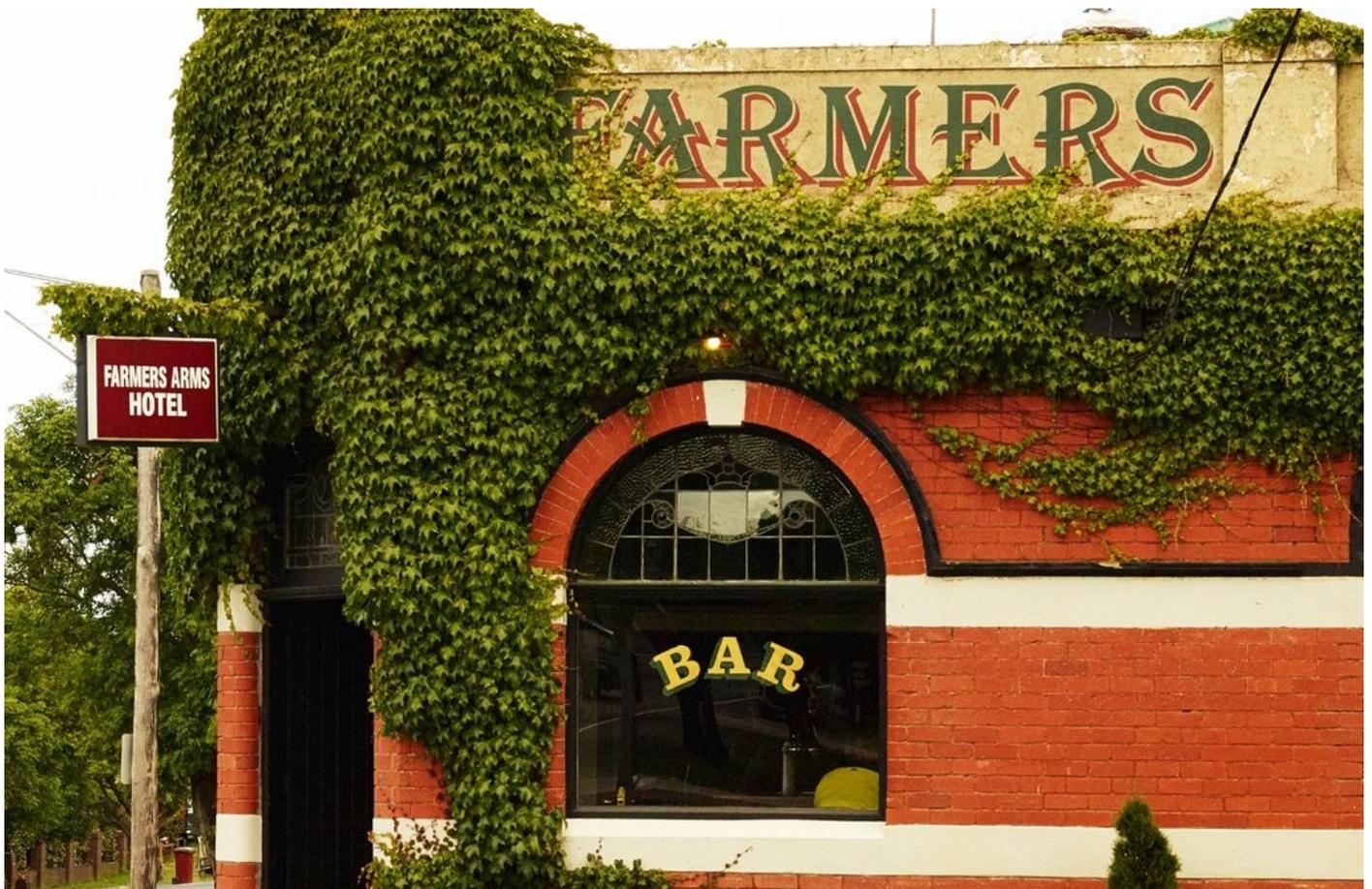
**Planning a trip to Daylesford?** Check out the Luxury Escapes package for Hotel Frangos [here](#).

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*Image credit: TripAdvisor*

**Eat & Drink: Local produce**

It's all about devouring local produce and fine wines in this picturesque town where the pubs are cosier and the menus more delicious.

**Farmers Arms Daylesford:** One look at the menu of this local haunt is all it takes to get Melbourne's city dwellers in the car and on the road. Having opened in 1862, the Farmers Arms Daylesford is one of those pubs with plenty of character. Standout dishes from the menu include the roasted pork belly with creamy mash, broccolini & topped with house-made Harcourt apple cider relish and red wine jus; and the char-grilled swordfish fillet with white taramasalata, salsa verde & a cucumber and pine nut salad.

**Mercato @ Daylesford:** Sourcing all their ingredients and wines from local suppliers, Mercato is a patriotic restaurant that serves up a choice of a degustation experience, a la carte menu or tapas dishes. We recommend the eucalyptus smoked kangaroo with beetroot, cumquat confit, Tasmanian pepper and red sorrel, and the red snapper with black olive tartare and citrus caviar.

**Sault Restaurant Daylesford:** Set against the backdrop of the Wombat State Forest and overlooking a lake surrounded by fields of fragrant lavender (best seen from November), this elegant restaurant plucks ingredients from their own kitchen garden to produce seasonal dishes like cured Kingfish with finger lime, wild rice, truffle and lemon; and scallops with squid ink, avruga caviar a chilli.



*Image credit: Hotel Frangos*

**Stay: Go boutique**

**Hotel Frangos:** Situated in the heart of Daylesford’s main town on the iconic Vincent Street, Hotel Frangos is a boutique property featuring just 15 individually styled rooms. Guests can enjoy the delights of the hotel’s Cafe Koukla, which creates hearty dishes using the finest local ingredients, while the onsite Endota Spa is perfect for those looking for total relaxation.

A stay at Frangos gives guests the opportunity to really explore Daylesford with local artisan markets, galleries and local eateries right on their doorstep.

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**Lake House:** Those looking to splurge on a romantic experience will be seduced by the charms of the Lake House. Elegantly perched on the edge of a misty lake, this beautiful property features a two chef-hatted restaurant helmed by Culinary Director Alla Wolf Tasker. The restaurant highlights local produce with the finest cheese, meats, fruit and fish being delivered fresh each morning to create dishes such as duck with orange braised witlof; or truffled Pecorino tart with artichokes Barigoule.

**The White House:** Boutique accommodation takes on a whole new meaning at this unique property which provides the perfect home-away-from-home experience. Guests rent the entire White House for a cosy minibreak where you can spend days at the market and long evenings cooking up your own delicious meal and drinking local red wine.



*Image credit: Hepburn Bathhouse and Spa*

**Play: However you want**

The beautiful things about this charming town is that you control the pace of your escape. It's the perfect place to do as much or as little as you want but here are just a few of our picks of the top things to do in Daylesford.

**Hepburn Bathhouse and Spa:** Victorians know that when they need to relax the Hepburn Bathhouse and Spa will always provide the much-needed soothing they need. Operating since 1895, visitors can expect tried and tested experiences and treatments like water therapy, professional massages and private steam rituals, or they can simply unwind in the two mineral baths.

**Picture this Ballooning:** Float above Daylesford Spa Country with a romantic sunrise hot air balloon ride that offers spectacular vistas of the area's rolling hills, beautiful blue waterways and green forests. After the ride, guests can enjoy a five-star champagne breakfast that will perfectly top off a wonderful experience.