



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**5 March 2020**

### **TOP REASONS TO VISIT MELBOURNE'S WEST THIS AUTUMN**

There are plenty of reasons to head west this Autumn, as Melbourne's west puts on more than its fair share of vibrant events, covering everything from fine food and cheese, to music, artisan markets and more. Add to the mix a steady influx of hip new cafés, bars and restaurants, along with new tourism attractions and tours and you'll soon realise you don't have to venture far from the city centre for a memorable mid-week or weekend experience in the west.

Here's a selection of what to see and do in Melbourne's west over the coming months:

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Moonee Valley Festival**

The Moonee Valley Festival takes place throughout Moonee Valley neighbourhoods during March, delivering an exciting program of live performances, food and art. A highlight of the program is Food Fair Festival (15 March) at Avondale Heights Library and Learning Centre, where guests can enjoy cooking demonstrations, interactive showcases and tastings from local Moonee Valley chefs and restaurants.

When: now until end-March

Where: various locations within Moonee Valley City Council

W: [mvfestival.com.au](http://mvfestival.com.au)

#### **Riverside Nights Festival**

Riverside Nights will transform Wyndham Park into an eclectic fusion of music, food, markets and great entertainment. The new and beautifully designed, state of the art parklands will come to life Friday nights in March. The festival has been created by the team behind Torquay's popular Nightjar Festival.

Where: Wyndham Park, Werribee City Centre, Werribee

When: Friday 13, 20 and 27 March 2020 from 4pm-10pm

W: [facebook.com/riversidenightsofficial/](https://facebook.com/riversidenightsofficial/)

#### **Eat Drink Westside**

Eat Drink Westside is a unique collaboration between Melbourne's western region councils and Melbourne Food & Wine Festival, shining a light on the area's culinary gems and enviable food community. A regular fixture of the Festival, the 2020 Eat Drink Westside program features 17 enticing events that are as diverse as the west itself. Spanish, French, Ethiopian, Indian, Vietnamese, Turkish, Italian and Lebanese cuisines are represented, as well as street parties, cooking classes, decadent dinners and more. Discover why so many food-lovers, trailblazers and game-changers are being drawn to the west.

Where: various locations across Melbourne's west

When: 19-29 March, 2020

Tickets: Available through the Melbourne Food & Wine website

W: [melbournefoodandwine.com.au/program/eat-drink-westside](http://melbournefoodandwine.com.au/program/eat-drink-westside)

### **Flavour Fest, Rockbank**

Discover a delicious blend of fiery, sweet and smoky sensations at Flavour Fest - a new music and food festival in Rockbank (Melton City Council) which celebrates community, culture and cuisine. Listen to live music from headline acts, witness live cooking demonstrations from leading Melbourne chefs and enjoy tasty treats from some of Melbourne's most popular food trucks and restaurants. The music program includes British India, Caravans Sun, Merci Merci, Jakubi, Clews and more.

When: Saturday 21 March

Where: Frontier Park, Rockbank

Tickets: Flavour Fest is a free event

W: [eventbrite.com.au/e/flavour-fest-2020-tickets-90739904497](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/flavour-fest-2020-tickets-90739904497)

### **Fromage a Trois Cheese Festival, Werribee**

A day filled with cheesy indulgence returns to Werribee Park Mansion when the annual Fromage a Trois Cheese Festival takes place. The Great Lawn in front of the Werribee Mansion will be home to an array of amazing cheeses, cheesy dishes and cheesy surprises, along with fine artisan food, and delicious craft beverages; all available to sample and purchase. Watch chefs and cheesemakers in action, enjoy the live music and indulge with your cheese-loving friends, old and new.

When: Sunday 22 March, 2020 from 11am-6pm

Where: Werribee Park & Mansion, K Road, Werribee

Tickets: \$33 + booking fee – available through [Melbourne Food and Wine Festival](#)

W: [fromageatroids.com.au](https://www.fromageatroids.com.au)

### **Flavours of St Albans, Twilight Market**

Melbourne's most ethnically diverse array of flavours are found on the streets of St Albans, from Europe to Asia and everywhere in between. Whether it's sizzling, steamed or slow-roasted, taste sensations abound at this evening event as you take a cultural journey with our local food experts. For one evening, Flavours of St Albans will take over the St Albans Market. Local community groups will share their stories and recipes, while live entertainment, face painting, balloon twisting and pony rides will keep the whole family happy. Flavours of St Albans is part of the Eat Drink Westside program.

When: Friday 27 March, from 6pm-10pm

Where: St Albans Market, 3 St Albans Road, St Albans

Tickets: This is a free event

W: <https://www.melbournefoodandwine.com.au/program/flavours-of-st-albans-twilight-market-7522>

### **Wominjeka Festival, Footscray Community Arts Centre**

Celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020, the annual Wominjeka Festival is a celebration of the local environment and culture-sharing in the West. Wominjeka is a Ngargee, a Kulin cultural event, teaching and sharing from the Boon Wurrung and Wurundjeri peoples of the greater Kulin nation. Held on the banks of the Maribyrnong River at the Footscray Community Arts Centre, the three-day event includes a welcome ceremony and campfire, community concert, live music and talks from celebrated and emerging First Nations artists.

When: Friday 3 to Sunday 5 April, 2020

Where: Footscray Community Arts Centre, 45 Moreland St, Footscray

Tickets: this is a free event

W: [footscrayarts.com/event/wominjeka-festival-2020](https://www.footscrayarts.com/event/wominjeka-festival-2020)

### **Momo Fest Melbourne, Footscray Park**

Momo Fest is an event entirely dedicated to momo – the Nepalese version of dumplings. Momo is known as the food that brings families and friends together like no other food does. It is more than a food, it is a symbol of unity and celebration of togetherness. Footscray Park and Gardens will come alive for two days with plenty of varieties of momo to taste, along with live music, world music DJs, multicultural performances, roving performers, rides and games and competitions.

When: Saturday 4 – Sunday 5 April, 2020

Where: Footscray Park and Gardens, Ballarat Road, Footscray.

W: [facebook.com/events/2469398283188610](https://www.facebook.com/events/2469398283188610)

### **High Tea at Overnewton Castle**, Keilor

For a slice of local history, join a guided tour of Overnewton Castle, which sits atop a hillside overlooking the town on Keilor (easily accessible off the Calder Freeway). This Scottish Baronial Castle was built in the 1850s, by Scotsman Harry Taylor, in the Victorian Tudor style, inspired by 16<sup>th</sup> century English and Scottish architecture. Lovingly restored and maintained by its current owners, the Castle gives a rare glimpse into the life of wealthy pastoralists in Victoria's goldrush era days. You can join the owners on a fascinating tour through what is now their family home, followed by a high tea in the grand parlour.

When: Tours and high tea take place on a regular basis, upcoming dates include 22 March, 5 April, 3 May and 10 May (for a special Mother's Day High Tea)

Where: Overnewton Castle, 51 Overnewton Road, Keilor

W: [overnewtoncastle.com.au/best-high-tea-venue-north-melbourne](https://overnewtoncastle.com.au/best-high-tea-venue-north-melbourne)

## **NEW ATTRACTIONS, TOURS & ACCOMMODATION**

### **Grazeland (opening April)**

One of Melbourne's most highly anticipated new culinary destinations is set to open in Spotswood in April (date TBC). Located next to Scienceworks, along the Maribyrnong River, only five kilometres from the city centre, Grazeland will provide a rotating weekly festival environment featuring live performance stages, roving entertainers, and an incredible atmosphere that celebrates Melbourne's amazing food culture. Grazeland will open every Friday evening and from midday until late every Saturday and Sunday.  
*2 Booker Street, Spotswood*

### **Early Morning Savannah Experience – Werribee Open Range Zoo**

The newest offering at Werribee Open Range Zoo is the Early Morning Savannah Experience (which launched in mid-January 2020). This intimate morning tour invites guests to meet with zoo keepers as you get an exclusive glimpse into the lives of the amazing animals of the Savannah. Guests are invited to follow one of the Keeping teams on their morning round and assist with food prep, watch a training session, and more. After the morning duties, participants head out to set up feed on Savannah, then enjoy a morning tea break to watch the animals. Tours take place on Tuesday and Saturday morning, bookings are essential. *K Road, Werribee*

### **iFLY Indoor Skydiving Melbourne, Essendon Fields**

Since opening at Essendon Fields in early November, both locals and visitors have been flocking to iFLY Melbourne to experience the thrill of free-fall skydiving in the indoor skydiving simulator. Suitable for participants old and young and open seven days a week, iFLY also host a number of events, including regular ladies nights, which include flying time, food, drinks and entertainment. Sessions cost \$89 per person. Further information available via [Facebook](#). *2 Burns Street, Essendon Fields*

### **[Relax + Play, Altona North](#)**

Located in Alton North, Relax + Play is a new concept play and wellness centre aimed at providing parents with a place to either relax (or work) while their children play. Relax + Play, which opened in January this year, encompasses an indoor play centre, fitness studio, salon and hot desks which overlook the play area (with wi-fi, data cabling, USB and power points at each desk). With dedicated child minders on site, the facility allows parents to enjoy some much-needed R&R knowing their little ones are well cared for. *1 Gilbert Drive, Altona North*

## **NEW RESTAURANTS, CAFÉS AND BARS**

### **[Piano Bar at Fancy Things, Caroline Springs](#)**

Caroline Springs' favourite wine and tapas bar has introduced a sophisticated new offering known as Piano Bar, which launched in January this year. Taking place every Friday and Saturday from 7-9pm, diners can enjoy martinis and tapas, paired with lively entertainment. Booking are essential. *6/11 Commercial Drive, Caroline Springs*

### **[The 6th Child Café, Altona](#)**

This popular new café (open since January 2020) in Harrington Square in Altona offers all the brunch favourites with a south east Asian influence. All dishes and savoury options are created by the owner and chef, who happens to be the sixth of seven children, hence the name. Fresh juice and St. ALi coffee round out the offering. *25 Harrington Square, Altona*

### **[Oscars Teta, Spotswood](#)**

Oscars Teta is the latest food offering to open along the vibrant Hudsons Road precinct in Spotswood. Open since December, here diners can enjoy a blend of traditional Lebanese fare using recipes handed down through generations and taught to the owner by her Teta (grandmother), as well as dishes with a more contemporary twist, inspired by the flavours and techniques of authentic Lebanese cuisine. In accordance with Lebanese tradition, the menu is designed to be eaten mezza style, with all dishes served to be shared amongst guests. Open Tues-Sun 5:30pm - late. *143 Hudsons Road, Spotswood*

### **[Wasshoi Sunshine West](#)**

Wasshoi Sunshine West is the latest offering from noted Japanese chef Ikuei Arakane (of Iron Chef fame). Open since January, the Sunshine store is his second outpost, following the success of his first Japanese Grill at Prahran Market. Here the food is inspired by Japanese street food and is cooked over a charcoal grill, just like on the streets of Japan, giving it a truly authentic flavour. *1-9 The Avenue, Sunshine West*

### **[Le Petit Café Rose, Yarraville](#)**

Le Petit Café Rose in Yarraville is a fusion of love, music, art and French vibes. Created by owners Kevin (a musician) and Monica (an artist), the space, which opened in October, is designed to be a hub of creativity and comfort. Here you can choose from a tasty selection of sweet and savoury treats and coffee. *229 Somerville Road, Yarraville*

### **[Gelato D'Asporto, Yarraville](#)**

Authentic Italian gelato can now be found in Yarraville Village thanks to the opening of Gelato by d'Asporto (created by the same family who operate westside favourites Pizza D'asporto and Kiosk D'asporto). Choose from a selection of artisan flavours, with dairy and gluten free options available. *Murray Street, Yarraville Village*

### **[Mama Lor, Werribee](#)**

Mama Lor is a new family-owned and operated restaurant on Watton Street in Werribee (open since October) that offers a variety of traditional Filipino dishes as well as their own recipe of high-quality bread and cakes. Mama Lor was established by a family from Cebu (Philippines) with the heart to make

every Filipino feel close to home and to share the Filipino taste and experience with other nationalities.  
*183 Watton St, Werribee*

**Oh Happy Day Café, Point Cook**

Oh Happy Day Café is a bright and cheerful café in the new Tribeca Village area of Point Cook. Open since December, here you can sip on specialty coffee by St. Dreux Coffee Roasters, locally brewed chai from Chai Addict or hot chocolate from Grounded Pleasures. The menu has plenty of healthy and sweet options, along with a dedicated kids menu. Younger kids will also love the dolls house and lego wall.  
*Tribeca Village, Point Cook*

For more information about Melbourne's west visit [melbourneswest.com.au](http://melbourneswest.com.au) or follow [@love the west](https://www.instagram.com/love_the_west) on Instagram.

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**About Western Melbourne Tourism Inc (WMT):** WMT is an urban regional tourism organisation aiming to develop a more competitive tourism sector in Melbourne's West. It encompasses the municipal boundaries of:

Brimbank – Sunshine, St Albans & Keilor

Hobsons Bay – Williamstown, Newport, Spotswood & Altona

Melton – Melton, Plumpton & Caroline Springs

Moonee Valley – Essendon, Moonee Ponds & Ascot Vale

Wyndham – Werribee, Point Cook & Hoppers Crossing

Maribyrnong – Footscray, Yarraville & Seddon