

MEDIA RELEASE 26 FEBRUARY 2024

DISCOVER THE CULINARY GEMS OF THE WEST AT EAT DRINK WESTSIDE

<u>Eat Drink Westside</u> invites you to discover the rich food offering of Melbourne's west this March. Running in collaboration with Melbourne Food & Wine Festival, the program features 22 events, running between 15 and 22 March, 2024.

Melbourne's west is home to culinary gems and an enviable food community. Here you will discover trailblazers and game changers, under the radar establishments and a flavor-packed selection of multicultural cuisines.

A key part of Eat Drink Westside offering is **Westside Wanders**, a special series of moveable feasts or 'Wanders' across Melbourne's west. Each Wander takes intimate groups of food lovers to three venues, with a Melbourne Food & Wine Festival host leading guests on a mini tour, stopping for a bite, a drink or a snack at each spot.

The Westside Wanders are a celebration of the eating and drinking culture of 12 different neighbourhoods across Melbourne's west, including Ascot Vale, Caroline Springs, Footscray, Melton, Moonee Ponds, Newport, Seddon, St Albans, Sunshine, Werribee, Werribee South and Williamstown.

The Westside Wanders are selling fast. Be sure to get your tickets quickly with many already sold out. Dates, locations and availability as follows:

- A St Albans Wander (Saturday, 16 March)
- A Melton Wander (Wednesday 20 March)
- An Ascot Vale Wander (Wednesday 20 March) SELLING FAST
- A Caroline Springs Wander (Thursday 21 March)
- A Werribee Wander (Thursday 21 March)
- A Werribee South Wander (Friday 22 March)
- <u>A Williamstown Wander</u> (Sunday 17 March) SOLD OUT
- A Sunshine Wander (Tuesday 19 March) SOLD OUT
- A Footscray Wander (Wednesday 20 March) SOLD OUT
- A Moonee Ponds Wander (Wednesday 20 March) SOLD OUT
- A Newport Wander (Thursday 21 March) SOLD OUT
- A Seddon Wander (Thursday 21 March) SOLD OUT

The diversity of the west is also on show in the **Special Events program** with a selection of delicious events across the area. Choose from a winemaker experience with Shadowfax's chief winemaker, Alister Timms; or get your hands dirty as you learn how to make your own pasta and focaccia with the teams from Pizza d'Asporto and Vino Intrepido.

Be guided through the flavours and origins of a carefully handpicked selection of unique Australian honey varietals as you enjoy a four-course menu at The Vic in Footscray. Or discover the Best of West at the recently revamped 3030 Boulevard as young local talent cook up a feast with local barramundi and freshly harvested vegetables from the Werribee Green Wedge precinct.

Eat Drink Westside special events, dates and availability as follows:

- Shadowfax Winemaker Experience, with Lancemore Mansion Hotel, Werribee South (Friday 15 March)
- Italo-Victorians Do It Better!, Pizza d'Asporto, Williamstown, (Sunday 17 and Sunday 24 March)
- Oh Honey, Honey: A Hive to Plate Dinner, The Vic Hotel, Footscray (Wednesday 20 March)
- Best of the West: Farm to Plate, 3030 Boulevard, Werribee South (Friday 22 March)
- One Day in Sicily, T Cavallaro & Sons, Footscray (19, 20 and 21 March) SOLD OUT
- One Chef, Two Potter, Navi, Yarraville (Thursday 21 March) SOLD OUT

An initiative by Western Melbourne Tourism and developed in partnership with both the MFWF and each of the six local councils that make up Melbourne's west, the Eat Drink Westside program has been designed to display why so many food lovers, trailblazers and game changers are being drawn to the west.

According to Pat Nourse Creative Director Melbourne Food & Wine Festival, the Eat Drink Westside partnership has become one of the real strengths of Melbourne Food & Wine Festival, with the 2024 program better than ever.

"The diversity of talent and experiences, the variety of flavours and the straight-up deliciousness of what's on offer in Melbourne's west brings so much to the program, and is a big hook for visitors from around Victoria and beyond," he said.

To book Eat Drink Westside tickets, go to: melbournefoodandwine.com.au/event-series/eat-drink-westside

For more information about Melbourne's west visit melbourneswest.com.au or follow @love_the_west on Instagram.

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IMAGES: Find a selection of images <u>HERE</u>.

MEDIA CONTACTS: For further information and images, or if you are interested in attending one of the Eat Drink

Westside events, get in touch with:

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About Western Melbourne Tourism Inc (WMT): WMT is an urban regional tourism board aimed at developing a more competitive tourism sector in Melbourne's west. It encompasses the local government areas 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