

For immediate release  
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## Feeling chilly? Victoria's High Country is the coolest place to stay warm this Winter!

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*"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for a talk beside the fire" – Edith Sitwell*

High in the mountains fresh white snow blankets the peaks, while in the misty valleys crackling fires keep cosy cabins toasty warm. Bundle up; there's breathtaking scenery and cute-as-a-button villages to entrance, superb food to comfort and caress, and fine reds and muscats to be imbibed fireside. Don't let the winter blues get you down, here in the High Country there's a multitude of ways to stay warm!

Across the valleys, the region's newest producers, brewers, makers and chefs are celebrating the colder weather, crafting menus that warm the cockles and fire the imagination. Don't miss artisan sourdough breads and yummy treats at Eldorado's new **Firebox Bakery** or gourmet pastries and pies from [Gum Tree Pies](#). In Bright shake it up with a visit to [Dr Mauve's Bar and Lounge](#) for cocktails or head to Rutherglen to sample [Lake Moodemere Restaurant's](#) sublime regional menu.



Drop into a welcoming cellar door offering hearty fortifieds and other delicious drops to ward off the winter chill, or hit the new [Mitta Brewery Company](#) (or any other on the [High Country Brewery Trail](#)) for full-flavoured ales and black beers, perfect for a dark and stormy day! Explore the region's finest restaurants like [Provenance](#) in Beechworth or Tawonga's [Templar Lodge](#), or cosy up at Rutherglen's [Terrace Restaurant at All Saints](#). At [Patricia's Table at Brown Brothers](#) be treated to winter indulgence.

For alpine enthusiasts there's no need to come down from the mountains to enjoy the best the region has to offer; it doesn't get much cooler than fondues, snowshoes, skidoos and igloos with [Alpine Nature Experience!](#) Slide into the restored **Brockoff Hut** tucked away on the ski fields at Mt Hotham for heart-warming meals for hungry skiers, or dance the night away at Mt Buller, where the infamous Hoo-Hah has been reborn as a stylish restaurant, bar and nightclub. Food trucks at Baw Baw bring international cuisine to the heart of the village

There's a multitude of ways to explore the High Country. Take to the skies in a hot-air balloon ([The King Valley Balloon Festival](#) 8 - 9 June 2019), unlock the secrets of the region on your own two feet - snowshoes optional ([Walk High Country](#), daily) or sit back and relax in chauffeur-driven Rolls Royce 'Corniche' convertible ([Luxe Autos All Saints Estate](#), on request) and discover the delights of the Rutherglen Wine region.

Ward off the winter chills in Bright on a guided cycling tour ([Follow My Wheel Produce Tours](#), on request) exploring the local produce of the Victorian High Country or amble your way around Rutherglen enjoying gourmet food and sensational wines ([Rutherglen Gourmet Amble](#), on request). In the depths

of the High Country winter combine cycling and craft beer at Bridge Road Brewers ([Tour de Beechworth](#), 27 July).

Celebrate in style across the North East on **Saturday 8 - Sunday 9 June** when the snow resorts officially open, complete with fireworks, snow dances and entertainment, then change your skis boots for dancing shoes; the party lasts all weekend right across the valleys! A right royal feast is planned for the King Valley's [Fit for a King](#) food and wine festival, while Rutherglen celebrates Australia's biggest wine festival at the [Rutherglen Winery Walkabout](#). Keep cosy on a cold day, where long weekend local farmers' markets, bushmarkets and breakfasts are all about comfort and conviviality.

This Winter, head to [victoriashighcountry.com.au](http://victoriashighcountry.com.au) to explore everything this stunning region has to offer, to play in the snow, cycle the Rail Trails, eat and drink or just soak up the beautiful views.

To arrange Winter stories, access fantastic images or to discuss media famil opportunities, contact Katie Bowker [katie.bowker@tourismnortheast.com.au](mailto:katie.bowker@tourismnortheast.com.au), 0428 338 715  
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## Here's a summary of What's New in the North East this season!

### BRIGHT & SURROUNDS

- [Follow my Wheel Produce Tours](#) Based in Bright, tour the countryside on bike via the rail trail, visiting local producers.
- [Wandiful Produce Cafe](#) This small farm growing chestnuts, hazelnuts, veggies and other produce has a farm shed cafe and store which offers a true fresh produce menu and delicious small batch products.
- [Dr Mauve @ Walker Bros](#) This classy shared space has intimate nooks to hide away and open spaces to be on display. 5 taps and a craft fridge alongside a unique cocktail list.

### BEECHWORTH

- [Elm Tree Lodge](#) Built in 1875, Elm Tree Lodge is one of Beechworth's grandest homes. The cook's kitchen is complete with huge cooker, pizza oven and big barbecue and the kitchen garden will provide inspiration for every foodie.
- [Gum Tree Pies](#) Just simply very, very good pies!

### EL DORADO

- [Firebox Bakery](#) El Dorado now boasts its own restored wood fired Scotch oven. Artisan sourdough and an array of breads and yummy treats.

### RUTHERGLEN

- [Luxe Autos - All Saints Estate](#) Enhance your travels in a 1973 Rolls Royce 'Corniche' convertible and discover the secrets of the Rutherglen Wine Region and beyond.
- [Lake Moodemere Restaurant](#) This new restaurant in a beautiful historic house specialises in house grown produce, especially their Moodemere lamb.
- [Jones Winery Rutherglen Gourmet Amble](#) Take a walk, ride or drive on the 'East' side for a leisurely, progressive, sensory regional feast.
- [Ripe at Buller Wines](#) Exceptional lunch-time dining in our restaurant, overlooking the iconic 100 year old Calliope Vineyard. Seasonal menu, fireplace and fresh picked produce.

## KING VALLEY

- [The King Valley Balloon Festival](#) - Queen's Birthday Weekend 8 - 8 June 2019. Yet another reason for visitors to experience the King Valley. Across the long weekend a mass of hot air balloons will float over the beautiful vine-studded valley, taking off from Milawa or Whitfield each day.
- New [King Valley Prosecco Road](#) experiences:
  - Aperitivo hour at Rinaldo's Casa Cucina
  - Prosecco Road ride on e-bikes from Dal Zotto Wines
  - Prosecco tasting experience at Pizzini Wines
  - Prosecco Brunch at Brown Brothers

## MITTA MITTA

- [The Mitta Mitta Brewing Co](#) Homegrown chemical free hops and single origin, small batch, craft malt, along with water sourced from the property are brought together to craft the three beer range.

## MT BEAUTY

- [Templar Lodge](#) Emma Handley, former chef at the hatted Villa Gusto in the Buckland Valley has put together a casual, seasonal menu, set in the old Masonic Lodge - one of the oldest and best-known buildings in the area.

## WHAT'S NEW ON THE PEAKS

### MOUNT HOTHAM

- [Guided backcountry tours](#) The best spots are not always marked on a map and this season, Hotham introduces guided tours into its renowned backcountry terrain. Victoria's Backcountry Festival on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 September 2019.
- **Brockhoff Hut hideaway** From homemade soups to a glass of bubbles, riders can now have the ultimate ski in, ski out food stop while enjoying the renowned views from the deck.

### MOUNT BULLER

- [Kooroora Hotel](#) - The famous grey pub has made way for a stylish new version including a new retail and rental precinct. A downstairs nightclub is the place to party until "That's Amore" plays at 3am. Some traditions will never die!

### MT BAW BAW

- [Food trucks galore](#) - on major event weekends enjoy multiple themed food trucks guests can enjoy amazing Indian and Japanese cuisine and more!
- **Yukigassen** -- A fast and fun Japanese Snow Fighting Comp. Mt Baw Baw will host the National Championships with the winner getting a place in the International final in Japan.

### **Resort media libraries:**

<http://www.mtbuller.com.au/Winter/resort-info/media/mt-buller-image-gallery>

<https://www.mthotham.com.au/discover/connect-with-us/media-centre>

<https://www.falls creek.com.au/media/>