

GO AMAZING ALBANY!

A circular trail winds through Albany's historic precinct; along coastline, which spills over granite in the Southern Ocean swell. It takes you over river and around stunning farmland and it's on this road that you will find the ultimate farm gate experience known as **Go taste Albany**. The concept **Go taste Albany** was launched in April this year by an enthusiastic group of local producers. A map features in the Albany Holiday Guide and Great Southern Food and Wine Touring Guide. They have concocted a taste sensation for those who follow an easy circular route on Albany's doorstep. Coupled with the new **Go cycle Albany** Map, amazingalbany has more get up and go than ever before!

The **Go taste Albany** trail can be gnawed at your own pace or visitors can opt to go with Grape Southern Tours. Paddy McAllister is one of the characters behind the tasty scheme and an expert on the quality local wines, brews and a little bit of everything else you need to know about the area and its perks and quirks. An entertaining half-day or day trip can be taken on "Dot" the bus, skippered by Paddy, who is happy to tailor his tour to your taste. He is quick to dish out the humour and welcome charm before there is a farmgate in sight.

Fresh fish are flicked up from the jetty at Emu Point and Pelicans peek at the fishermen, flap and soar over the harbour finding their own meal. Here at the Squid Shack, one of the stops on the **Go taste Albany** trail, visitors and local diners can overlook the bobbing fishing boats and hear yachts chime in the sea breeze while they sample fish, squid, oysters and mussels fresh from the Southern Ocean and Oyster Harbour. Squid Shack Manager Scott says it's difficult to keep up the demand for pickled squid. "A local farmer came in the other day and bought 40 jars of it...perfect to eat while watching the footy!" The trail tempts you inland and only minutes from the centre the city opens up to lush green countryside with sumptuous surprises.

Fresh berries are available at Freshpict Strawberry Farm from November through to April/May. During winter, get your vitamin C by tasting the local strawberries in a delicious savoury sauce or in vinegar on crusty bread. Freshpict has a diverse range of products presented in stylish bottles perfect for that unique strawberry gift that you never thought could taste so good.

Organic wine has a freshness that is apparent at the tip of your nose before you even taste and savour what are some fantastic award- winning drops at Oranje Tractor Wine. Steering away from the conventional track, Pam Lincoln and Murray Gomm are local producers with great ideas and will share a zest for life on the **Go Taste Albany** trail just north of the coastal city. Keep your eye out for the Oranje Fiat Tractor, known as the vineyard workhorse, it can be still seen amongst the grape vines despite one of the Oranje tractor wines being named “2005 Busted Clutch Shiraz”. The spectacular South Coast around Albany is perfect for growing high quality cool climate grapes. Vibrant and sparkling, like it’s producers, the 2004 Spark Plug Riesling boasts delicate, citrusy characters.

For robust red and wicked whites, the go taste trail offers riches at several vineyards in the Albany region. Phillips Brook Estate is more than a cellar door. Here you can taste estate grown wine and view original artwork by talented resident artist Bronwyn Newbury amidst the rustic charm of an old shearing shed. Montgomery’s Hill, high on the banks above the picturesque Kalgan River is another hot stop as is the well-known Wignalls Wines and Alkoomi Wines. Alkoomi have also produced a flavoursome extra virgin olive oil in long-necked corked bottles great for gifts or cracking open at home with Dukkha. JD designs produce gourmet hampers to take with you while you follow your nose around the trail or for a picnic tucked in one of Albany’s sheltered coves.

If you don’t fancy yourself a wino you’ll be pleased with the alternative choice of locally produced beverages. Knock your socks off with a G and T from the Great Southern Distillery opening the doors to its new establishment at Albany’s beautiful Frenchman’s Bay this autumn. Focused on quality not quantity, the producers hope to have a premium single malt whisky available to those who indulge the Go Taste Albany trail. The Pied Piper Brewery is also expected to join the list of Go Taste Albany producers in the near future.

Tanglehead Brewing Company Brewery on historic Sterling Terrace in a restored colonial building that has been buzzing since its doors opened last winter. On location local brewer Allan Kelly passionately produces hand- crafted ales. Visitors and locals flock in to try the monthly special brew. This month you can try “Harbourside” which is Tanglehead’s first Lager and made from 100% locally grown malting barley and Czech saaz hops. Its name fittingly reflects the pubs location, on the harbour side in the heart of Albany city. The brewing company also offer a

quality restaurant on site and have live music each week, including Thursday's 'Open mic' night, showcasing local musical talent. Tanglehead Brewing Company is a good finishing point for your **Go taste Albany** experience close to city accommodation and services.

After all this indulging, do yourself a favour and jump on a bicycle! Go Cycle Albany is a map produced by the Albany Bicycle Users Group and the City of Albany and incorporates scenic trails for Albany Visitors and locals to explore on bike. There is a trail for all ages and stages and for all reasons and seasons you'll find tracks taking you from town to the beach to the bush, market, shops and café's. You can even do a bit of the go taste Albany trail on your bike with the farmgate locations conveniently marked. Drink driving rules still apply. Distances and approximate travel times also make this a helpful companion for bike riders.

Albany's mild climate is perfect for cycling- rarely too wet and almost never too hot. The map outlines three scenic cycling routes as well as plenty of tracks and trails through the city and suburbs. It gives you a choice to stay healthy, look after the environment, save money and most importantly to have fun. You will find yourself experiencing the beauty of the natural landscape regardless of the trail you take. Whales and Waves is a 60 kilometres, 4-hour return journey to some of Albany's most famous icons, one man-made, many others natural. You can stop off at the Yacht Club to wet your whistle before continuing on past Whale World to the Torndirrup National Park where you will be astounded by the natural formations forced upon the granite by the power of the Southern Ocean over many years. The Wind Farm is a good bike ride from the city centre taking only 2 hours. You will be rewarded by spectacular coastal views from the wind farm. From here you can often see dark shapes swimming out the back of the breakers in the turquoise clear water. Dolphins happily share the waves with surfers and make an awesome display. The wind turbines themselves takes on a respectable power as the huge blades whirl away in the face of the wind supplying Albany with 75% of its power. Albany is a truly spectacular place with quality indulgence and get up and go! For more information or to book your holiday in amazingalbany contact the Albany Visitor Centre on (08) 9841 9290 or book online.