

36-hour Christmas flash sale starts now

Home > Travel Experiences > Food and Wine

## The best food and drink finds of 2017



SHARE

Bruny Island Premium Wines is the most southerly vineyard in Australia. Photo: Rob Burnett

SHARE **BEST LEAST-EXPECTED FOODIE DESTINATION**



**Bruny Island, Tasmania**

It's just a 100-kilometre long dot off the coast of Tasmania but Bruny Island is a foodie paradise. There's the Bruny Island Cheese Company, Get Shucked oysters, a chocolate-cum-fudge factory, a berry farm and Bruny Island Premium Wines (the most southerly vineyard in Australia) which knocks out cold climate pinot noir and chardonnay. Wherever you go on the island you'll also find Bruny Island Game Meat for sale, all shot locally. Go hungry. See [brunyisland.org.au](http://brunyisland.org.au)



**BEST SALAD**

**Octopus salad, Oliver Avenida restaurant, Hotel Avani, Lisbon**

Advertisement

— Most Popular Articles —



Woman forces plane down after being refused champagne



World's newest, largest 'air cruise' private jet bound for Australia



Third ever street-food Michelin star goes to 70-year-old Thai woman

— Featured —



How to have a visa-free holiday in China

SPONSORED

Chef Olivier da Costa is a bit of a culinary poster boy in Portugal – and deserves to be known further afield, if only for his softly delicious octopus salad. Thinly sliced and served carpaccio style with chopped tomato, red onion, bell peppers and coriander on a long rectangular plate, it not only tastes wonderful but is so perfectly arranged that it's a feast for the eyes as well as the stomach.

See [minorhotels.com](http://minorhotels.com)

### BEST BEER

#### Bia Hoi, Hanoi

Hanoi's "bia hoi" bars – rowdy, cheap neighbourhood joints that brew their own beer and serve affordable and tasty food to go with it – are the perfect venues for anyone looking to mix with locals and sample authentic cuisine. Simply pull up a plastic stool at a low table, order a beer for less than \$1, grab snacks like fried quail or air-dried beef, and soak up the atmosphere.

### ✉ Traveller Newsletter

Get the latest news and updates emailed straight to your inbox.

**SIGN UP**

By submitting your email you are agreeing to Fairfax Media's [terms and conditions](#) and [privacy policy](#).

See [vietnamtourism.gov.vn](http://vietnamtourism.gov.vn)

### BEST TROPICAL COCKTAIL

Sundowners don't come much better than the Countess with its perfect juxtaposition of sweet and sour. The citrusy wonder, served up by talented bartenders at the Fish Bar at the new Marriott Fiji Momi Bay, is a zingy mix of vodka, Limoncello, Campari and fresh grapefruit juice, served over ice with flamed orange zest. The Countess is best enjoyed watching a blazing Fiji sunset, with sand squelching between your toes. See [marriott.com.au](http://marriott.com.au)



Advertisement

### BEST FOOD TOUR

#### Midnight tuk-tuk food tour, Bangkok

Many visitors shy away from trying Bangkok's street food but this tour removes all the guesswork by taking you straight to the best vendors. As well as sampling authentic versions of Thai classics such as pad thai and chicken rice, the tour visits a secret rooftop bar, a temple and a flower market. How do you get around? By tuk-tuk, of course – a quintessential Bangkok experience. See [bangkokfoodtours.com](http://bangkokfoodtours.com)

[bangkokfoodtours.com](http://bangkokfoodtours.com)



Plan an amazing adventure you can feel good about

SPONSORED



Stopover in Canada's incredibly likeable city on the way to the US

SPONSORED

### Deals of the week



Get more than 50 per cent off three-night Singapore stay



Save \$1770 on seven-night luxury Fiji escape



Save on summer Club Med escapes in Asia and Maldives



Early bird savings for 2019 Northern Lights adventure

[More deals](#) >

### Most Popular Destinations



San Francisco



Bangkok

England

## BEST UNCONVENTIONAL WINE TOUR

### Waiheke wineries by horseback, New Zealand

Why drive to a winery when you can arrive by horse? Located a 40-minute ferry ride from Auckland, Waiheke Island has many vineyards and on this tour you'll visit two of the best on horseback. Cable Bay and Mudbrick both have welcoming cellar doors and restaurants with stunning ocean views. Enjoy tastings and a sumptuous lunch then ride back along the island's pristine beaches. See [waihekehorseworx.co.nz](http://waihekehorseworx.co.nz)



Waiheke Island vineyard and winery.

## BEST COFFEE TOUR

### Cafe Ruiz coffee tour, Panama

Panama has a secret. As well as having a famous canal, it also produces some of the world's most expensive coffee. Located in the stunning cloud forests near Boquete, Cafe Ruiz grows the rare geisha variety of the arabica coffee plant. This entertaining tour explains the coffee-making process and includes a taste of the finished product, which can sell for up to \$40 a cup. See [caferuiz-boquete.com](http://caferuiz-boquete.com)

## BEST SMALLGOOD

### Presunto, Portugal

You hear the Portuguese talk about presunto and you think, "Yeah, right". The locals say this cured ham is as good as Spain's famous jamon iberico. They say it's produced from the same black-footed pigs, it has the same rich butteriness, the same meaty lushness. Sure, you think. It can't be that good. And yet, sample presunto in the delis and restaurants of Lisbon and you have to accept that not only is presunto as good as jamon – it might just be better.

See [visitportugal.com](http://visitportugal.com)

## BEST SWEET TREAT

### Habibah Sweets, Amman

You'll see the queue before you see the restaurant. Amman locals line up around the block day and night to grab their slice of the city's best knafeh, a traditional sweet treat of baked cheese and semolina, from Habibah Sweets. A slice of this delicious dessert, carved roughly from a huge metal tray and slung across the counter with little ceremony, will set you back about a dollar, and will have you on a sugar high for hours. See [onthegotours.com/jordan](http://onthegotours.com/jordan)

## BEST AUTHENTIC NEW ORLEANS RESTAURANT



Abu Dhabi



Australia

[More destinations](#)



### Louisiana Bistro, French Quarter

Locals are always in the kitchen, serving the food and at the next table in Louisiana Bistro where the timeless flavours of New Orleans jam with cutting-edge creative Creole cuisine. Spontaneously composed tasting menus always include twists on the classics and, despite being smack bang in the tourist hub, high standards are sustained. See [louisianabistro.net](http://louisianabistro.net); [visittheusa.com](http://visittheusa.com)

### BEST AFTERNOON TEA

#### Mondrian Hotel, London

Forget that traditional British arvo tea malarkey and head to the Mondrian Hotel's funky Dandelyan bar for Wyld Tea. Settle in to the purple leather sofa and hoe into elderflower compressed cucumber and burnt herb cream sandwiches and '70s-style cakes with a twist (blackcurrant and verbena Battenberg cake, anyone?). Wash it all down with weird and wonderful botanical cocktails such as the Fluff & Fold Royale with lime, basil, cacao liqueur, orange bitters and prosecco. See [morganshotelgroup.com](http://morganshotelgroup.com)

### BEST LOCAL RESTAURANT

#### Adraga Seafood, Adraga beach, Portugal

Found quite by happy accident, this little white cube of a restaurant sits right on the edge of the beach. It bustles with local families so it's best to book (they squeezed us in) but this is no frills, no fuss, fresh seafood cooked simply. They even give us a free tasting plate of percebes, the little claw-like local delicacy also known as goose barnacles. An unexpected but wonderful discovery. See [restaurantedaadraga.com](http://restaurantedaadraga.com)

### BEST NOODLES

#### Cao Lau, Hoi An

They say it's the water in Hoi An that's the secret to cao lau, a dish of thick, chewy noodles with slices of pork, crispy crackling and fresh herbs that's become so famous in central Vietnam, and is one of the country's best meals. At Cao Lau Thanh, a scruffy outdoor restaurant just outside the historic centre of Hoi An, cao lau is served up fresh and delicious every morning, and it costs about \$1.50 a bowl for absolute perfection. See [vietnamtourism.gov.vn](http://vietnamtourism.gov.vn)



*Cao Lau is regional Vietnamese specialty served at Hoi An. Photo: Flash Parker*

### BEST PUB

#### The Marksman, Hackney Road, East London

This unassuming Victorian pub in hipster central manages to provide the best of both worlds. Downstairs it's a genuine corner boozier full of locals quaffing tap beers while upstairs it's serving traditional British food to such a high standard it was named Michelin Pub of the Year this year (2017). Think rissoles, pheasant pies, lemon sole, dripping spuds and British Beenleigh Blue cheese. Go the three-course Sunday lunch for £33 and come away grinning. See [marksmanpublichouse.com](http://marksmanpublichouse.com)

### **BEST FEEL GOOD COOKING CLASS**

#### **The Sarojin "street food cook for kids", Khao Lak, Thailand**

What sets The Sarojin apart from other luxury resorts is its dedication to the local community, a commitment that began in response to the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami. By participating in "Street Food Cook for Kids" guests at The Sarojin have the opportunity to prepare and deliver nutritious meals to children with special needs at the nearby Camillian Social Centre. See [sarojin.com](http://sarojin.com)

### **BEST FOOD TOUR**

#### **Taste of Lisboa, Lisbon**

Lisbon foodie Filipa Valente's popular walking tours provide a great introduction to the city's underrated gastronomic scene. There are two itineraries to choose from: the "Tram 28 Walk", an exploration of the Campo do Ourique neighbourhood and its traditional flavours; and the "Downtown-Mouraria Walk", which takes in Lisbon's multicultural gastronomic influences, as well more familiar local dishes. Whichever you choose, you'll receive expert guidance from Filipa, and a belt-stretching selection of Lisbon's best cuisine.

See [tasteoflisboa.com](http://tasteoflisboa.com)

### **BEST SOUTH AMERICAN DINING EXPERIENCE**

#### **Food and Wine Studio by Pilar Rodriguez, Chile**

Celebrated Chilean chef Pilar Rodriguez invites diners into her home in the Colchagua Valley wine region to sample her delicious cuisine in an intimate setting. Food and Wine Studio is part culinary school, part catering company, and part restaurant, the doors of which are only thrown open on weekends for groups who book in advance. The experience, dining with Pilar among the grape vines on some of Chile's best cuisine, is worth the effort. See [pilarrodriguez.cl](http://pilarrodriguez.cl)

### **BEST AFFORDABLE WINE**

#### **Portugal**

While it's often overshadowed by better-known offerings from France and Spain, the wine of Portugal is extremely good, and almost unbelievably cheap. There are 29 distinct wine regions in the country, from the famous Douro Valley to lesser-known DOC areas such as Alentejo and Trás-os-Montes, and all produce multiple varietals of the highest quality. And if you're paying more than a few euros a glass, you're being ripped off.

See [visitportugal.com](http://visitportugal.com)

### **BEST SANDWICH**

#### **Madam Khanh the Banh Mi Queen, Hoi An**

It's hard to know exactly what it is that makes Madam Khanh's banh mi – the traditional Vietnamese pork roll – so good. It might be the

soft-but-crunchy baguettes, baked fresh. It might be the sweetly spicy chilli sauce, the recipe to which will probably remain a secret forever. It could be the balance of farm-style pate with pickled green papaya and fresh herbs. Or, more likely, it's a combination of all these that makes this one of the world's greatest sandwiches. See [vietnamtourism.gov.vn](http://vietnamtourism.gov.vn)

CONTRIBUTORS: Keith Austin, Andrea Black, Elspeth Callender, Ben Groundwater, Brian Johnston, Nina Karnikowski, Katrina Loble, Sally Macmillan, Rob McFarland, Sheriden Rhodes, Louise Southerden, Alison Stewart, Kerry van der Jagt, Guy Wilkinson

Dec 15 2017

## YOU MIGHT LIKE

### Skills you need to future-proof your job

MICROSOFT SPONSORED



Traveller   
 Like Page 138K likes

## Recommended



Save on summer Club Med escapes in Asia and the Maldives



Why you'll never fly on the world's fifth-biggest airline



Qantas reveals second Dreamliner and new US route



This airline wouldn't even give me a cup of water



Get more than 50 per cent off three-night Singapore stay



The scruffy side of Dubai is far more authentic, and fun



World's third street-food Michelin star goes to 70-year-old...



Biggest flops: Five dumb airline ideas that failed to take...



Selfie-taking tourists are disrespectful show-offs



Supersonic travel comeback: Japanese airline orders 20 new...

powered by plista

## Comments

0 Comments

Sort by Oldest



Add a comment...

Facebook Comments Plugin

### Follow us



Facebook



Twitter



Pinterest



Instagram



Google+



Subscribe

# Traveller

#### Top Cities

- New York City
- London
- Tokyo
- Paris
- Los Angeles
- Bali
- Venice

#### Travel Resources

- Tipping in the US
- Best Travel Insurance
- Flying Premium Economy
- Travel Essentials
- Best Frequent Flyer Schemes
- Travel Photos

#### Top Attractions

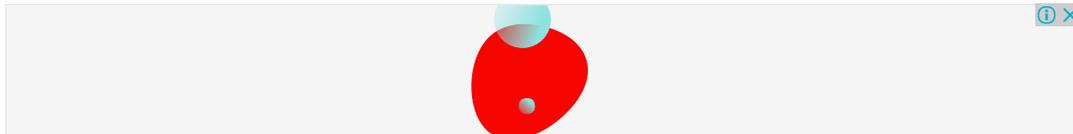
- Things to do in Bali
- Best of Fiji
- Things to do in South America
- Best of Mexico City
- Relaxation Holidays
- Best of Ho Chi Minh City

#### Australian Travel

- 50 Best Australian Adventures
- Day Trips from Melbourne
- Australia's Best Beach Towns
- Best Cafes in Adelaide
- Top Bicycling Trips in Australia

#### Airline Reviews

- Qantas Premium Economy
- Jetstar Business Class
- Scoot Business Class
- Qantas A380 Economy
- Emirates First Class
- Singapore Airlines Economy



Explore all our sites covering entertainment, food, lifestyle and parenting



[About us](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Newsletter](#) | [Advertise with us](#) | [Privacy statement](#) | [Terms of use](#) | [Sitemap](#) | [Feedback](#)



[The Sydney Morning Herald](#) | [The Age](#) | [Adzuna](#) | [Domain](#) | [Drive](#) | [RSVP](#) | [Essential Baby](#) | [APM](#) | [Weatherzone](#) | [Commercial Real Estate](#)

Copyright © 2017 Fairfax Media