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Drink in nature and fine wines

Whether it is sipping chardonnay and spotting platypus while picnicking amongst the vines of a boutique winery, or drinking in views of lush rainforest and mountain peaks from the balcony of a mountain resort room, tourism pioneers the O'Reilly family promise a memorable experience to be toasted for years to come.

At their famous O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat, set amidst World-Heritage listed Lamington National Park, nature is served up with their legendary hospitality, honed over 80 years in the business.

In the picturesque Canungra Valley below, the O'Reilly's have established the same welcoming tradition over the last five years at their O'Reilly's Canungra Valley Vineyards, celebrated over a glass or two of the award-winning wines on offer at their friendly cellar door.

Visiting the Vineyards is a must as a leisurely stop-over on the way up to the guesthouse, or as the perfect way to end a relaxing rainforest retreat at O'Reilly's.

The two experiences complement each other like wine and cheese...or wine and nature.

O'Reilly's and Canungra Valley Vineyards Managing Director Shane O'Reilly believes establishing the Vineyards has proved the ideal way to extend their family hospitality and expand the hinterland tourism experience.

"For many years guests have been looking for a relaxing experience to break their journey to and from the guesthouse and the Vineyards provide that, as well as adding to the reputation of the area as a boutique wine region," Mr O'Reilly said.

"We are pleased to have recently celebrated five successful years at Canungra Valley and we look forward to marking the 80th anniversary of the guesthouse in 2006."

A stay at the guesthouse provides the perfect natural environment to relax and unwind, or to be as active and adventurous as you like – with guided bushwalks, birdwatching, 4WD adventures, the famous Tree Top Walk and the exhilarating Flying Fox on offer, along with nocturnal activities including glow worm spotting.

At the end of an active day, there is nothing better than relaxing in the upstairs bar, sipping on a glass of Canungra Valley wine and watching a spectacular sunset over the McPherson ranges.

While a visit to the Vineyards is all about relaxing, whether it be over lunch on the verandah of the historic homestead, or picnicking under the shade of a silky oak, it also offers the opportunity to commune with nature – spotting the platypus that regularly play in the crystal clear creek.

O'Reilly's boasts accommodation for 150 guests, with facilities including a heated plunge pool, spa and sauna, lounge library, games room, theatre, children's activities room and conference facilities.

Accommodation ranges from the stylishly comfortable to the ultimate indulgence of the two bedroom canopy suites, created in a luxurious transformation of one of the former O'Reilly family homes.

In the culinary department, guests enjoy the country style hospitality of six scrumptious meals in the dining room a day – providing plenty of fuel for those long bush walks, while the bistro café provides a lighter alternative.

Picnics and BBQ's can also be enjoyed while drinking in the views from several stunning lookouts.

O'Reilly's Canungra Valley Vineyards is open seven days a week for light lunches and their popular picnics, while Sunday sees lunch served to the soothing sounds of live jazz.

The cellar door is open from 10:00am – 4:30pm daily, and boasts a fine selection of wines, including the Vineyard's signature Chambourcin varieties and award winning premium wines such as the Shane Reserve Shiraz, which has collected Gold at the prestigious San Francisco International Wine Show.

O'Reilly's enjoys Advanced National Ecotourism accreditation and offers a busy schedule of special activities, called 'Discovery Weeks', to complement its extensive environmental interpretative program.

From its famous annual Bird Week, twice-annual Writer's Retreats and O'Reilly's 'Off the Beaten Track' program of challenging bush walks, there is something happening year-round to keep guests coming back. And they do.

"Many of our visitors are guests who are returning for the second, third, fourth and more times and we never want to disappoint them, in fact we pride ourselves that a large portion our business is from repeat visitors," Mr O'Reilly said.

Guaranteed, regardless of the season, at both O'Reilly's and Canungra Valley, is the warm welcome of a family that promises to treat strangers as friends and friends as family.

"We have three generations of tradition to live up to, and we are committed to maintaining and enhancing the high standards our guests have come to expect."

For further information, please contact O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat on 07 5502 4911 or O'Reilly's Canungra Valley Vineyards on 07 5543 4011, or visit www.oreillys.com.au.

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