

East Coast *Wandering*



Maria Island Tasmania

by Damien Thomas

I am the first to admit I'm not an astronomer, and even if you struggle to find the Southern Cross, the Milky Way takes on a whole new dimension when you see it from a beach near **Swansea, Tasmania**. When you normally look up at the night sky, the lights of the city prevent you seeing everything that is really out there. So, one early evening, arm yourself with a beach towel, bottle of Pinot Noir, some plastic wine glasses, and some cheese and bikkies. Then head to **Piermont Beach, Kennedia Beach** or **Dolphin Sands**. Take the base off the plastic wine glasses and plant them in the sand. They will not fall over that way (they will also not fall over if you hang on to them all evening - which is not a difficult task if there is some Pinot still in them!).



Stargazing on the beach

Sit back, listen to the sea and watch the stars appear. It is a magical experience. There are so many more than you can normally see, it can be quite mesmerising. The only thing that brings you back to earth is hearing one of your family or friends biting into one of the cheese biscuits, and suddenly feeling hungry.

With so many beaches available in Tasmania we sometimes forget to take stock of the fact that Swansea has some of the prettiest and longest beaches. You don't have to swim in the clear blue water to appreciate it.



Now, how do you equip yourself with the Pinot Noir to make the evening extra special? Of course, you could have used an eGift card to save money at Sorell on your way to Swansea. However, it is much more fun to select a bottle at one of the local cold climate wineries/vineyards such as **Milton, Craigie Knowe, Freycinet, Gala Estate, Spring Vale**, just to name a few. Have fun deciding which one is best, or plan to spend a long time looking at the stars!

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If you like doing things a little out of the ordinary, and are unique, you must make a day trip to **Maria Island**. The ferry leaves from **Triabunna** and takes you to the world heritage listed island. You can walk through the convict ruins and see the pristine beaches and rainforests with native species of banksia abounding. The island is about 20 km long so don't expect to walk around it in a day - instead take it slower and experience a small part in greater depth. You should also know you will be able to experience an island that is untouched by modern conveniences. There are no shops, no electricity, no vehicles, and sadly it may not be like this for much longer as there is a movement to start building on the island. So, go there soon to experience something so special.

My tip is to go well fortified and take some water and snacks with you. The best place to fortify yourself for this trip is in Triabunna before you get on the ferry. **'The Fish Van'** is one of the most awarded fish & chips shops you will find. The fish is so fresh and sustainably harvested that the flavours burst in your mouth. It's all about the quality of the produce.

One other tip. There is so much to see and do in Tassie that it is worth planning your stay in advance, so you can fit more in. If the weather changes, use the free, unlimited wi-fi at **API's well positioned holiday home** on the main street of **Swansea** to switch around your adventures. The home is a comfortable three-bedroom residence just a short walk to the restaurants and historic features in the town, so bring your friends. **API**



The Fish Van at Triabunna

Book your stay in an API holiday home online at www.apilifestyle.com.au or call us on **1300 653 322**.