

DEAR GUESTS,

Thank you for choosing to stay at Villa Talia, the premier luxury accommodation in Tasmania's unique and beautiful Huon Valley.

We're George and Vivian, your Tasmanian hosts – we're delighted to welcome you to our country homestead.

We pride ourselves on our warm and friendly hospitality – if there's anything that we can do to make your stay even more memorable, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Now it's time to settle in, make yourself at home and enjoy this special corner of Tasmanian paradise.



## HISTORY

Built in 2007 as a made-to-measure replica of an 1800s winery house in Victoria, the homestead welcomes you with its long, wide corridor flanked either side by the home's master and second bedrooms. Small touches greet you throughout with classic French and Italian pieces, Chinese antiques, Persian and Afghani rugs and Thai silk cushions, collected by the hosts both locally and overseas. The Villa's study presents a richly furnished work area with a beautifully distracting view through French doors and a countrystyle fireplace for comfort.



## WELCOME

Please check-in at 2pm onwards and check-out at 10am. We'll do our best to arrange early check-in or late check-out, depending on availability – just ask!

We'll give you a PIN code for the front door before you arrive. Please lock all doors when you're away from the house.

If you have any questions about anything at all, please call us on 0427 901 188.

## WI-FI

You have access to complimentary Wi-Fi.

Network: Villa Talia Guest House  
Password: lovevillatalia

## HOUSEKEEPING

Room servicing will occur at the end of your stay only to ensure you remain as undisturbed and socially distanced as possible. Restocking and light housekeeping for visits of longer than three days can be arranged at the convenience of guests. Please call 0427 901 188 or email [stay@villatalia.com.au](mailto:stay@villatalia.com.au) to organise.

## ENVIRONMENT

We are committed to conserving the natural resources of our unique environment, and the re-use of towels/linen is a much-appreciated contribution.

## PEACE AND TRANQUILITY

The property is let to you on the basis of a maximum of four guests. Should you wish to have extra guests, please arrange with us beforehand.

## CHILDREN

Children are welcome but must be under supervision at all times by parents or adult carers.

## PETS

For the safety of local wildlife, we don't accommodate pets.

## WINE SELECTION

Our wine selection is proudly chosen by Wines of Tasmania, a locally owned and operated business that curates exceptional, rare and hard-to-find wines so that wine lovers can discover benchmark wines from Tasmania's best wineries.





## SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENT

All internal areas are smoke-free environments. Please respect this and refrain totally from smoking inside the house. Smokers can use the outside deck and parking area.

## ARTWORKS

Throughout the home, classic French and Italian pieces keep company with Chinese antiques, Persian and Afghani rugs and Thai silk cushions, collected locally and overseas.

## TV CD/DVD ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM

To turn on the TV press the red button at the top of the remote. Your TV has 38 channels.

Storms or heavy rain can occasionally affect the signal.

The Bose surround-sound CD/DVD system is housed in cabinet next to the fireplace in the lounge room.

- The on / off, volume, and choice of CD / DVD is operated from the remote control.
- The open / close button for the CD / DVD tray is on the unit itself, tilt up the left side of the black Perspex cover.

To play a DVD, switch on the television and the DVD player before pressing the TV/VIDEO button on the remote control. Select INPUT 1, the correct channel for the DVD player, and you're good to go. There is also a USB port – great for reviewing all those holiday photos.





## KEEP THE BUGS AWAY

There are candles outside – please remember to put them out when you are done.

A note for your comfort – in the evening, if lights are on and doors/windows open you will invite bugs into your villa.

You'll find insect repellent in the laundry cupboard.

## FRENCH DOOR

To lock

1. Lift the handle up firmly then release.
2. Turn the thumbturn lock anticlockwise.
3. Test the door to make sure it is locked.

## BBQ

The BBQ is there for your use and recreational enjoyment, as with all appliances and amenities, you will find it clean on your arrival, with the understanding, it will be left clean after use.

Disposable aluminium foil trays for barbecuing are prepared for your convenience and comes in handy during preparation, cooking and plating and less mess when it's time for cleaning up.

## DAMAGE

Guests will be asked to pay for any costs incurred resulting from malicious damage to Villa Talia.

## WEATHER

The same dramatic weather that can make Tasmania so spectacular also tends to find its way into open windows and doors, so please keep them closed during strong wind, storms or heavy rain. You will also need to make sure the outdoor umbrella is closed. Please take care on the decking – it can be slippery when wet.

## WATER USE

The water supply for the house and garden is collected from the roof and stored in large rainwater tanks on the property. We would greatly appreciate a conservative approach to water use.

The water is excellent for drinking – taste the difference! The water is also very soft and so you will need less laundry detergent and shampoo compared to normal town water.

## WASTE WATER

Waste water is treated on the property with an aerobic process treatment system. Please help us ensure that the system works well by following a few simple rules:

Do not put cooking oil or fat into the system – put it in the garbage bin.

Do not flush anything except toilet paper – place sanitary pads, tampons, nappies, wipes etc in the bin provided.

## WASTE SYSTEM MALFUNCTION

In the unlikely event that the waste system malfunctions such as power outage, a signal will sound from the panel next to the front door. Let us know with a call to 0427 901 188. Meanwhile you can still use the system.



## HEATING AND COOLING

For your comfort we have an electric central heating and cooling system and two Jetmaster gas fires, one in the lounge room and another in bedroom one.

### **Operation of central electric heating / cooling system**

- The control panel for the system is located below the wall clock in the dining area.
- The on / off button for the system is at the top right corner of the control panel. Press the button, a red light appears, the system is on. Press the button and the red light goes out, the system is off.
- Temperature control for the whole house is from the one panel. The temperature will be set at around 20 deg C for you. To increase or decrease the temperature pull down the flap of the panel and locate the 3rd toggle switch from the left (it has a thermometer symbol) and change the temperature as required.

### **Operation of the Jetmaster gas fires**

- For a convenient and cosy open fire effect, we have two 'Jetmaster' gas fires, one in the lounge room and another in the bedroom one.
- The pilot light will be on for you.
- To switch on the fire press the bottom end of the large rectangular switch located on the right side-wall of the chimney breast. After a few seconds the fire will light automatically.
- To switch off the fire press the top end of the large rectangular switch.
- Please note the power to the 'Jetmaster' fan should remain on all the time. It is the middle switch on the power point behind the leather chair in the lounge room and to the right of fireplace in the bedroom.
- Please conserve energy by turning off the heating as you leave.





## INDUCTION COOKTOP OPERATION

**Warning: The area around the cook-top is electromagnetically charged therefore could be a risk for people fitted with pacemakers. Please keep credit cards, pocket calculators etc. well away from the cooktop.**

Cooking with induction is very quick and responsive.

The middle switch of the power point on the wall just left of the cook-top should stay on all the time.

You'll find all the details on using the induction cooktop in the manual located in the bottom drawer under the stove.

## STEAM OVEN OPERATION

If you are unfamiliar with steam oven cooking and wish to try, please refer to the Miele instruction manual located in the bottom drawer under the stove.

## LAUNDRY

There's an iron, washing machine, complimentary detergent and clothes dryer for your use. Please refer to the manuals. The clotheslines is under the veranda outside the laundry.

## HONESTY BOX

Wines and some pantry items are priced. Please leave payment in the honesty box.

Alternatively, if you could pay via EFT, please quote your name and email us a copy of the official bank receipt to:

**[stay@villatalia.com.au](mailto:stay@villatalia.com.au)**

Bank Detail:

Villa Talia Tasmania

BSB: 067 002

ACC: 1054 7255



## RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

Bins are behind the carport. Green lid for general waste and yellow lid for recycling.

# EMERGENCY CONTACTS

**If you're experiencing an emergency, call 000.**

Tasmania Police	131 444 (Non urgent) Nearest Police station Mary St, Cygnet 6295 1251
Tasmania Fire Service	1800 000 699 (Non urgent)
Ambulance	1800 008 008 (Non urgent)
Royal Hobart Hospital	6222 8308 48 Liverpool Street Hobart
Huon Valley Health Centre	6264 2800 85 Main Road Huonville
Huon Doctors Surgery	6264 1666 49a Main Street Huonville
State Emergency Service	6230 2700
Electrical Emergencies	Aurora Energy 132 004
Gas Emergencies	Origin Energy 1800 808 526



## YOGA / MEDITATION MATS

You'll find mats in the bedroom wardrobes. Ideal for use out on the main front area, facing the water and mountain to complete the experience.

With some early notice we can arrange for a local yoga teacher to come to Villa Talia, depending on the availability at the time of your request.

## FISHING

There is good shore access to the Huon River at many locations between Huonville and Port Huon, on both sides of the river. Please take note that upstream from Castle Forbes Bay, an inland waters angling licence is required. Downstream from that point, no licence is required. Try your luck for sea-run trout and escapee Atlantic salmon.

## KAYAKING

Kayaks, paddles and PFDs (life jackets) are available for hire at your own risk. Watch the weather, stay close to shore, paddle in company if possible and always wear a PFD.



## BICYCLES

Bikes and helmets are available for hire at your own risk. You are required by law to wear an approved bicycle helmet.

## HELICOPTER

We work with award-winning Tasmanian Air Tours to provide scenic flights as well as transporting guests to our private helipad.

## BUSHWALKING

There are some wonderful walks in the Huon Valley region to suit all interests and ability levels.

For details, visit **[tastrails.com/category/location/southern-tasmania/huon-valley/](https://tastrails.com/category/location/southern-tasmania/huon-valley/)**

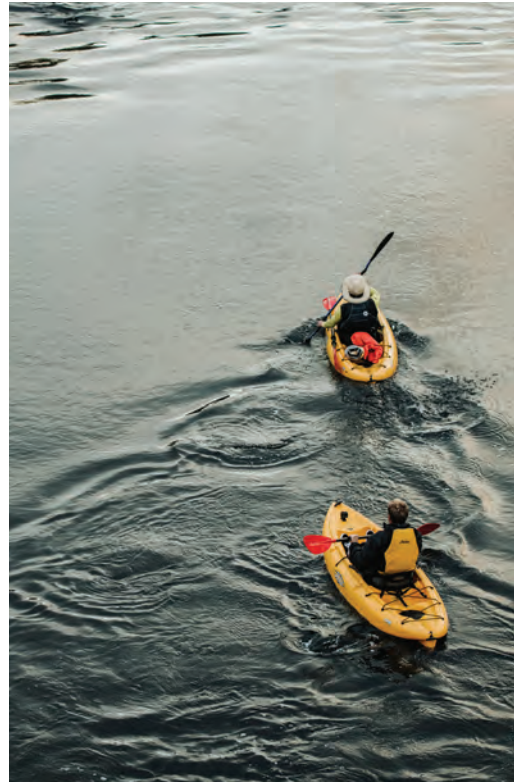


Photo by Stu Gibson



Photo by Adam Gibson



## WILDLIFE

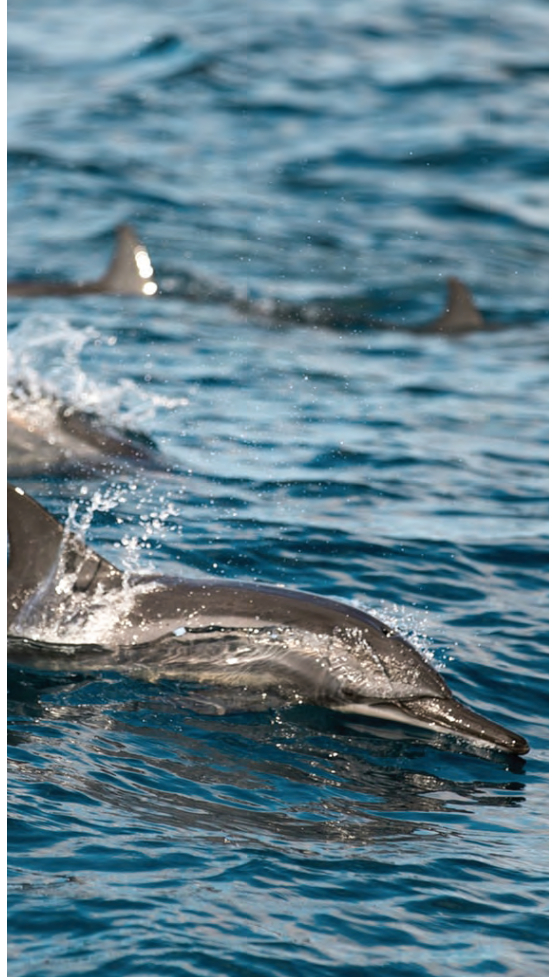
During your visit, you may encounter some of Tasmania's wonderful wildlife – keep an eye out for wallabies, quolls and echidnas on the ground, watch for dolphins at sea, and look up to see wedge-tailed eagles, sea eagles and many other species of Tasmania's unique birdlife.

Villa Talia is also like many Australian country properties, with lots of uneven ground and rocks and sometimes falling branches. Snakes, spiders and creepy crawlies are just part of the great outdoors. When walking, keep out of the long grasses. The rule is if you can't see where you are stepping, then don't walk there! If you go through a closed gate, please respect the law of the bush and close it behind you.

## SNAKES

If you see a snake when walking: STOP. Don't go near it- retreat SLOWLY. Snakes respond to fast movements, assuming danger. If a snake feels threatened, it may become aggressive. If you leave it alone, it will slither off. Please note: Children/infants need to be supervised by an adult at all times. It would be devastating if a child was hurt. Visitors to Villa Talia enter at your own risk.

Potential hazards aside, we appreciate your visit and hope you will enjoy your stay at our beautiful hilltop villa.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

# 1. Does the Huon Valley typically do any special pre-Christmas activities (ie. a Christmas market, long lunch, or food market)?

In previous years, The Willie Smith Apple Shed have held a Christmas market in the lead up to Christmas, and last year, the Port Cygnet Cannery held a similar one day market a few week's out from Christmas which was hugely popular – fingers crossed it runs again this year, but too early to confirm at this stage. There has also been a Vegan Community Christmas lunch held on the Franklin Foreshore which has been held for several years now which you may be able to find out details through the Franklin Palais for when/if it is being run again this year. The Geeveston Feast (monthly event held on the 1st Thursday of each month) usually does a large event which coincides with the launch of their annual Christmas display within the Geeveston Town Hall (and Visitor Centre) at Geeveston too. In late December, you can also pick up fresh apricot and cherries from roadside stalls and simply leave your money in an honesty box. Make sure to sample local cheeses, vegetables and mushrooms and even saffron.

## 2. Are there any 'hidden' wineries or cider makers that offer tastings by appointment?

Home Hill Winery is regarded as one of the country's leading producers of premium pinot noir. It's also a popular lunch venue with a restaurant overlooking the vines. Check out Elsewhere Vineyard, Kate Hill Wines and Two Bud Spur Vineyard cellar doors as well. For cider drinkers, Willie Smith's Apple Shed – an organic cider pioneer – Frank's Cider and Pagan Cider all welcome visitors. Be sure to try Pagan's cherry cider.

Tucked away on hillsides and riverbanks there are many more small producers. Jim Chatto, renowned winemaker at Pepper Tree in the Hunter Valley, has planted his own Isle Vineyard with pinot noir at Glaziers Bay. Chatto, who has a passion for Burgundy, says: "This part of the world has the potential to be among the most exciting sites for pinot noir anywhere in Australia."

Don't forget to visit small producers such as Sailor Seeks Horse, Mewstone, Hartzview Vineyard, Simple Cider (Franklin), and Heriots Point Vineyard (Castle Forbes Bay). For some of these, you would be best to contact them to ascertain exactly what they're arrangements are for visits. There is also Church Hill Brewery (Ranelagh) which might be of interest too. Also, our neighbour has the Tas-Saff farm and cellar door is open for saffron gin tastings - Bookings essential.



### 3. In general, do wineries and restaurants in the Huon Valley still operate over the Christmas/Boxing Day long weekend?

Yes, especially the major ones such as Home Hill Winery and Restaurant, Frank's Cider House, The Apple Shed, Osteria at Petty Sessions, Port Cygnet Cannery, Old Bank of Cygnet – in fact you could probably safely assume those listed within this story on HVT website, could be a good guide.

If you've seen Matthew Evans on the SBS program The Gourmet Farmer, you'll know about Fat Pig Farm – it's at Glaziers Bay, not far from Villa Talia and if you're here on a Friday, you might like to join one of their famous Friday Feasts. Tickets available here **<https://fatpig.farm/restaurant/>**

Sushi master Masaaki Koyama, who used to run a tiny hole-in-the-wall eatery, will soon reopen in Geeveston. Port Cygnet Cannery is home to a wood-fired oven, café and the Sailor Seeks Horse cellar door.

### 4. Are there any wineries or restaurants you would recommend for a Boxing Day lunch ?

Please refer to suggestions above.

5. Are there any particularly good delis, bakeries, butchers, etc or spots to pick up delicious items for a self-catered non-seafood Christmas lunch?

Summer Kitchen (Ranelagh), Ranelagh General Store (Ranelagh), Glen Huon Dairy Farm Shop (Glen Huon), Valley Meats (Huonville), Griggs Butcher (Huonville), Harvest and Light (Geeveston), Osteria at Petty Sessions (Franklin), Red Velvet Lounge (Cygnet), Cygnet Garden Larder (Cygnet), Cygnet Woodfired Bakery (Cygnet), Bakehouse Distillery (Dover) would probably be a good starting point.





6. If the weather is (very) warm, do you have any recommendations for a nice spot to take a chilly swim?

There are so many good choices around the area - Drip Beach (Cygnet), Mickey's Beach (near Randalls Bay), Randalls Bay (Randalls Bay), Kent Beach (Dover), Verona Sands (Verona Sands), Garden Island Creek (Garden Island Creek), The Narrows (Strathblane), Southport, Cockle Creek. Enjoy!



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**[www.fatpig.farm](http://www.fatpig.farm)**

## PAGAN CIDER

Near Cygnet is Australia's southern-most cider cellar door, where you can taste the range of apple, pear and cherry ciders, as well as their limited-release seasonal blends, such as quince, blueberry, strawberry and peach. During summer from Wednesday to Sunday, The Pandemonium Cafe is also onsite, serving traditional French crêpes and waffles.

**[www.pagancider.com.au](http://www.pagancider.com.au)**

## ELSEWHERE VINEYARD

Another Glaziers Bay highlight is the family-owned Elsewhere Vineyard – at the friendly cellar door you can enjoy tasting wines made from cool-climate grape varieties including pinot noir, chardonnay, riesling and gewürztraminer.

**[www.elsewherevineyard.com.au](http://www.elsewherevineyard.com.au)**





## WILLIE SMITH'S APPLE SHED

This 1942 apple packing shed in Grove is the home of Willie Smith's award-winning cider house and distillery. Browse in the museum, see the display of heritage apples, enjoy a cider tasting, sample the delicious food and check out their Saturday morning produce market.

[www.williesmiths.com.au](http://www.williesmiths.com.au)

## HOME HILL WINERY AND RESTAURANT

Set among vineyards on a hillside above Ranelagh, an impressive rammed-earth, timber and glass building houses an award-winning winery and restaurant. Home Hill is recognised as one of Australia's leading producers of Pinot Noir.

[www.homehillwines.com.au](http://www.homehillwines.com.au)

## GRANDVEWE CHEESES

At Peppermint Bay near Woodbridge, you'll discover Tasmania's only sheep milk cheesery – meet the sheep, taste up to 15 different cheeses and enjoy a wine while viewing the whole process of cheese making and maturing.

[www.grandvewe.com.au](http://www.grandvewe.com.au)





## TAS-SAFF

You'll find Tas-Saff perched high on the hill overlooking Glaziers Bay. Tas-Saff pioneered the saffron industry in Australia in the late 1980s. Saffron is harvested each year during April and May. The lilac crocus flowers are picked early each morning – the rare and valuable spice collected from the fiery red stigma of the flowers has been valued for its culinary and medicinal properties for thousands of years.

Tas-Saf offer free saffron gin and saffron tea tastings.

**[www.tas-saff.com.au](http://www.tas-saff.com.au)**

## THE OLD BANK OF GEEVESTON

In the town's original bank building you'll find excellent coffee, cakes and pastries as well as artful breakfasts and lunches, all featuring fine local produce and best consumed on the deck beneath huge old cherry blossom trees.

**[www.facebook.com/  
theoldbankofgeeveston](https://www.facebook.com/theoldbankofgeeveston)**



## THE WOODEN BOAT CENTRE

On the banks of the Huon at Franklin, the centre is the focal point of Australian wooden boat-building – the nose-tingling pine aroma rising from beautifully handcrafted boats under construction is a bonus. Sailing cruises on the river are a highlight.

**[www.woodenboatcentre.com](http://www.woodenboatcentre.com)**

## TAHUNE ADVENTURES TASMANIA

Walk high above the forest floor on the thrilling Airwalk, with its cantilever platform overlooking the meeting place of two wild rivers; get close to a Huon pine on one of the riverside tracks; glide across the water on the Eagle Cable Hang Glider; enjoy a bouncy ride through the rapids on a raft. It's all at Tahune Adventures Tasmania, a short drive into the forests from Geeveston.

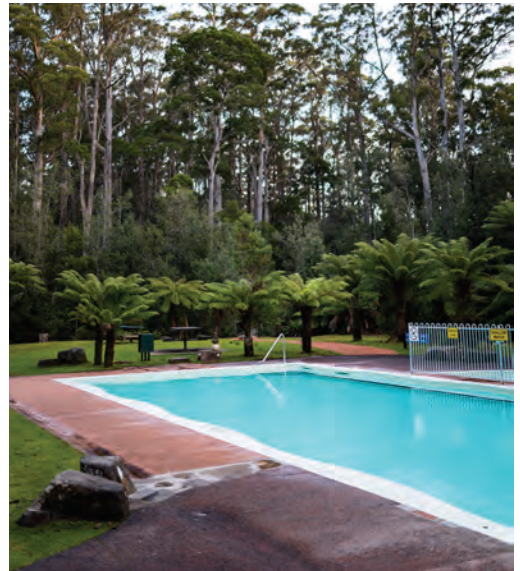
**[www.tahuneadventures.com.au](http://www.tahuneadventures.com.au)**



## HASTINGS CAVES AND THERMAL SPRINGS

Ranger-guided tours take you through the passages and caverns of an extensive dolomite cave system, with spectacular and cleverly-illuminated limestone decorations including stalactites, stalagmites, shawls and flowstone. Bring your bathers – the thermal pool is fed by natural springs heated deep below the surface of the Earth.

**[www.parks.tas.gov.au](http://www.parks.tas.gov.au)**



## DOVER

A picturesque fishing village on the shores of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel, Dover is Australia's southernmost town. Call in to the RSL for excellent local seafood.

## HUON VALLEY MIDWINTER FESTIVAL

A Huon Valley winter highlight each July, the festival celebrates the region's apple picking heritage by scaring evil spirits out of the orchards with song and the banging of metal pans! There's plenty of feasting and cider drinking too.

**[www.huonvalleymidwinterfest.com.au](http://www.huonvalleymidwinterfest.com.au)**

We sincerely thank you for  
choosing Villa Talia and hope  
that you have a comfortable  
and pleasant stay.