

A Food And Wine Report From The Land Down Under

(NAPSA)—As the temperatures begin to rise in the U.S., Australians are bunkering down for the cold winter months ahead. This meteorological detail is just one of many dynamics that makes Australia the alluring land of wonder “Down Under.”

Australia offers many different, exciting, and provocative twists on just about every aspect of American life. For instance, one of Australia’s oldest and most awarded winemakers, McWilliam’s Wines, which brings to you McWilliam’s Hanwood Estate, provides a glimpse into the fabulous world of food and wine to be discovered and brought home to your table.

Creatures of the Sea...

Being surrounded by water affords Australia an abundant supply of unique crustaceans and fish. One distinct species, the Moreton Bay Bug (*thenus orientalis*), has been receiving rave reviews from culinary publications around the world. The Moreton Bay Bug looks similar to a miniature lobster, and is prepared much the same way. Another extremely popular Australian delicacy is the Barramundi fish (*lates calcarifer*). Traditionally, the Barramundi is wrapped in ginger leaves and baked in hot ashes. The meat of this fish is firm and sweet and can be enjoyed with a crisp glass of Australian Chardonnay, such as McWilliam’s Hanwood Estate 2002 Australian Chardonnay.

...And of the Land

There are several adventurous meats to be discovered in Australia, many of which the true explorer can also find here in the U.S. Crocodile meat, for example, is low in fat and calories, plus high in protein. The emu (a resident of Australia for over 80 million years) is another lean meat that is best served grilled with sweet marinades made with honey, soy sauce, ginger, lemon



juice and garlic. Emu and crocodile meats can be found in some small Australian restaurants, as well as online from various specialty meat purveyors.

From the Vine

While Australia offers some of the world’s most interesting cuisine, it also produces high-quality and well-priced wines that have received attention from wine aficionados around the world. Wine growing regions across Australia, including the Riverina, Coonawarra, Hilltops, Orange and Hunter Valley are becoming as familiar to Americans as Chianti, Champagne, Sonoma and Napa. More than a quarter of all red grapes planted in Australia are Shiraz, making it one of Australia’s biggest exports. With a juicy, fruit-forward flavor, Shiraz, such as McWilliam’s Hanwood Estate 2002 Shiraz, pairs well with a variety of Australian and American meats.

Food and wine are always an interesting and fun way to discover the uniqueness of other countries. A trip to Australia is only a taste away!