

RACV Competition

Inspiration to spread the word

Here's your chance to have a say on the state's top accommodation properties

WHETHER you're after 5-star luxury or family-friendly fun, you don't have to leave Victoria to find an escape to suit your taste and budget. Now you can help uncover the properties that you believe offer the best guest satisfaction and service by submitting an online guest review. These reviews will decide two awards in the new People's Choice category of the 2010 RACV Victorian Tourism Awards.

To help inspire you, we have highlighted some of last year's industry-voted award winners, which ranged from rustic wilderness cabins to a romantic century-old retreat.

Monreale Estate

Indulge in romance at this century-old country estate in the heart of the Dandenong Ranges. Four self-contained cottages and two retreat apartments offer luxurious accommodation set in 15ha of rainforest gardens.

Each cottage and apartment features country-style decor, open fires and floor-to-ceiling windows, framing verdant forest views. With sumptuous breakfast and dinner hampers delivered to your room, there's little reason to venture out. But if you do, the myriad attractions of the Dandenongs and Yarra Valley beckon just outside the gates.

Visit www.monreale-estate.com.au or ph 9755 1773.

Melbourne Marriott Hotel

Escape the everyday without leaving town at this 5-star boutique hotel in the heart of Melbourne's theatre district. You can play tourist, exploring nearby Chinatown, the boutiques of Collins St and the city's thriving laneway bars and restaurants. Or stay in and make the most of the hotel's indoor pool, spa, fitness centre and Essence Restaurant and Espresso Bar. Winner of last year's Luxury Accommodation award, each of the

tennis court, and cyclists can pedal the famous Murray to the Mountains Rail Trail, which runs past the front gate. Skiers and hikers can stock up with a hearty room-service breakfast and guests enjoy a 10 per cent discount on ski hire.

Visit www.ovensvalley-motorinn.com.au or ph 5755 2022.

Parks Victoria Wilderness Retreats, Wilsons Promontory National Park

You don't have to sacrifice creature comforts to get up close and personal with Wilsons Promontory's pristine wilderness. These low-impact, high-comfort elevated tents offer privacy and protection from the elements, while giving guests a genuine back-to-nature experience. Each weather and insect-proof tent features timber floor, comfortable queen-size bed complete with plump duvets and fresh linen, ensuite bathroom and fridge. Outside there's a covered timber deck with chairs and table.

Guests have access to a fully cutlery, crockery and cooking utensils, or you can cheat and head to the nearby Tidal River General Store for all your breakfast provisions and bistrot-style meals.

At the southernmost tip of the Australian mainland, The Prom draws nature lovers and outdoor adventurers from around the world, who come for its unspoilt beaches, jagged mountains and bushwalks to suit all levels of fitness. If you're lucky, you might even spot a hairy-nosed wombat. Visit www.parks.vic.gov.au/wildernessretreats or ph 131 963.

BIG 4 Beacon Resort

With its heated pool, tennis court, bike hire, giant jumping pillow and year-round kids holiday program, this



ROMANTIC LUXURY: Watergarden Cottage in the rainforest setting at the century-old Monreale Estate.

family-friendly property offers resort facilities at caravan park prices.

Between the twin historic towns of Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale, 50km south of Melbourne last year's Tourist and Caravan Park award winner is an ideal base for exploring the beaches and rich history of the Bellarine Peninsula.

There are accommodation options to suit all budgets, from spacious tent and caravan sites with power and water access to motel-style units and creature comforts as LCD TVs, CD players, airconditioning and gas log fires.

But even campers don't have to rough it, thanks to a modern indoor

communal kitchen, sheltered barbecue area, games room and free year-round movies screened on a 154cm flat screen TV. Visit www.beaconresort.com.au or ph 5258 1133.

RACV Inverloch Resort

It's easy to see why this eco-friendly resort, boasting sweeping views of Bass Strait and Andersons Inlet, was named best Deluxe Victorian Tourism Awards.

Overlooking the Bunurong Marine and Coastal Park, a leisurely two-hour drive from Melbourne, there's a wide choice of accommodation options,

from 32 spacious caravan park sites to ocean-view rooms and luxury self-contained villas, complete with big-screen TVs, king beds and fully equipped kitchens.

There's a host of recreational amenities, including an outdoor heated pool, spa, tennis courts, putting green and a network of walking tracks to keep the whole family amused, while conference facilities cater for up to 80 delegates.

An on-site licensed bistro features and a poolside kiosk plies swimmers with alfresco snacks during the summer months. Visit www.racv.com.au or ph 5674 0000.

RACV Member Tickets.

Where RACV members can save on all of their favourite theme parks