

MORNINGTON PENINSULA / BULLANATOOLONG

Hotel Sorrento

We take the guesswork out of local travel with our tips on where to stay, eat and play. This month *GT* heads to regional Victoria.



This third-generation family-owned hotel has gone through a few reinventions – but the latest glow-up establishes the pub extension as a full-blown boutique hotel. A palette of ecru travertine and calming olive permeates the rooms and social spaces, with the newly built Sunset Suites kitted out with custom Jordan furniture. While Victoria isn't known for its consistent weather, when it's sunny the swish and slender pool serves up Italian Riviera vibes complete with sage striped umbrellas and daybeds. Service here puts a laid-back spin on butler-level attentiveness, with guests offered complimentary Limoncello Spritzes and Mecca sunscreen while they recline. Just add a caper-studded crustless chicken sandwich for maximum relaxation. If the sun isn't out, sink a few beers in the front bar or relax into an Ayurvedic treatment at the Marlo Spa. In your room, a generous marble bath, plush Hommey robes and signature bath salts all amplify the indulgence. As does the turndown service with bonus treat – one night, a sheet mask, the next, peppermint chocolate. Accompanied by a weather forecast. Whatever it reads, it's a lush time here in any season. hotelsorrento.com.au

5/15 Hotham Rd,
Sorrento, Vic

Prices from \$460
for a Sunset Suite.

FACILITIES
Room service Yes
Spa Yes
Restaurant Yes
Bar Yes
Free WiFi Yes

S T A Y

S P A

Thermal springs are abundant in the Mornington, and Alba takes a new-age approach in showcasing this geological aquatic phenomenon. Here, Nordic and Japanese traditions are given a decidedly Victorian edge: 22 naturally heated pools dotted along an artfully landscaped hillside. There are brutalist-like concrete structures, cool plunge pools and fluffy robes for between your dips.



G R E A T O U T D O O R S

A drive out to Cape Schanck Lighthouse is a worthy adventure between snacks, but a hike down to Bushrangers Bay is an even better move. Traverse the basalt cliffs where you'll see kangaroos hop, before arriving at a rockpool-lined dramatic beach, on this 5.4-kilometre round-trip trek.



Clockwise from far left: Alba Thermal Springs; Montalto winery; Bushrangers Bay; a spread at Shihuishi.

E A T

Breakfast

Solid coffee and sambos regularly sell out at **St Paul's General Store** so get in early to enjoy a brekkie and brew here. Otherwise the **Vanilla Slice Café** does exactly what it says on the tin with style.

Lunch

At **Montalto**, wander through the storybook-like garden followed by wood-fired pizza or perch on the grass among outdoor sculptures with olives and a glass of grenache. Or turn your attention to the Peninsula's produce at **Hawkes Farm**, for some of the state's best hot chippies.

Dinner

Cantonese standards get an Australian-meets-European treatment at Hotel Sorrento's **Shihuishi**, a subterranean Asian eatery. Think sweet, buttery prawn toast topped with umami-packed taramasalata; diced fresh kingfish encased in a canelé-shaped pastry shell; and fried rice with XO. Hotel Sorrento's **Dining Room** also warrants a visit, where gussied-up pub standards meet Port Phillip Bay seafood.

