

# wine,dine andunwind

It's a real family affair in Victoria's King Valley ... sometimes known as Little Italy. Take a culinary journey to discover some of the best Italian food and wine in Australia



In the gentle warmth of a late summer afternoon in Victoria's King Valley, an extended family of 30 are still eating and drinking and talking underneath a huge gum tree.

It's no wonder lunch has gone for more than four hours – these are, after all, all Italian descendants who cook exceptional regional food and make their own wine professionally. So there's every reason to sit back and enjoy.

The King Valley in North East Victoria is a little slice of Italy – many of the families who settled there came from Italy in the 1950s and '60s, drawn to the area to initially work on farms and later to start their own enterprises, growing tobacco as share-farmers. The work was hard and the days long as whole families would tend the tall tobacco plants that thrived in the hot summers, cutting the large leaves and sewing them on to rods to dry in tall corrugated iron sheds which still dot the area today.

Winemaker Fred Pizzini who came to Australia as a child with his parents from northern Italy, remembers the dry toasty smell of the sheds, the tar that



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