



## issue 26 \*

26 July 2008

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Maeve O'Meara and the team at Gourmet Safaris illustrate how cultural discovery doesn't necessarily have to happen far away from home.

#### 04 Property of the week

# xx auctions and open for inspections

Suburb	Bed	Bath	Car	Weekend	Guide
Allawah					
33/432 Railway Parade	3	2	1	Sat 1:00PM	Over \$4
Annandale					
31 Reserve Street	2	1	0	Sat 11:45AM	Over \$7
Arncliffe					
16 Towers Street	2	1	1	Sat 9:00AM	On requ
Avalon					
26 Ruskin Rowe	4	2	1	Sat 2:15PM	Over \$1
Avoca Beach					
3/145 Avoca Drive	2	1	1	Sat 2:00PM	Over \$4
Balgowlah					
4/157-159 Condamine Street	3	2	2	Sat 11:00AM	Over \$2
Bangor					
7 Inglebar Close	4	3	2	Sat 2:00PM	On requ
Barden Ridge					
24 Doyle Street	4	2	2	Sat 12:00PM	On requ
Bella Vista					
2 Millhouse Place	4	2	2	Sat 1:00PM Auction Sat 11:15AM	Over \$1
Bellevue Hill					
3/56 Bellevue Road	3	2	2	Sat 10:00AM	\$2.55M
Beverley Park					
54 Ferry Avenue	4	3	1	Sat 3:00PM Auction Sat 3:00PM	On requ
21 Marx Avenue	3	1	4	Sat 3:00PM	On requ
Bilgola					
34 Kanimbla Cresent	4	2	1	Sat 1:15PM	\$990 -\$
Blakehurst					
143 Terry Street	5	3	2	Sat 1:00PM	On requ
4/318 Princes Highway	2	1	1	Sat 10:00AM	Over \$3
1/225 Woniora Road	3	2	1	Sat 12:00PM	Over \$5
Bondi					
27 Edward Street	3	1	0	Auction Sat 9:30AM	On requ
3E/27 Ocean Street	1	1	1	Sat 1:00PM Auction Sat 1:30PM	On requ
Bondi Beach					
9/49 Roscoe Street	2	2	1	Sat 1:30PM	On requ
9/102 Campbell Parade	1	1	0	Sat 10:00AM	Over \$4
5/25 Blair Street	2	1	1	Sat 10:45AM	On requ
Bondi Junction					
67 Denison Street	4	3	1	Sat 10:00AM	Over \$1
Brighton-le-sands					

†Maximum SMS cost 55c.

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Cover Image: The Gourmet Safaris team

## Journey to the heart of safari land

Maeve O'Meara and the team at Gourmet Safaris illustrate how cultural discovery doesn't necessarily have to happen far away from home.

By Daniel Bloom



RESPECTED BROADCASTER, food author and television food presenter, Maeve O'Meara, didn't see many salami sandwiches when she was in school. "I've grown up in a meat and three veg family. I always dreamed of a more exotic world. Food was so much apart of that," Maeve says.

Thankfully, Maeve didn't have to travel too far to find the exotic culinary delights of the world she envisioned. In fact, Maeve didn't have to travel beyond Australian shores or even the city outskirts to find different types of food. "So many people have come to Australia and brought all their great [foods] with them. Most days I have a moment when I say to myself, 'Thank God they came.' There's been more and more interest and I think Anglo-Australians are ready to embrace more of what's on our doorstep," she says.

It was the desire for Australians to experience the different types of food and culture on their doorsteps that led Maeve to start Gourmet Safaris in Sydney ten years ago. "Some of the girls in my mother's group asked me to take them to the Lebanese restaurant in Punchbowl that I was always raving about and talking about on radio. It occurred to me that people want to explore some of the lesser known cuisines and parts of Sydney," Maeve says.

The safaris have been a tremendous success with a mixed group of all ages and ethnicities attending. "It's always great to see people of many different backgrounds coming and wanting to explore their own cities. You don't necessarily need to love cooking, it can be a great opener to explore a part of your city you may have not been to."

"So many people have come to Australia and brought all their great [foods] with them. Most days I have a moment when I say to myself, 'Thank God they came.' There's been more and more interest and I think Anglo-Australians are ready to embrace more of what's on our doorstep."

Maeve O'Meara

"You touch other peoples' lives and [because the groups are small] it's not like being on a school tour," Maeve declares. The tours have broken down many cultural barriers, with the most

popular tours being the Italian tour of Haberfield, the Greek walking tour of Marrickville and the Vietnamese walking tour of Cabramatta. "The Italian tour often books out four months in advance. All the tours are [led with] locals who really know the food and the culture. Usually those who have done one come back and do another. It's really grown stronger by word of mouth," Maeve says.

Gourmet Safaris also offer tours throughout Australia and the world. There are tours to Vietnam and Greece, and tours to Kangaroo Island in South Australia and the Margaret River in Western Australia. Maeve feels the underlying premise for these international and national safaris is similar to the city safaris.

"The idea of going into a place and having the locals show you around, you go to beautiful places and meet great people and eat and drink great food and wine - these are some of the best things in life." \*

Special offer Readers who book and pay a deposit for the Greek Island Safari before September 2008 will receive two free places for the Greek walking tour in Marrickville.

gourmetsafaris.com.au

