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Cool is the new Black

Lonely Planet declares Cool is a Hotspot

"Queensland's coolest town (literally) at an altitude of 915m, is one of its least-known tourist hotspots" is how Lonely Planet describes Stanthorpe in its latest guide.

With four distinct seasons, summer was traditionally the time tourists visited the Granite Belt, but in the past decade winter has been hugely popular.

The local tourist association thinks that with global warming that trend may reverse as Queenslanders escape the coastal heat and head for the hills.

Southerners who have migrated to the sunshine state could be amongst those most likely to feel the heat as the metropolitan and coastal centres begin to cook over summer.

Granite Belt Wine & Tourism's Michele Cozzi said, "During summer the Granite Belt is typically five degrees cooler than Brisbane during the day and as much as seven degrees cooler overnight.

"We find once people have met their family commitments on Christmas Day, they then take time out for themselves. Many hit the road and head for the hills to chill out, to explore nature and enjoy some regional wine and food. The inevitable hot spell makes for an even greater reason to escape to the mountains."

Ironically Granite Belt tourism had a bumper summer earlier this year when rain washed out thousands of beach holidays.

"If cool is the new black, then the question is: could food and wine be the new surf and sand this summer," Ms Cozzi added.

Weather watchers can check the daily temperature comparisons from the link on the front page of www.granitebeltwinecountry.com.au

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To learn more about this Queensland wine and food region visit www.granitebeltwinecountry.com.au or phone 1800 SO COOL or (07) 4681 2057.

NOTES:

1. **Lonely Planet Queensland & the Great Barrier Reef**, edition five, page 170-173.
2. Aside from it being the Queensland [wine capital](#), the Granite Belt is Queensland's leading food and wine region, spoiled with superb national parks and natural attractions.