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May 2010

## Bunker down with Queensland reds

Across Queensland this week the talk is of State of Origin rugby. While it may often be a beer and pizza night for many, it is wine that Italians drink with pizza. Get with the programme guys!

As we're just a few days short of the official start of winter (1st June) the state of origin drink of choice surely has to be a glass Queensland red.

The Granite Belt produces more than 60% of Queensland's red wine and is now stocked in leading bottle stores and restaurants. While some south of the border think we only make bongo juice, many leading wine judges and wine writers know that view is SO yesterday. Wine production and quality have come a long way in recent years, and the Granite Belt leads the pack.

So whether you tune into State of Origin this week, or retreat from it, fly the Queensland flag in your choice of wine and enjoy a glass of [Granite Belt red](#). Cheers!

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## Wine Flights Anyone?



The red carpet was rolled out at Stanthorpe aerodrome recently to welcome the arrival of the first charter flight from Brisbane. The new [Sunshine Aviation](#) service provides a charter tour into the wine country from Brisbane's Archerfield and Sunshine Coast airports. The first passengers were film crews from Channel 7 and 9 plus a travel writer – see Queensland Weekender 5.30 Saturday 5 June on Channel 7.

Flight time from Archerfield is a mere 35 minutes (75 from Sunshine Coast) which gives you more time to enjoy sampling Queensland's best wine and food in region. If you fancy a two-day wine country experience, including return flights, accommodation, meals and ground tours, you'll be one of the early adopters who book now. The aircraft takes five passengers so you only need a very small group to get your personal wings. All inclusive prices from \$650/pp

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### Food



Since 1995 the Hilton Brisbane Masterclass has brought together a fabulous line-up of chefs and winemakers from around the world – Antonio Carluccio, Gordon Ramsay, Michel Roux and more. The 2010 programme features "Asian Affairs" when Luke Nguyen (Red Lantern) and Martin Boetz (Longrain) cook up a storm to accompany Granite Belt wines.

Join the lucky participants who taste, learn, laugh and sip their way through each day. With 20 sessions on both 24 & 25 July there's plenty of choice from a range of talented international and Australian presenters looking at shiraz, chocolate, champagne, spice and matching food and wine.

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### Wine



The Mercure Hotel Brisbane has just launched its 2010 [Grand Vins Mercure](#), a wine list dedicated to showcasing Queensland's top wines.

The recent launch of the Queensland Grands Vins list is part of a national roll-out of the concept which features state-based wine lists. Did you know Mercure has been offering Grands Vins selections in Europe since 1983? The 2010 line-up of nine Queensland wines includes six from the [Granite Belt](#). Mercure wants to dispel the myth that good wine is only associated with high-end restaurants and high-end prices. The dominance of wine from this region reflects its reputation as the Queensland wine capital.

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### Events



Christmas in July is so popular in the coolest place in Queensland that we're extending the season of goodwill. Many of our restaurants, cafes and accommodation houses offer special festive menus throughout winter for those who can't get enough of a good thing. Tuck into traditional fare or sing along with Santa and the choir under the Christmas tree. Yes some places will even let you sleepover!

OK so you don't like Christmas? Share Bastille Day @ Claudia's Country Kitchen, or see Art in the Woolshed both in June. If music is your food of love enjoy the Caxton Street Jazz Band or Jazz in the Vineyard. If the journey itself is your destination, take the Queensland Winelander and spend your weekend on the train from Brisbane sampling Queensland's top drops.

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## Lunch on Q

Can't get to the Granite Belt in the next few weeks? Ok we'll come to you to celebrate Queensland week. As well as being featured at the [Hilton](#) and [Mercure](#), you can sample some of our finest wines as part of the Lunch on Q



promotion in Brisbane. From Monday 31 May to Sunday 13 June [Lunch on Q](#) invites you to enjoy a two course lunch of Queensland's mouth-watering produce expertly matched with a glass of Queensland wine at just \$35pp. See what's on offer at Freestyle Tout Emporium and West End, Harvey's Bistro, Liquorish, Moda, Manx, Mischo's, Rapide, Restaurant Two or Three Bistro. See more online and to book directly with the restaurants.

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## Baby its Cold Outside

Yes it was minus 5.4 the night before this photo was taken of Jane Miller taking the official temperature readings in Stanthorpe. The traditional white frosts and prospect of sleet and snow draws thousands of visitors here each year. Granite Belt Wine & Tourism staff take official readings daily at 9am and 3pm then enter the data into the official Bureau of Meteorology website for updates on

the news. If you are heading to the Granite Belt pack some warm clothing, because as one ABC journalist stated "[Stanthorpe is Queensland's capital of cool!](#)" But dress in layers because it warms up pretty quickly and you could be in shirt sleeves by midday.

## Wine Mr Speaker?

It seems someone in Canberra has finally heard what Australia's top wine writers report, that the best Granite Belt wines deserve a place on the national stage. Twelve months ago there was a media furore when it was revealed that the PM's wine cellar contained no wine from his state of origin. We sent a selection of the Granite Belt's finest to the PM's cellar master, and nine months later a bonny wine order was placed with one Queensland winemaker. Robert & Peggy Channon have just despatched their 2009 Verdelho for the members' dining room at Parliament House.



## Tell the Kids to Get Lost



Planning ahead for the winter school holidays? Here's a fun family activity where you could win a prize. Throughout June & July the Granite Belt Maze riddles will be the competition entry form. 1st prize \$200- Harvey Norman gift voucher. 2nd prize \$100- Caltex Star card. The maze features something for all ages with traditional and timber mazes, giant chess and mini golf, gardens and a kiosk. See more [www.thegranitebeltmaze.com.au](http://www.thegranitebeltmaze.com.au).

## Travel Tips

- No self respecting Stanthorpe local would step outdoors in winter without being adequately dressed and we recommend you do the same. It gets pretty darn chilly here overnight and we love it. Before you travel check the conditions by clicking on this symbol on our homepage.
- Winter is peak season so to book weekend visits early to avoid disappointment or consider visiting midweek.
- Road closures – anyone who lives in south east Queensland knows all about road closures and it doesn't just happen in the metro areas! From time to time we are affected too when there is a disruption to service on the Cunningham Highway over The Gap. There are [various routes](#) and for your convenience we've created a page with latest news on [important road changes](#).



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