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Jack Stein: why Western Australia is one of the best places in the world

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Taste of Australia: the Margaret River vineyards produce amazing wine CREDIT: FRANCES ANDRICH

31 JULY 2017 • 9:45AM

Jack Stein grew up hearing about the food and lifestyle of Western Australia, which inspired the chef to make a television series about its gourmet culture.

The Margaret River Region, in the south west of Australia, was on my radar long before I first visited. I heard many stories about the lifestyle from chefs at The Seafood Restaurant, my parents' business in Padstow.

They would work back-to-back seasons – in Cornwall for the English summer, and [Western Australia](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/explore-western-australia) (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/explore-western-australia>) during our winter – and return with tales that fascinated me of surfing, beachside breakfasts and sunset dinners.

“It’s one of the best places in the world to immerse yourself in food and wine”

In the mid-1990s it was hard to avoid hearing about the special wines produced in this region and the great restaurants attached to the vineyards. I remember Len Evans, the late wine writer, being a tremendous ambassador for the boutique-size producers in the area.

When I finally travelled out to experience it for myself, I discovered a wild and stunning landscape with wonderful fresh food, great wine and an incredible beach culture that exceeded my already high expectations.

The power of the waves and the beauty of the rocks and nature make surfing one of the area’s most thrilling experiences. In the morning, everyone wears board shorts and goes to catch a wave before heading to work.



Family affair: Jack with his father, Rick Stein CREDIT: EVANS & TATE

I’ve been back six times, including with my dad, Rick Stein, for the Margaret River Gourmet Escape food festival and recently to film my TV series on the Margaret River region (which premieres on Tuesday 29 August on Good Food at 9pm).

I always feel welcome there and foodies will find producers keen to share their specialities. It’s one of the best places in the world to immerse yourself in food and wine. The scale alone is stunning.

As well as abundant seafood, you will discover venison farms, truffles, producers of chocolate, coffee, cheese, olives, amazing asparagus, plums and figs.

For me, a great experience is to sit in the Leeuwin Estate Restaurant, overlooking a rolling meadow surrounded by karri trees, with a glass of chardonnay and a plate of marron – a freshwater lobster native to Western Australia. Truly idyllic.

Interview by Sarah Edworthy

Fly non-stop to Perth

From 25 March 2018, Qantas will fly from London Heathrow to Perth, Western Australia, making aviation history as the first non-stop passenger service between the UK and Australia.

Using the state-of-the-art Qantas Dreamliner and innovative technology, customers will arrive refreshed and ready to explore Perth and the rest of Australia using Qantas' unrivalled domestic network.

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Wake up in Western Australia

In March 2018, [Qantas](http://www.qantas.com/gb/en/promotions/fly-non-stop-to-australia.html?alt_cam=gb:re:na:pr:telegraph:tw:article:n:n:n) (http://www.qantas.com/gb/en/promotions/fly-non-stop-to-australia.html?alt_cam=gb:re:na:pr:telegraph:tw:article:n:n:n)

will launch the first-ever non-stop flight from the UK to Australia, using the Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft to reach Perth in around 17 hours.

Perth provides an extraordinary gateway to exploring [Western Australia](http://westernaustralia.com/) (<http://westernaustralia.com/>) and Qantas multi-city itineraries make it easy to visit other great Australian destinations on the Qantas domestic network.

[Trailfinders](http://www.trailfinders.com/westernoz) (<http://www.trailfinders.com/westernoz>) can offer a 13-night holiday to Western Australia including the new non-stop service from London to Perth return with Qantas, internal flights between Perth and Broome, 11 days Maui motorhome hire and three nights Karijini Eco Retreat.

London Heathrow to Perth flights are non-stop, scheduled from 25 March 2018 (subject to aircraft and schedule change). Subject to government and regulatory approval.

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