



2010 RACV Victorian Tourism Awards Showcasing the state's

best destinations RACV Victorian Tourism Awards

Melbourne and statewide winners

VICTORIA'S favourite tourism destinations — attractions, accommodation, events and experiences — have been recognised in the 2010 RACV Victorian Tourism Awards at a gala spectacular awards dinner.

Tourism is a significant sector of the Victorian economy, contributing \$15.8 billion a year — \$4 billion of that in regional Victoria — and employing about 185,000 people.

The awards attracted entries from more than 130 operators across 26 business categories, with another three individual and group awards.

Tourism Victoria chief executive Mark Stone said: "Victoria's tourism industry is a national leader, thanks to the drive and innovation of individuals and businesses that strive for excellence and quality."

RACV Tourism and Travel general manager Neil James said holidaymakers were more discerning than ever, wanting the best value for their holiday dollars.

Melbourne Airport Award for Major Tourist Attractions Winner: Melbourne Museum

Melbourne Museum showcases Australian social history, indigenous cultures, science and technology and the environment.

The museum plays a vital tourism role for the state. Of

the one million visitors who visited in 2009/2010, one-third were from regional Victoria, interstate and overseas. Several exhibitions have transformed the museum into one of the world's greatest, including the permanent Wild! and 600 Million Years and the presentation of international blockbusters A Day in Pompeii and Titanic: The Artefact Exhibition.

www.museumvictoria.com.au/melbournemuseum



Metlink Award for Backpacker Accommodation Winner: Habitat HQ

Habitat HQ is 4.5 star backpacker and budget accommodation in beachside St Kilda — a new world of backpacking with modern and sustainable facilities, friendly staff and a grassroots culture.

www.habitathq.com.au



**Herald Sun Award for Tourist Attractions
Winner: Scienceworks**

With themed exhibitions, live demonstrations and interactive displays, Scienceworks enthral and entertains children for hours. www.museumvictoria.com.au/scienceworks

**Victoria Tourism Industry Council Award for Heritage & Cultural Tourism
HALL OF FAME Winner: Old Melbourne Gaol Crime and Justice Experience**

Each cell over the three levels contains a solemn story. In the Watch House, learn what it would feel like to be arrested and locked up. In the former Magistrates'



Court, experience the tension and drama of thousands of historical hearings. www.nattrust.com.au



**Destination Melbourne Award for Tour and/or Transport Operators
HALL OF FAME Winner: Bunyip Tours**

Bunyip Tours takes visitors — a maximum of 24 per tour — to Victoria's top destinations including the Great Ocean Road, Phillip Island and Wilsons Promontory. It also runs the popular Official *Neighbours* Tour and original *Neighbours* Trivia Night. www.bunyiptours.com



**Qantas Award for Excellence in Sustainable Tourism
Winner: Alto on Bourke**

Alto Hotel on Bourke is the first Melbourne CBD Hotel to receive the coveted EarthCheck Silver Certification and has been awarded several other sustainability awards. It is also the first city hotel in Australia to offset all calculated carbon output, making it carbon neutral. www.altohotel.com.au

**Victoria University Award for Festivals & Events
Winner: Suzuki Night Market**



While Queen Victoria Market is a much-loved Melbourne

icon, the Suzuki Night Market, held at the Queen Vic site throughout summer, has become a popular seasonal event.

The Night Market sees the historic site transformed each Wednesday in summer into a carnival-style event with hawker-style street food, regional food and wine tastings, live bands, buskers, local artisans and designers selling their wares to more than 390,000 visitors each three-month season.

www.qym.com.au



Parks Victoria Award for Adventure Tourism
Winner: Auswalk Walking Holidays

Auswalk is known for its innovative inn-to-inn walking holidays. You walk from one accommodation to the next with no need to carry anything more than a daypack because your luggage is moved ahead.

You can choose to walk self-guided using Auswalk's easy-to-follow walk notes and marked maps, or join a guided group.

Either way, there's a comfy bed and fine meals waiting at the end of each day.
www.auswalk.com.au



RoyalAuto Award for Major Tour and/or Transport Operators
Winner: Driver Group

Driver Group, established in 1931, is a family-owned transport and tourism company. Its diverse range of businesses and brands includes Gray Line, Great Sight, Gray Line Holidays and Driver Bus Lines.
www.drivergroup.com.au

Skybus Award for Major Festivals & Events
HALL OF FAME
Winner: Melbourne Food and Wine Festival



Each March, the festival attracts the world's biggest and brightest food and wine personalities to showcase the state's fare across 250 events.
www.melbournefoodandwine.com.au





Regional winners

Victoria University Award for Health & Wellness Tourism

Winner: Peninsula Hot Springs

Thermal mineral waters flow from deep underground into more than 25 pools, baths and bathing experiences at the Peninsula Hot Springs, a natural hot mineral

spring and spa centre on the Mornington Peninsula.

The Bathhouse offers a bathing valley, cave pool, reflexology walk, sauna, cold plunge pools, massaging thermal showers, extensive gardens and much more. For families, there is a

family bathing area.

At the Spa Dreaming Centre, choose your favourite option from a wide selection of massages and therapies.

www.peninsulahotsprings.com



Parks Victoria Award for Ecotourism

Winner: Moonlit Sanctuary Wildlife Conservation Park

Moonlit Sanctuary, at Pearcedale, is a wildlife conservation park home to kangaroos, koalas, Tasmanian devils, birds and reptiles.

Join an evening tour to explore the animals' night-time world and meet endangered bettongs, quolls, pademelons, gliders and owls.

www.moonlit-sanctuary.com



**Hosted Accommodation
Winner: Montfort Manor**

Montfort Manor offers luxury boutique accommodation in central Gippsland, 4km from Traralgon. Nestled in more than 2.8ha of gardens, with swimming pools, a tennis court, pavilion and lake, it feels a million miles from anywhere.
www.montfortmanor.com.au



**Standard Accommodation
HALL OF FAME Winner: Ovens Valley Motor Inn**

The Ovens Valley Motor Inn is a 3.5 star, environmentally friendly property in alpine Bright. Green fields surround the 24 refurbished guest rooms, a solar-heated pool and spa and tennis court.
www.ovensvalleymotorinn.com.au



**Citadines on Bourke Melbourne Award for New Tourism Development
Winner: Flagstaff Hill Lighthouse Lodge**

This redeveloped, heritage-listed harbourmaster's home is in the award-winning Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village, Warrnambool.
www.lighthouselodge.com.au



**RoyalAuto Award for Unique Accommodation
Winner: All Seasons Houseboats**

The best way to discover the Murray River is on the water. All Seasons Houseboats has a fleet of 10 four and five star-rated boats, with rooftop spas, rooftop helms, covered sundecks and barbecues.
www.allseasonshouseboats.com.au



**3AW Award for Tourism Restaurants and Catering Services
Winner: Max's at Red Hill Estate**

Max's at Red Hill Estate sits high on the southern side of the Mornington Peninsula. Its award-winning modern Australian menu uses local produce where possible, including Max's own produce range.
www.maxsrestaurant.com.au



**Melbourne Convention + Visitors Bureau Award for Deluxe Accommodation
Winner: Emaroo Cottages**

Emaroo Cottages are 4.5 star, pet-friendly luxury holiday homes in the heart of Mildura. Owners Cathy and Rick Edmonds have transformed the three houses into modern havens.
www.emaroorcottages.com.au



Hanging Rock Winery Award for Tourist & Caravan Parks
Winner: BIG4 Beacon Resort

Entering its 40th year as a family business, BIG4 Beacon Resort provides an exceptional holiday experience. Last year it introduced innovative new cabin designs and expanded park facilities.
www.beaconresort.com.au

HOSTPLUS Award for Indigenous Tourism
Winner: Brambuk the National Park and Cultural Centre

Located within the Grampians National Park (Gariwerd), Brambuk brings to life the history and culture of the Djab Wurrung and Jardwadjali Aboriginal communities of western Victoria through multimedia shows, art exhibitions, artefact displays and activities such as didgeridoo lessons and bushtucker walks.
www.brambuk.com.au



Minister's Encouragement Award
Winner: The Phillip Island Chocolate Factory

Explore Panny's Amazing World of Chocolates with interactive displays, games, a chocolate village with train, a life-sized chocolate reproduction of Michelangelo's *David* and the world's biggest chocolate waterfall. Choose from more than 200 handmade chocolate varieties.
www.pannys.com.au



Crown Award for Tourism Wineries Distilleries & Boutique Breweries
Winner: Rochford Yarra Valley

This winery in the picturesque Yarra Valley includes a cellar door, 240-seat restaurant, cafe, gallery and observation tower.
 It hosts numerous concerts with international artists in the outdoor amphitheatre, making it an exciting destination for up to 7000 people.
www.rochfordwines.com

RACV People's Choice Award for Service
Winner: Myers Creek Cascades
www.myerscreekcascades.com.au

RACV People's Choice Award for Guest Satisfaction
Winner: Abalina Cottages
www.abalinacottages.com.au

City of Melbourne Award for Information & Services
Winner: Bendigo Visitor Centre
www.bendigotourism.com

Melbourne/ statewide winners cont...
William Angliss Institute Award for Tourism Education and Training
HALL OF FAME Winner:
Holmesglen Tourism/Event & Hospitality Programs
www.holmesglen.edu.au