

It's time you heard

One of Tasmania's best-kept secrets, Country Club Tasmania is something all Australian Traveller readers should know about.

Built in 1982 and located just 15km outside of Launceston on 142 glorious hectares, Country Club Tasmania has long been an institution for Launceston locals – with very good reason. This is one of those hidden gems of Tasmania that's a destination unto itself.

If this property were on the Gold Coast, you'd have heard about it. Shifty men in white shoes with open-necked shirts showing lots of chest hair would proudly explain to their friends that they need to go to the Country Club for a weekend of R&R as they roar off in a vulgar car. Someone would be sky-writing about the Country Club Tasmania above the beach and scantily clad women would be passing out leaflets in the main shopping areas.

But in Tasmania they do things a bit differently.

Take, for example, the fact that the Country Club has four bars. Including a sophisticated new bar called Tonic. Four bars! Anywhere else and this would be a big deal. Apparently, in Tasmania, it's not.

And that seems to sum up Country Club Tasmania. It's one of those astonishing places that seems to shy away from self-promotion. And it shouldn't, because what's on offer is really quite remarkable. Here's another example: the Terrace Restaurant (one of the five restaurants in the club) has just been awarded two Goblets by the

prestigious *Wine Spectator* magazine. Not such a big deal, you'd think. Until you realise that *Wine Spectator* rated no establishments in NSW or Qld with two Goblets. This restaurant has one of the world's (not just Australia's) best wine lists and we haven't heard of it.

The sheer number and quality of activities available at Country Club are also quite perplexing. Would you like a lesson fishing for trout in your private lake? How about a horse ride for your wife or daughter – on a purebred Arabian – while you take in a round of golf on the Championship 18-hole golf course?

You see? This is what we're talking about. Here's this amazing property with so much to offer – you deserve to know about it.

Accommodation

The accommodation at the Country Club has recently undergone a multi million-dollar refurbishment. There are 104 rooms and suites in the main accommodation precinct, including 16 Manor suites – which boast huge 42" plasma TVs, large granite bathrooms with five-head showers and a spa bath. They are truly luxurious.

There are an additional 78 one-, two- and three-bedroom villas scattered around the grounds. Each is a private oasis away from the main building with amazing views of the golf course and bushland. The villas

have just had another comprehensive multi million-dollar upgrade, and will be finished to the same high standards as the main accommodation precinct.

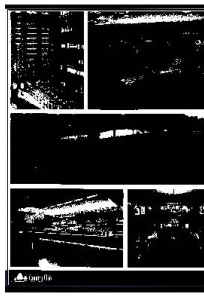
Restaurants and Bars

The Terrace Restaurant, with its world-class wine list, is the pinnacle of dining at the Country Club. Executive chef Brad French has created a magnificent menu that encapsulates all that is great about the Tamar region. The nine-course degustation menu with matching wines is available only on Saturday nights and is becoming legendary in its own right among Australia's foodies.

But it's not all fine dining at the Country Club. Let's not forget that there are another four restaurants to choose from, from Links with its casual alfresco dining to Bolters pizza bar. You can always find a great meal that fits your budget, mood and tastebuds.

Activities

With the wineries and providores of the Tamar Valley only minutes drive away, you could be excused for straying during the day to go and explore the region. And that would be the right thing to do. After all, this is the Tamar Valley. It doesn't have an incredible reputation for no reason; the food and wine are just magnificent. However, you could equally be forgiven for not even leaving the Country Club



Australian Traveller January, 2008

Page: 38

General News

Circulation: 12549

Type: Magazines Lifestyle

Size: 1039.24 sq.cms

Monthly



grounds – because quite literally at your doorstep is a boutique casino.

If, after lazing around the pool, you decide to get marginally more adventurous, you could play 18 holes of golf. Or perhaps you'd be interested in a game of tennis. No? A game of squash, then? Perhaps some fly-fishing? Maybe some bushwalking?

If none of these are of interest to you, frankly, you don't have a pulse. Or maybe you're just trying to recover from a big night hitting the bars of the Country Club after taking in one of their great shows . . .

Oh, and the Country Club Tasmania's Terrace Restaurant also just won both the Australian Hotels Association and the Tasmania Tourism Award for best fine dining restaurant in Tasmania.

But we didn't know about it. Bloody Tasmanians. Can't they just learn the sacred art of shameless self-promotion like everyone else in the industry?

HOT SUMMER DEAL //

\$190*

- ▶ Includes two breakfasts
- ▶ A bottle of Jantz Sparking on arrival
- ▶ P 1800 237 320
- ▶ W www.countryclubtasmania.com.au/AT

**Per room per night. Subject to availability. Conditions apply.
Valid until 31/01/08. Please quote GS018 on booking.*