



# Develop appetite for Tassie

CULINARY DELIGHTS  
 A PERFECT ENTREE  
 ON APPLE ISLE TOUR

**TASMANIA » SALLY SPALDING**

**C**HEESE, chocolate and raspberries are just three of the delicious delights on offer for travellers to the Apple Isle.

After disembarking from the *Spirit of Tasmania* in Devonport, the first stop was a hearty breakfast at the Christmas Hills Raspberry Farm in Elizabeth Town.

The raspberries are ridiculously good and you can order raspberry sausages with eggs, an unusual but delicious combination.

We toured the Ashgrove Farm Cheese factory, and were tempted with lavender cheddar. It has a strong woody flavour with a hint of the perfume.

Ashgrove's cheeses come up again at tastings in Strahan's panoramic View 42 restaurant and bar, where they are matched with delicious Tassie wines.

As you look out over Macquarie Harbour you don't have a care in the world (except making more room for food).

But it is the vista from Quoll's restaurant at Cradle Mountain Lodge, where lunch awaits along with a warm log fire, that the award for top view is really challenged.

The fresh mountain air is

conductive to a hearty appetite, which is sharpened by a tour of Lake St Clair and the Wilderness Gallery, which houses stunning photography.

Back in Strahan, a boat tour of the Petuna Aquaculture facility in Macquarie Harbour offers a fresh view of an active fish farm.

Schools of atlantic salmon and ocean trout grow in a 296ha environment. Staff live on board a converted barge in the middle of Macquarie Harbour, containing a two-bed apartment which floats close to the pens.

Here at night staff also watch for poachers - the two-legged variety and those with wings.

Cormorants have been enjoying meals from the pens, until the company installed netting to stop the kamikaze attacks.

Petuna sales and marketing co-ordinator, Luke Freeman, says the fish farm is the biggest in the southern hemisphere.

A cruise down the Gordon River is also a must, offering views of some of the last protected temperate rainforests in the world and you can see a 2200-year-old Huon pine.

*Sally travelled as a guest of Pure Tasmania and the Spirit of Tasmania.*



## CHECK IN

**GO:** *Spirit of Tasmania* has day or night sails from Port Melbourne to Devonport. Your car can be taken from \$73 each way. Details: [spiritoftasmania.com.au](http://spiritoftasmania.com.au)

**PLAY:** World Heritage Cruises departs from Strahan from 9am-2.45pm daily for Gordon River cruises. Details: [worldheritagecruises.com.au](http://worldheritagecruises.com.au)

**STAY:** Strahan Village has 141 deluxe rooms with views over the waterfront or rainforest. Details: [puretasmania.com.au](http://puretasmania.com.au)



ABOVE: The first boat of the day on the Gordon River. TOP RIGHT: The local produce at the View 42 restaurant in Strahan  
 BOTTOM RIGHT: Ashgrove Cheese employee Wendy King with a wheel of cheese.