

InStyle

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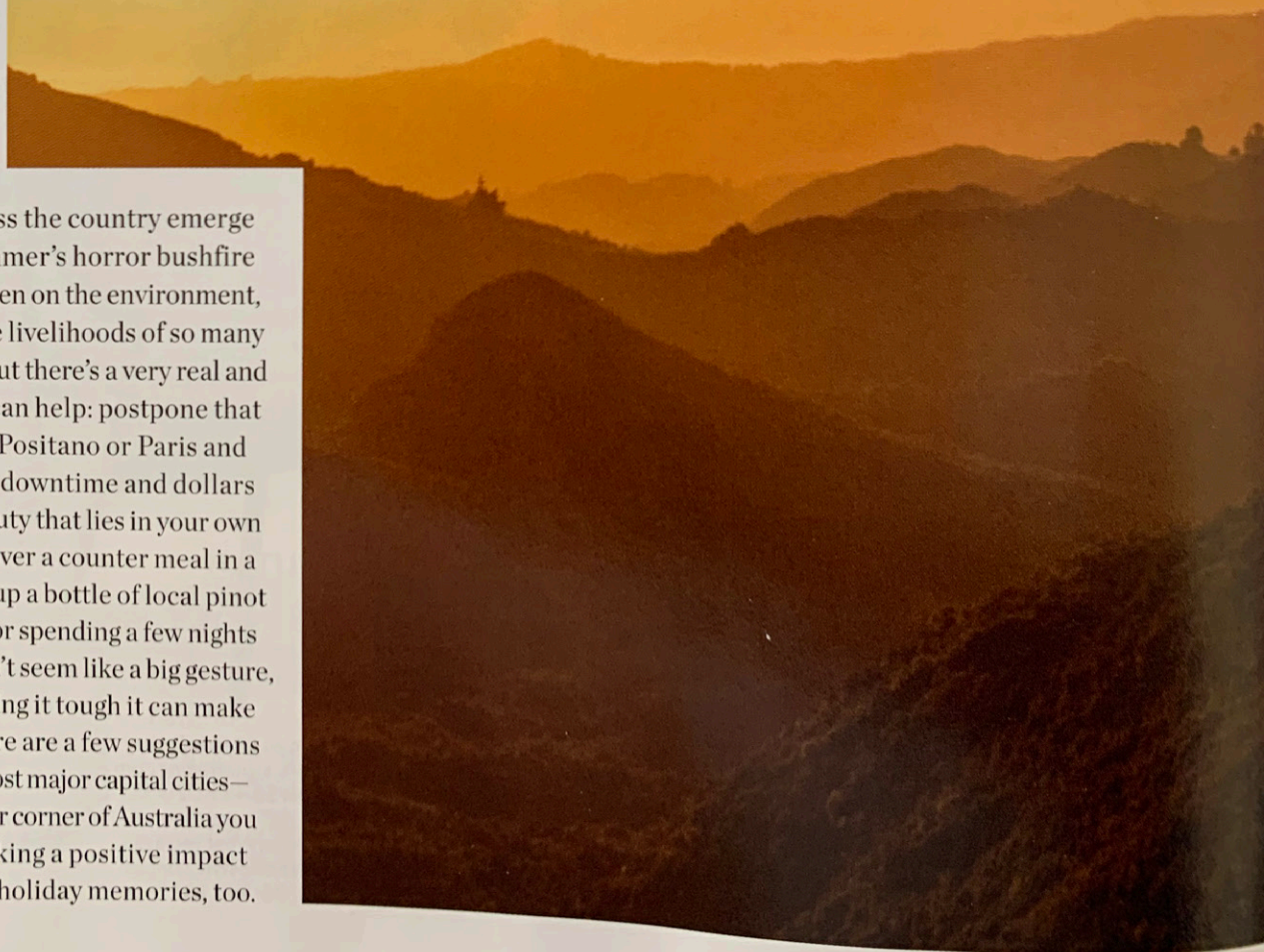
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ESCAPE TO YOUR COUNTRY

IT'S NEVER BEEN MORE IMPORTANT TO SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES BY HOLIDAYING AT HOME. TAKE A ROAD TRIP, A DOMESTIC FLIGHT OR EVEN A FERRY RIDE, AND MAKE YOUR TOURIST DOLLAR COUNT

by **EMILY TAYLOR**

As communities across the country emerge from the ashes of summer's horror bushfire crisis, the huge toll taken on the environment, native wildlife and the livelihoods of so many continues to unfold. But there's a very real and meaningful way you can help: postpone that trip you'd planned to Positano or Paris and devote your precious downtime and dollars to discovering the beauty that lies in your own backyard. Linger over a counter meal in a country pub, picking up a bottle of local pinot from the winemaker, or spending a few nights in a rural B&B mightn't seem like a big gesture, but for businesses doing it tough it can make all the difference. Here are a few suggestions within easy reach of most major capital cities—just know that whatever corner of Australia you explore, you'll be making a positive impact while creating happy holiday memories, too.



TOUR

The region is home to myriad top-class wineries; relax and sample the best thanks to Wine Knot Tours who'll drive and plan for you. Pick-ups from Milton, Mollymook and surrounds make it easy to discover local wines without arguing over who's designated driver. wineknottours.com.au



DINE

Birch Restaurant in Moss Vale is firmly on NSW's culinary map. Its seasonal menu focuses on locally sourced ingredients delivered in a creative way. Push the boat out with the seven-course degustation plus wines. You're on holiday, after all. birchrestaurant.com.au



CHILL

Bannisters Day Spa at Mollymook is a tranquil haven beloved by in-the-know holiday-makers. From beauty treatments to facials, massages, even a hammam room, you'll emerge steamed, buffed, polished and feeling like you've been away for a lot longer than just the weekend. bannisters.com.au

TOAST

In the charming seaside town of Milton lies Harvest Bar, a local wine bar with a relaxed, friendly vibe. Pull up a stool indoors or out and treat yourself to a tipple with a side of tapas. On weekends, live music and bottomless brunch only add to the affable appeal. theharvestbarmilton.com



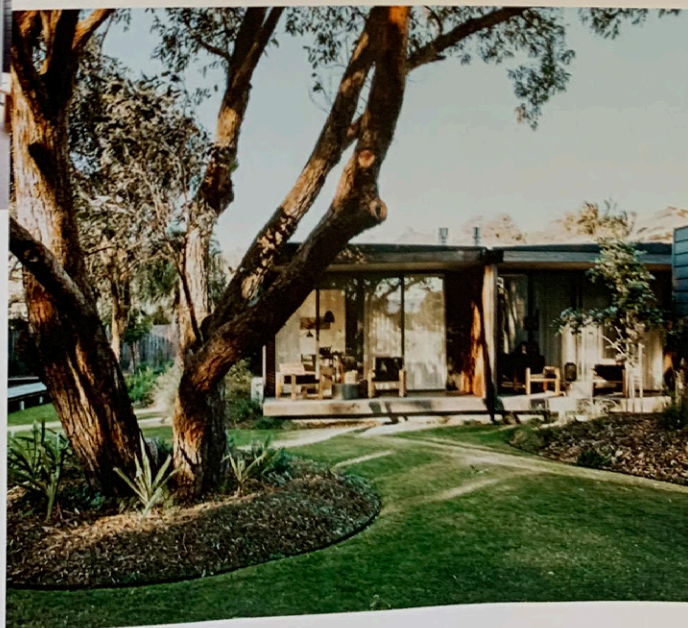
SHOALHAVEN

In easy reach of Sydney, this sparkling stretch of the New South Wales South Coast is ideal for anything from a romantic weekend to a fun family holiday. Bordered by mountains and the beach, its natural beauty and friendly townships are an ideal antidote to the nine-to-five grind.



STAY

If you prefer your rural escapes free of chintz, reserve a spot at Bangalay Luxury Villas, Shoalhaven Heads. The 16 private one- and two-bed self-contained bungalows are architecturally designed and decorated in a breezy coastal style. It's a peaceful (and grammable) retreat from reality. bangalayvillas.com.au



BROWSE

We bet you can't leave Few and Far empty-handed. The interiors emporium with outposts in Huskisson, Berry and Bowral delivers a cleverly curated mix of unique furniture and homewares sourced from around the globe. fewandfar.com.au