



INJIDUP BAY HOUSE, YALLINGUP, WA

## That's the life

GOOD WINE, A BEAUTIFUL BEACH AND STYLISH DIGS...  
WHAT COULD BE BETTER?

I'm not normally a bubbly kind of guy. But as we watch a neon orange sun melting over the Indian Ocean from the deck of our hillside mansion in Yallingup, it feels right, almost compulsory, to be popping the cork from a bottle of fizz. Especially when it's a delicate sparkling chardonnay from a Margaret River vineyard just five minutes down the road.

The wine is a fine reward after our three-hour drive south from Perth, yet the real prize is the house itself. On a 2ha coastal block enveloped by pristine bushland, Injidup Bay House is set well back from the road and elevated to afford uninterrupted views of the turquoise bay and ocean beyond. And it's just a short stroll to the beach via a private pathway.

Blending fluently into its natural

surrounds, the house sleeps 12 people in a fusion of rustic charm and elegant contemporary living worthy of *Grand Designs*. It features local stone and timber including scores of weighty jarrah beams – complete with rusty bolts – that were reclaimed from the refurbishment of the historic Busselton Jetty about 10 years ago. Floor-to-ceiling windows let in plenty of light and, of course, maximise those views: whether you're reclining on a daybed next to the 20m infinity pool, showering in the vast ensuite off the master bedroom or whipping up a meal in the fully equipped gourmet kitchen, the panorama is inescapable.

Downstairs, a long barrel-vaulted corridor that lights up as you walk along it leads to the six bedrooms and five bathrooms (a separate

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TRAVEL

BY ANDREW BURRELL



Cool: rustic charm at Injidup Bay House; above, a dish from Chow's Table

one-bedroom residence has its own kitchen and ensuite). A heavy timber bookcase opens to reveal a hidden room with full-sized poker table and a wine cellar.

Upstairs, where the views are most spectacular, amateur astronomers can gaze at the stars using the house telescope; for those with an artistic bent, there's a canvas and paints ready to go. In winter, when storms lash the coastline, the house is warmed by a fireplace and underfloor heating; in the summer, guests will gravitate towards the outdoor entertaining area and barbecue.

Our springtime visit coincides with fine weather, and it's hard to stay indoors for too long. A day of visiting local cellar doors, imbibing good food and wine and luxuriating in the house is followed with a walk along part of the Cape to Cape Track, a 135km coast trail that stretches from Cape Naturaliste, north of Yallingup, to Cape Leeuwin in the south. The kids hop over the rockpools of Injidup Bay and we all scramble up the giant boulders that

form spectacular cliffs on the beach. Injidup Beach, long a favourite with local surfers, remains something of a hidden gem but beware the strong undercurrent, which can make swimming dangerous.

As our stay comes to an end, we load up the car with the spoils of our cellar-door tastings. It's hard to leave such dreamlike surrounds – but at least we'll have a few bottles of bubbly to remember those glorious sunsets.

Perfect for: groups of families or friends. Children are well catered for with a TV room, pool table, trampoline, outdoor games and a Space Invaders machine.

Must do: visit top wineries such as Clairault, Wills Domain, Driftwood Estate, House of Cards, Cherubino, Windows Estate, Swings & Roundabouts and Windance Estate. A bit further south are Cullen, Voyager Estate, Vasse Felix, Leeuwin Estate, Moss Wood, Cape Mentelle and Howard Park. There are about 200 wineries in the region producing about 25 per cent of Australia's premium wine.

Dining: Yallingup's hottest new restaurant, Chow's Table, is minutes away. Young chef Mal Chow, who has worked at Tetsuya's in Sydney and Vue de Monde in Melbourne, serves Chinese/Malay cuisine with a modern twist.

Getting there: it's an easy three-hour drive from Perth.

Bottom line: three nights in low season, \$4995; mid-season, \$5995. A week in high season is \$14,995.

privateproperties.com.au/properties/injidup-bay-house