Welcome to



## Where radiant beaches meet an ochre-coloured outback

outh Australia's oceanfront S capital of Adelaide is a gateway to both the ochre-glazed outback and the clear, invigorating water of the Southern Ocean, but that doesn't mean it's remote: the southern central Australian state shares more borders with its counterparts than any other, making it easy to access from all directions. With more than 3500km of mainland coastline courtesy of three diverse yet equally stunning peninsulas (Fleurieu, Yorke and Eyre), it's easy to be seduced by the surging waves of the Indian Ocean, especially during the height of summer. It's here you'll savour some of the world's best seafood, particularly on the Eyre Peninsula (p76) where it's impossible not to salivate as premium tuna, oysters and abalone are taken direct from ocean to plate.

Indulgence levels at local favourite Kangaroo Island (p71) are likewise worldclass for its kangaroos and koalas in a rustic agricultural backdrop, striking seaside rock formations crafted by centuries of wind and waves, and the luxurious lifestyle of one of the world's top four hotels.

City dwellers are equally rewarded. It doesn't take much exploration to reveal Adelaide as a cosmopolitan centre, with over 100 rooftop and small laneway bars, a handful of globally-lauded festivals and the chance to swim with dolphins just 20 minutes away (p80).



#### GETTING THERE

■ Fly into Adelaide (p80) direct from most Australian capitals and many major international hubs. Driving in South Australia is simple; very few traffic jams, and regional roads will provide great viewing for kangaroospotting and coastline admiration. The Fleurieu Peninsula (p78) is a comfortable one-hour drive, where at the tip (Cape Jervis) you can catch the SeaLink Ferry to Penneshaw on Kangaroo Island (p70).

#### EATING THERE

A cluster of international chefs. have settled here for the exceptional produce accessed directly from the source. Seafood is harvested on the Eyre Peninsula daily (p76), while the Fleurieu Peninsula (p78) is bountiful with wine, cheese and more Adelaide's reputation for adventurous gastronomic experiences has exploded in recent years, showcasing seasonal, regional dishes with a point of difference.

southaustralia.com

#### STAYING THERE

■ Kangaroo Island's Southern Ocean Lodge (p71) amplifies the spectacular scenery by bringing the outdoors in and vice versa. Many regional towns cater for all tastes and budgets. from boutique accommodation to fuss-free hotels. Consider camping for a night to experience the true meaning of peace and quiet.

#### WHEN TO GO

■ March to May and August to October are the best times for enjoying the great outdoors here, as rainfall is minimal and the weather is sublime. June and July are cooler and therefore best for outback trips Adelaide also hosts the internationally renowned Fringe Festival and Adelaide Festival in March, a definite for the calendar

MAP BY LUKE TEMBY

# Indulge on Australia's most tasteful island

Kangaroo Island offers a plethora of native wildlife, including kangaroos and sea lions, but there's also a selection of magnificent rock formations, secluded beaches, surfing breaks, wonderful local produce and lavish lodges to be found.

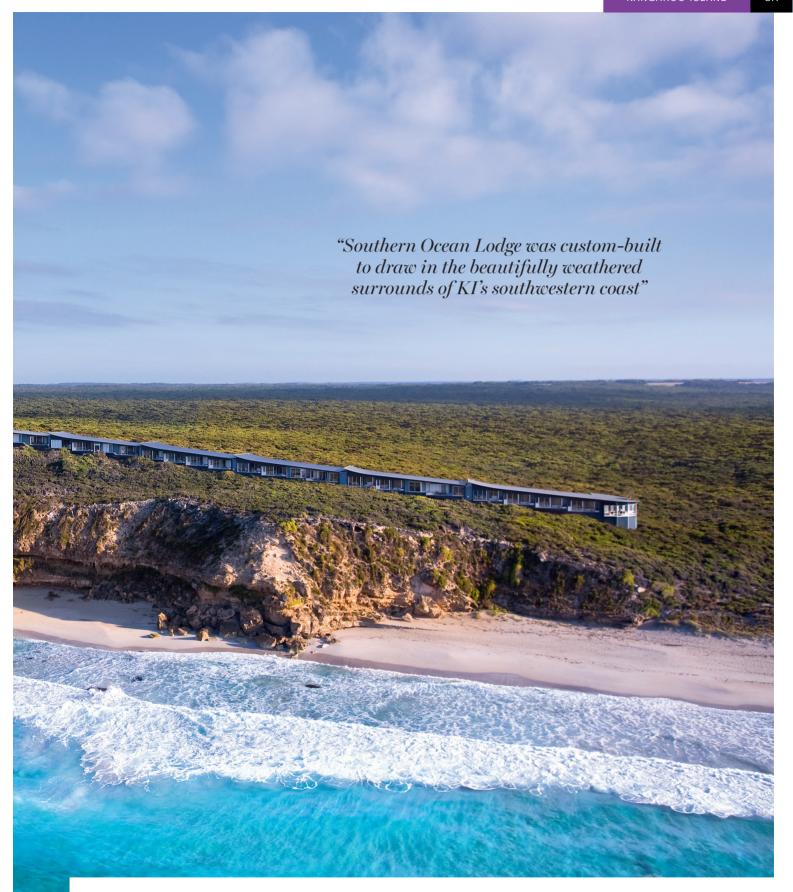
ravellers have been taking the short 16km ferry-ride from mainland South Australia to "KI" for decades to immerse themselves in this indulgent place, where every inch – from the shimmering kaleidoscope of oceanic colours to the bushland – reinforces why Kangaroo Island is regularly typecast as an untouched sanctuary.

There are three SeaLink (sealink.com.au) ferry departures to KI each day from Cape Jervis (1.5 hours south of Adelaide) and the trip across the dividing stretch of water, known as Backstairs Passage, takes 45 minutes. Otherwise you can fly from Adelaide to Kangaroo Island's main town, Kingscote, in 30 minutes on Regional Express (rex.com.au). tourkangarooisland.com.au



70 australia.com

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## Float above the Southern Ocean in five star luxury

Voted fourth best hotel in the world by *Time* magazine's *Travel + Leisure* title, the 21-suite Southern Ocean Lodge was custom-built to draw in the beautifully weathered surrounds of KI's southwestern coast. It's not simply the floor-to-ceiling windows and outdoor terraces that will take your breath away at this regal perch atop the sea. It's the attention to detail – opulent limestone floors, private plunge pools, recycled spotted gum walls – that creates a one-of-a-kind sense of place. Add to that a selection of fully inclusive personalised tour packages, premium meals, wine and spirits and return transfers and there's no doubt this sojourn will be an unforgettable trip highlight. southernoceanlodge.com.au



# ...or retreat to one of these stylish stays

Kangaroo Beach Lodges: Seclusion is key at these Snug Cove lodges in KI's north coast. Near-private beaches, outdoor showers, glimpses of native wildlife and the optimum layout for entertaining make this property perfect for longer, more relaxed visits. *kangaroobeachlodges.com.au* 

Kangaroo Island Wilderness Retreat: The only accommodation right at the threshold of Flinders Chase National Park, this estate is a well-balanced mix of boutique style and comfort. Courtyard suites and self-contained units that back onto an open terrace allow guests to interact with visiting native bush creatures (and other travellers) as much or as little as they please. *kiwr.com* 

Lifetime Private Retreats: These private north-coast escapes all have individual character, from the rammed-earth finish of Sky House, which reflects the colours of the sun, to Cliff House's outdoor hot tub that's poised so perfectly on the cliff-edge it could be floating on Snelling's Beach. *life-time.com.au* 



72 australia.com

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### Marvel at nature's wonders

KI's immaculate surrounds provide the perfect backdrop for incredible natural wonders. Here are seven of our favourites:

#### Flinders Chase National Park

• Snap your own postcard at Remarkable Rocks – a group of granite boulders perched precariously atop a southern cliff that has been artistically eroded by wind, sea and sand over millions of years. The park itself is 62km southwest of KI's capital, Kingscote, with ample walking trails to showcase the native wildlife. environment.sa.gov.au/parks

#### Flawless snorkelling

• Below the crystal turquoise surface of Kingscote's beaches, you'll find one of the world's largest colonies of Leafy Sea Dragons, which are incredibly beautiful, delicate creatures similar to sea horses, found nowhere else in the world other than Australia's southern waters. There are also sea lions, multi-colored coral and more than 200 species of fish – and in season,

instructors will bag any crayfish or abalone they come across for a seafood feast. kangarooislanddiveandadventures.com.au

#### Immensely beautiful dunes

• Sun-kissed golden dunes roll as far as the eye can see, setting the perfect scene for some stunning photography, a day of sandboarding or tobogganing (kiadventuretours.com.au), or a sunset safari tour on quad bikes (kioutdooraction.com.au). The latter is our favourite, not just for the breathtaking dune views but because it comes with a money-back guarantee if you don't spot a kangaroo while there.

#### A secluded sandy cove

• Some 40km northwest of Kingscote you'll find Stokes Bay, a beach famous for its pure sands, tranquil rock pool and a coastal hamlet that attracts families because of its delightful, shady picnic and campground facilities. But the highlight is traipsing through a rock corridor to reach the isolated retreat of the shoreline. Follow signs to the right of the main beach carpark.

#### Fascinating shipwrecks

• Hypothesise about the demise of more than 80 ships that have met a regrettable end right round KI. Today the wrecks inspire great wonder and curiosity from divers and historians alike, such as the legend of *Loch Sloy* that allegedly resulted in the drowning of 31 people near the Casuarina Inlets off Flinders Chase National Park in 1899.

#### Friendly pelicans

• Did you know pelicans can weigh up to 7kg? Every day at 5pm, John the Pelican Man shares this and other interesting insights about this gregarious bird before causing a ruckus on Kingscote Wharf by feeding them. kipenguincentre.com.au

#### Historical lighthouses

• Lighthouses became an important addition to KI when sailors realised how treacherous it was to navigate the stretch of water between here and the mainland. As a result there are three on the island; each offers a wonderfully picturesque backdrop for photos.



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## Taste the island pure

Perhaps the most wonderful experience of KI is its refinement of the term 'fresh'. It's not unusual for produce to be grown or raised down the road from the purveyor you're purchasing from, offering a true demonstration of the term 'paddock to plate'.

Indeed South Australians have latched on to KI's delicacies so firmly that local cheese factory and sheep dairy farm Island Pure (islandpure. com.au) has established a store offisland in Adelaide, just to satisfy growing demand (you'll find it inside the Adelaide Central Market, (adelaidecentralmarket.com.au). Of course the producer's famed

sheep milk Mediterranean-style cheeses (think kefalotiri, manchego and haloumi) are best-sellers alongside the rich natural yoghurt. But the sticky sweet Island Beehive honey, Fryar's eggs and Kangaroo Island abalone are just as popular. Visit the farm on-site to watch the cheese-making process before sampling some yourself.

Elsewhere, Zest+Thyme (facebook. com/zestandthyme) is a real diamond in the rough. Serving home-style brunches at Cape Willoughby on the very eastern tip of KI, the view is unbeatable - tea and cake has never seemed so sweet. For the savourytoothed tigers, The Rockpool Café (facebook.com/TheRockpoolCafe) at Stokes Bay will satiate your lunch

hunger in tranquil picnic surrounds, open during summer.

The abundant KI coastline and relative proximity of towns ensure that seafood is served within just hours of being caught - or you can go straight to the source. Ferguson Australia's depot at Kingscote (fergusonfisheries.com) allows for "fishing" on terra firma; select from fresh lobster, Spencer Gulf king prawns, marron, king crabs, scallops, King George whiting and more. Even oyster-sceptics will be converted after sampling some 15+ flavours of the molluses at The Oyster Farm Shop (facebook.com/OysterFarmShop), where the docking jetty is a shell's throw from the shop. Can't get fresher than that. wildernesstours.com.au





### Meet the locals

A trip to KI wouldn't be complete without an up-close and personal encounter with some of the region's famed friends. Kangaroo Island Marine Tours (kimarineadventures. com.au) or Kangaroo Island Ocean Safari (kangarooislandoceansafari.com.au) will host you for an unforgettable morning of swimming among wild bottlenose dolphins in their playground of the shallow waters off the north coast, as well as the chance to see sea eagles, osprey and seals.

If sea lions are more your speed, program Seal Bay (far left) into your GPS and you'll arrive east of Vivonne Bay where a colony of 1000 sea lions happily sun themselves daily. Go to the Seal Bay Visitor Centre (environment.sa.gov.au/sealbay) to come within arm's reach of the majestic mammals and, for a more intimate experience, book the Twilight Tour (only available during December and January); you'll be the only group lining up for a meet and greet.

To see kangaroos, however, you don't need to take a tour. You'll find these semi-nocturnal creatures all over the island, most easily visible early in the morning or late in the afternoon – but the best places to spot them are Black Swamp in Flinders Chase National Park, or Hog Bay Road on the northeastern tip of the island.





ere, infinite agricultural plains are flecked with charming country towns including Ceduna, the host "city" of seafood celebration Oysterfest (ceduna.sa.gov.au/oysterfest), and Streaky Bay, one of the best places in Australia to eat shellfish.

Everything about the Eyre Peninsula is big – sky, land, sea – and so too are the servings of delicious, fresh seafood. Fly into one of the region's airports including Port Lincoln, Whyalla, Cleve or Ceduna from Adelaide, then pick up a 4WD in anticipation of rugged, off-the-beaten-track experiences. You can also take a chartered flight (chinta.com.au) over the area for a new perspective on space and freedom.



76 australia.com

LEFT: ROB BLACKBURN, SA TOURISM COMMISSION ABOVE: CAROLINE FISHER



#### Come face to fin with a Great White Shark

If you have any curiosity at all about sharks, Port Lincoln should be on your itinerary: it's here that the particularly adventurous can jump on board a boat to see sharks, and even jump in alongside one – but only under the watchful eye and protective cage of a professional tour company (adventurebaycharters.com.au).

Jumping into an inky ocean with the world's most feared predators is an adrenalin rush like no other. Even timid travellers find their curiosity about Great White sharks trumps their shyness and the prospect of swimming alongside six metres and 3000-plus kilograms of a lean, silver, mean machine becomes a thrilling one.

Soon enough you'll be discussing the

impenetrable strength of the diving cage with one of Port Lincoln's renowned tour operators. Rodney Fox is just that: an abalone fisherman, shark attack survivor and a real character. He's the world's longest-running operator who continues to develop his own knowledge by researching the Great White during each expedition. There's a 99 percent chance you'll see a Great White, or White Pointer as they're often called, in their natural feeding ground here, so be ready for action. There are several tours operating out of Port Lincoln, some for multiple days with on-board accommodation; see the males circling in summer and autumn while the female Great Whites are most prevalent in winter and spring. *rodneyfox.com.au* 

DINING OUT

# of the best

**SEAFOOD INDULGENCES** 



Branded as the Seafood Frontier (seafoodfrontier.com.au), Eyre Peninsula producers are staunchly proud of the quality of their fish and shellfish, thanks to the purity of the environment in which they are developed. By some estimates the region produces 65 percent of Australia's total seafood catch, including the Southern rock lobster (crayfish), prawns, crabs, cockles, abalone, oysters, kingfish and much more. Here are five wonderful things to try:

#### Visit Coffin Bay

● Famed as the town to catch and serve the freshest oysters, arrange a tour at Pure Oysters (coffinbayoysters.com.au) to see the sumptuous seafood direct at the source before settling in to 1802 Oyster Bar (1802oysterbar.com.au) for a stunning view, steady stream of oysters and sublime seafood chowder.

#### Head to Streaky Bay

● On the western coast toward Ceduna lies one of Australia's finest crayfish havens. The local fishing community dutifully take their "craypots" (nets) out to get the best beast onto your plate. In town, kick back with waterfront dining at Mocean (moceanstreakybay.com.au) for an elegant lunch or dinner, and check out the stylish homewares in-store while you're there.

## Cook your catch of the day at Port Lincoln

• The Fresh Fish Place (portlincolnseafood.com.au) has grown from favoured fish and chip store into a popular supplier and cooking school. If you don't fancy filleting your own produce you can always purchase a meal prepared by the professionals.

## Take a flavourful road trip through a pretty peninsula

Drive one hour directly south of Adelaide and you'll be in the heartland of the Fleurieu (pronounced floo-ree-oh) Peninsula – a delightfully bohemian region adored for its world-class wines, sensational shoreline and focus on good, organic food. fleurieupeninsula.com.au



DAY 1

#### The sweet seduction of the Vale

ADELAIDE TO MCLAREN VALE

Head out before coffee and breakfast, because a far superior roast is waiting just a short drive away. At Kangarilla, 32km due south of Adelaide, you'll find Dawn Patrol Coffee (dawnpatrolcoffee. com.au), a "cellar door" for single origin, hand-roasted coffee set among vineyards. Your palette will now be wide awake and ready to sample the award-winning wines of the McLaren Vale region. With over 100 cellar doors in the area, start at d'Arenberg (darenberg.com.au), a prolific red wine producer, and sign up for the blending bench where you'll get the chance to blend your own exclusive bottle of wine. Take lunch at The Elbow Room (theelbowroom.com.au) in McLaren Vale town for local specialities such as barbecued SA squid with kimchi dressing or lamb with spiced lamb stuffed figs. Next stop is Beach Rd Wines (beachroadwines.com.au) overlooking the rolling hills, flourishing vineyards and ocean in the distance, then bed down at Red Poles (redpoles.com.au), a natural bushset winery with gallery and charming accommodation.

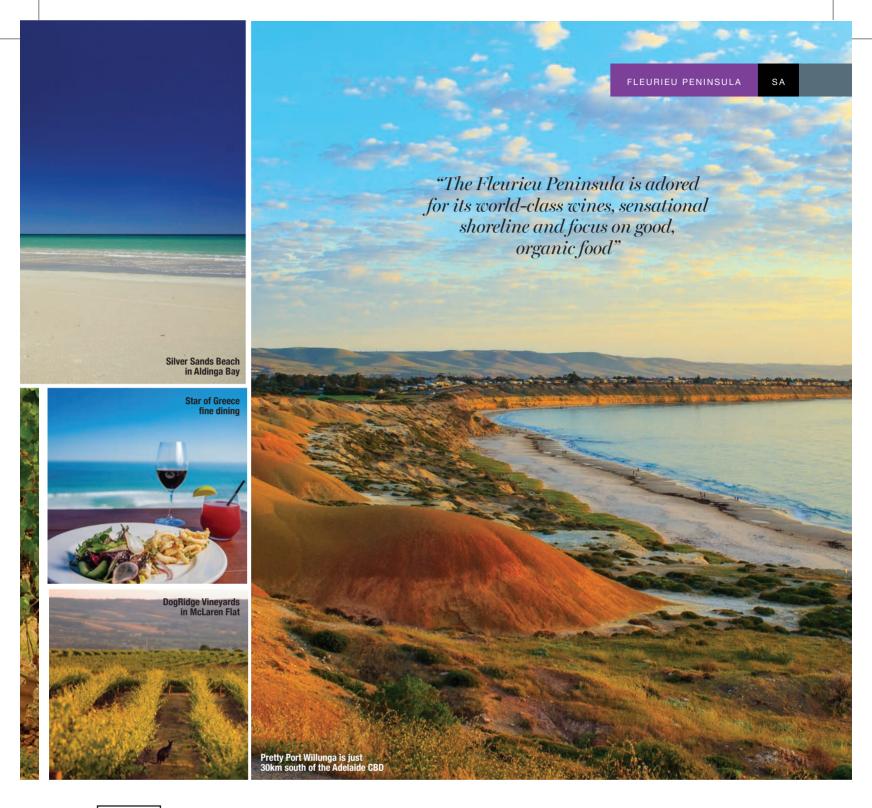
DAY 2

## Sports, sea and a spectacular sunset

MCLAREN VALE TO WILLUNGA

Head off along the southwest coast of the Fleurieu Peninsula to Rapid Bay to join Fleurieu Adventures (fleurieuadventures.com. au) for sea kayaking among the rugged, towering cliffs and cobalt water, or try your own snorkelling escapade among the Leafy Sea Dragons that congregate near the bay's parallel jetties. Next, The Courthouse at Normanville (courthousenormanville. com.au) is just a short drive north for Mediterranean-style share plates and tapas. Relax into the afternoon at Links Lady Bay golf course (linksladybay.com.au) on the outskirts of Normanville for superb sea views and a 90 percent chance you'll be joined by friendly kangaroos and native birds. Still, the best part of the day is yet to come, and when you pull up at Port Willunga's Star of Greece restaurant (starofgreece.com.au) you'll see why; reminiscent of cliff-top dining on the Greek Islands, it has long been heralded as SA's leading five star regional restaurant. Finish the day with a stay at Port Willunga  ${\tt Cottages}\ (portwillung a cottages. com. au).$ 

MAIN AND INSET KANGAROO: ADAM BRUZZONE, SA TOURISM COMMISSION TOP: BAVEN, CHENG HO LAM



DAY 3

## Markets, marshes and the mighty Murray

WILLUNGA TO GOOLWA

If you're in Willunga on a Saturday, pick up some beautiful produce at the farmer's market (willungafarmersmarket.com. au) and start your day slowly before crossing the sweeping hills of the peninsula to reach Victor Harbor (victor.sa.gov.au) - a Fleurieu treasure favoured by families for Australia's only Clydsdale-drawn heritage tram that takes passengers from the town to Granite Island one kilometre away. (horsedrawntram. com.au). The best view of Victor Harbor is from The Bluff at the eastern end of the main beachfront; a significant landmark steeped in Aboriginal legend, which depicts The Bluff as a representation of a traditional fighting club. After walking around the area's native scrubland, continue east to the next township and follow your nose to Port Elliot Bakery (portelliotbakery.com.au). You'll find a queue out the door for a very good reason: their savoury pastries are unbeatable, with lots of regional flavours. But if you're craving fish and chips on the beachfront, stop in at Flying Fish Café

(flyingfishcafe.com.au), grab a feed to go then head across the road to overlook the very special Horseshoe Bay, named for its shape. The Harbourmaster's Walking Trail is a popular, low-impact trek from Horseshoe Bay to Knights Beach on the other side of Port Elliot, taking in the cliff-tops, abundant vegetation and pristine beaches. Alternatively, if you find yourself here in winter, make the most of the season and take a Big Duck boat tour (thebigduck.com.au) for a whale-watching tour in and around Port Elliot and Encounter Bay (which borders Victor Harbor) - see how many Southern Right Whales you can spot! For the final stop of the day, complete the eastern Fleurieu trifecta at Goolwa. Unlike Victor Harbor and Port Elliot, Goolwa is a river port and is set on the banks of the Murray River, very near the mouth where it joins the ocean. Hector's on the Wharf (hectorsonthewharf.com) is a great spot for pelican watching and an afternoon coffee alongside the bridge to neighbouring Hindmarsh Island.

## Dance with dolphins (just 20 minutes from the city)

How many cities can you list that offer swimming with wild dolphins just a short tram ride (or 20-minute drive) from their centres? In Adelaide you can. The morning starts relatively early – 7.20am sharp at Glenelg beach, with Temptation Sailing (dolphinboat.com.au) – but it's well worth it to swim alongside both common and bottlenose dolphins as they congregate in the shimmering morning sun. Travellers' tip: when you return to shore at around Ham, stop for brunch at nearby Pure Boutique Coffee Bar (pureboutiquecoffee.com.au). Order the French Toast laden with sticky seasonal fruit and massarpone; you won't be sorry



Join a spectacular dolphin dive with Temptation Sailing

SUNSET SPOTTING

# of the best

WHILE YOU'RE HERE...



Glenelg beach isn't just for swimming with dolphins – it's one of the city's most favoured spots to spend the day. When the sun starts going down, pack up your towel and head to one of these spectacular sunset vantage points:

- Adelaide CBD is bordered to the north by the River Torrens and Elder Park (adelaidecitycouncil. com) a peaceful place to sit on the grass, admire the hallowed cricket grounds of Adelaide Oval and watch the sun turn the cityscape golden. However, the best seat in the house is on the water aboard cruise boat The Popeye (thepopeye.com.au), an iconic Adelaide institution.
- Want to escape the crowds and find somewhere a little quieter to watch the sun set over the sea? Try Grange, the most charming and least populated "city" beach by far. Underdeveloped, clean and bordered by native vegetation, Grange is beloved among locals who want to unwind with a stroll on a Sunday evening. Grange's more mainstream cousin is Henley Beach − a comfortable two kilometres away − so you can have the best of both worlds. Henley Square is a bustling hub for picnics and late afternoon Frisbee sessions in summer.
- Take to the Adelaide skies at rooftop bar 2KW and snag a booth with an unbeatable view of Adelaide Oval, St Peter's Cathedral and the sparkling gulf waters right to the River Torrens. This airy and inviting space is the perfect spot to enjoy a sunset cocktail alongside unwinding city workers. (2kwbar.com.au)
- Feeling peckish? Get to Lickerish café/restaurant at Semaphore, one of Adelaide's northernmost suburban beaches, and hand yourself over to the Mediterranean way of life; slow living, long conversations and fresh flavours to amplify the evening. (lickerish.com.au)
- Munch on the flavours of the Indian Ocean and Indigenous Australian ingredients at Orana. The brainchild of culinary virtuoso Jock Zonfrillo, Orana's menu is a mille-feuille of native wonder: Coorong mullet, pearl meat, scallops, gums, bush berries and more. Fine-dining in the city's East End with real Australian flair. (restaurantorana.com)

TEMPTATION SAII ING