

Your Food and Drinks Guide to Castlemaine

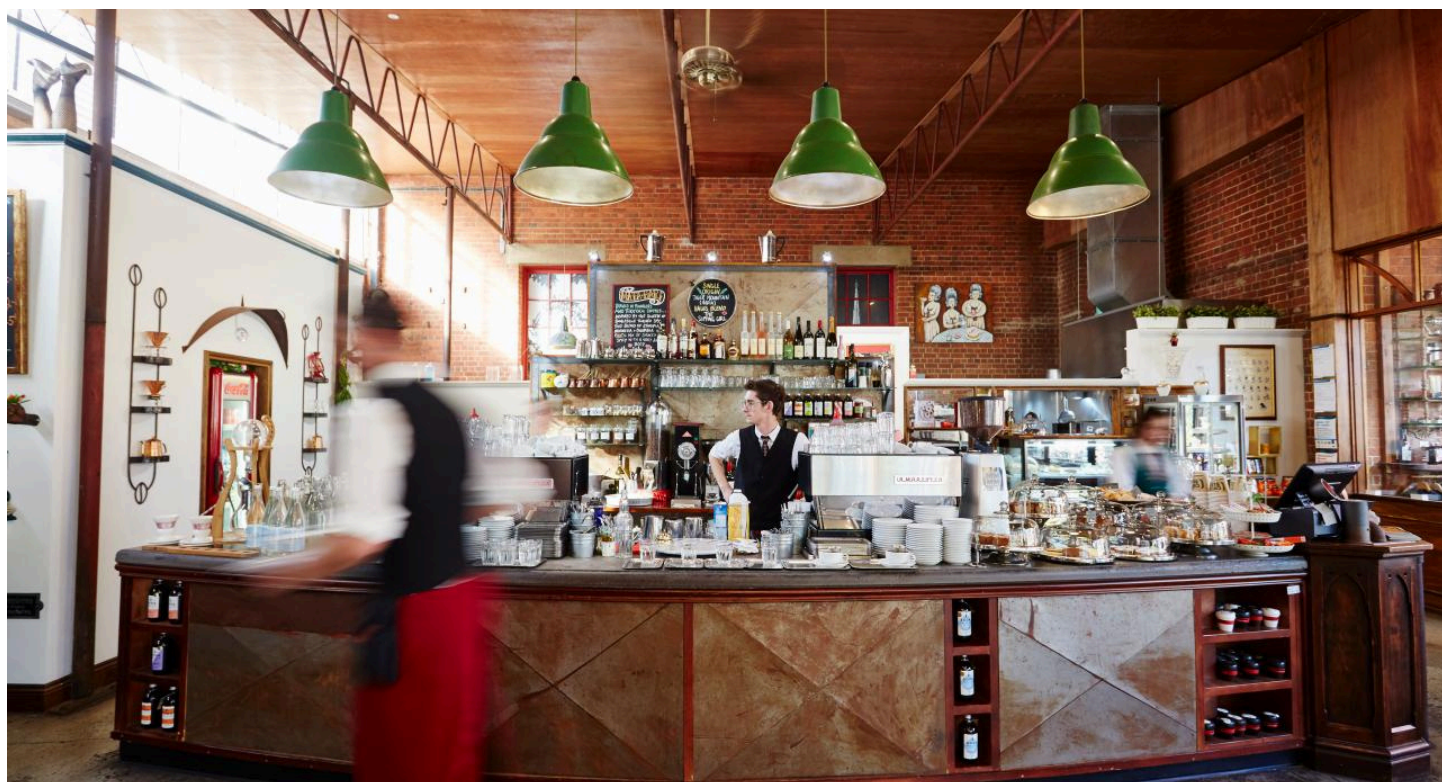


Cafes

Where to start! If you're after a hearty country breakfast, elegant brunch or delicious lunch featuring local produce you'll be spoilt for choice.

In Castlemaine itself we always enjoy a visit to **Saffs Café, Togs Place, Origini Café, Lazy Bones Café, The Blackbird and Saint Florian Café**. All are in the main town centre area, some are licensed for brunch and lunch, and all offer good food, good coffee and a good atmosphere. The wildly popular **Superhero** in Castlemaine offers simple but superb Vietnamese food at lunchtime only Monday to Saturday. For something special very close to BIG4 Castlemaine there's the spectacular Viennese-themed **Das Kaffeehaus** across the road at The Mill Complex.

If you are out exploring, you'll find friendly cafes in nearby towns: **Newstead's Dig Café** is popular, as is the **Harcourt Produce and General Store**. Maldon's Main Street offers a choice of traditional cafes.



Country Pubs

Just across the road from BIG4 Castlemaine is the family-friendly **Bridge Hotel**, with a spacious beer garden and upmarket pub food which can often be enjoyed against a backdrop of live music. A few blocks closer to town there is the **Railway Hotel**, much loved by locals and serving traditional pub fare. A few minutes' drive from Castlemaine you'll find the award-winning **Five Flags Hotel** at Campbells Creek, open seven days a week and

offering top-notch pub food. The recently revitalised **Albion Hotel** in Wesley Hill, on the road to Chewton, has restaurant and bar serving pub classics with a modern twist Thursday to Sunday - note that bookings are preferred.

Restaurants

Not a pub and a bit more (or much more) than a cafe: here are further suggestions for lunch and dinner.

In Castlemaine, head to **Taste of the Orient** for yum cha and noodle dishes or the popular **New China Restaurant** on Barker Street for traditional Chinese meals, country Aussie style! Newcomer **Melody Castlemaine** serves fresh, flavour-packed Middle Eastern pitas, salads and share plates for brunch and lunch, bringing a taste of the Mediterranean to the heart of town.

For a family pizza night enjoy wood-fired pizzas from **Bella Fresca Pizza** or order takeaway to bring back to the park. Castlemaine's iconic **Theatre Royal** also serves outstanding gourmet pizza, along with great cocktails and excellent wines. Next door is **Love Shack Brewing** serving great beers and delicious burgers and snacks. **Gornellys** on Barker Street is a cosy European-style day and evening café and wine bar and nearby classy **Bar Andino Restaurant** serves up Latin American inspired food for late afternoon and evening dining.

Across the road from BIG4 Castlemaine, there's **Shedshaker Brewing and the Taproom** at The Mill, serving great craft beers and delicious Italian inspired food for lunch and dinner seven days a week(perfect for a family feed and 10 per cent off for BIG4 Perks+ members!). The **Royal Sultan Restaurant and Tandoori Cuizine**, both in town, serve up Indian food and offer take-away.

For something special book in for a feast of shared seasonal plates at the fabulous **Boomtown Winery and Cellar Bar** at The Mill. Open for lunch Saturday and Sunday and dinner Friday and Saturday. Of course, there's exceptional wine as well! The Wine Bar, with wine bar plates and a full drinks menu, is open Thursday to Sunday.

Wine Bars

Great wine, beer and cocktails just about everywhere are a Castlemaine thing. But if you're after the vibe of a relaxed neighbourhood wine bar call in to **Mostyn Street Cellars** or **Grafting Cellars** in Templeton Street.

The splendidly eclectic **Maurocco Bar** inside the Midland Hotel is known for excellent cocktails, wines, conversation and occasional live jazz. Think rich Art Deco aesthetics layered with an opulent grand bar setting and a kitschy Moroccan influence. Best to see (and enjoy) it for yourself. Open Friday and Saturday evenings from 5 pm.



Fine Dining

Bar Midland, in Castlemaine's historic Midland Hotel, is an intimate bar and dining space that celebrates the best Indigenous foods from organic and biodynamic regional producers. It was awarded one Chef's Hat in the 2024, 2025 and 2026 editions of the Age Good Food Guides and was named winner of the prestigious Drinks List of the Year in the 2026 Good Food Guide Awards. Bar Midland open for dinner Friday and Saturday and lunch on Saturdays and Sundays. Bookings are recommended.

Kyneton and Bendigo, both within 40 minutes' drive of Castlemaine, also offer fine dining options. The lovely **Chauncy Restaurant** in Heathcote, awarded Two Hats in the current Age Good Food Guide, is also an easy and picturesque drive away but bookings are a must.

Markets

Castlemaine's Farmers' Market is held on the first Sunday of the month in the town's Western Reserve on Forest Street. On the fourth Sunday of every month at the same location, you'll also find a large and popular Artists' Market featuring some of the best art, crafts and design talent in the region plus food trucks and coffee. There is also a smaller **weekly Farmers' Market every Wednesday** afternoon at Camp Reserve, Forest Street, near the Railway Station. On Saturday mornings locals head to the **Wesley Hill Community Market** at Chewton for fruit and veg, breads, coffee, plants, an eclectic range of bric-a-brac and plenty of friendly chats.

Maldon holds its monthly Farmers' Market on the second Sunday of the month and on the third Sunday of the month it can be well worth heading to the small town of **Talbot**, a 40-minute picturesque drive from Castlemaine, to visit the Talbot Farmers' Market. There's also the **Bendigo** Farmers' Market on the second Saturday of the month.

Wineries

Whether you just want a bottle of something special to enjoy over a dinner back at BIG4 Castlemaine or you want to add some serious reds to your collection, exploring the wineries around Castlemaine is a delight. And there are certainly plenty to choose from! Some of our favourites include **Harcourt Valley Vineyards**, the oldest vineyard in the area with a five-star rating from James Halliday, **Blackjack Vineyards**, famous for some delicious reds, **Sutton Grange Winery**, **Mt Alexander Winery**, **Limestone Track Vineyard**, **Guildford Vineyard**, **Bress Winery**, **Welshmans Reef Vineyard** and **Chappel's Cairn Curran Estate**. It is worth checking the hours for cellar door openings and tastings before heading out, as these details can change. *Please note some Harcourt wineries have been impacted by the January bushfire.*

Beers and Ciders

Enjoy seriously good small-batch handcrafted beers and ales at **Shedshaker** at The Mill Complex or bring some back to the park to enjoy over a meal. Also look out for beers from locally based **Love Shack Brewing**,

The Castlemaine area is also known for its premium ciders, due to the exceptional apples and pears that have been grown at Harcourt for more than 150 years. Visit **Harcourt Perry and Cider Makers** and **Henry of Harcourt** and treat yourself to some special beverages. *Please note Harcourt producers may have been impacted by the January bushfire.*

Local Produce: Eat In or Picnic!

There is so much gourmet produce to choose from, all within a few minutes' walk from BIG4 Castlemaine.

At the Mill Complex across the road you'll find outstanding hams, sausages, terrines, bacon, meats and smoked salmon and trout at **Oakwood Smallgoods**; **Sprout Bakery** sells artisan sourdough breads, magnificent sandwiches and often a special sweet treat or two; award-winning organic cow's milk cheeses and dairy products are available at **Long Paddock**; quality fruit and veg can be picked up at **Harvest** Wednesday to Saturday; there are handmade chocolates for dessert from **Cabosse and Feve**; and locally roasted coffee from **Das Kaffeehaus**, along with European pastries and sweets. Now that's a few meals sorted! **Mulberry's Delicatessen**, next door to Tog's Café in town, also sells a great range of deli items.

For a cooling sweet treat head to **Ice-cream Republic** at The Mill, an all-natural ice creamery and Gelateria. Open Thursday to Sunday.