

Farm Gate Trail Round Up – 7th August, 2004

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IN SEASON ON THE TRAIL

Good Morning Simon,

Even though we are starting to see some of the spring blossoms appearing, citrus season is still at it's peak. There are plenty of juicy - navel oranges, lemons, grapefruit and Seville oranges, & Emperor & **Clementine** mandarins. In the way of local apples there are still some granny smiths around. Don't forget those very sweet winter pajeros strawberries and lots of delicious tomatoes as well as **olive oil** – Tizzana Winery this year pressed most of their olive crop for oil!

For the latest update of the fruit and veges in season from our farms, check out the website.

This week I spoke with Maria & Gino Putrino from the Strawberry Farm at Vineyard.

A bit of background information

They have been there on their 5 acres for about 15 years and Maria's parents were and still are into farming in the Hawkesbury at Pitt Town. So the idea of working for yourself, working in the fresh air had it's appeal and so Gino and Maria decided to go into farming themselves.

Why did they decide to grow strawberries?

Strawberries are what Maria's parents had grown so they knew how to grow them and also they have a large quantity of tomatoes as well as some veges. As well as the Pajeros they also have the Camarasa strawberry variety which fruits in both summer and winter.

So this is another family business?

Most definitely, they also have 3 children from 10 to 15 who have their chores around the house & farm.

They have fresh strawberries & they also sell frozen ones too?

Yes, which means they have strawberries all year, all of which are sold at the farm gate, they used to take them to market but it is great to be able to speak with your customers face to face and you don't have to fight the import market! They also supply fruit & veges for jams which are made locally & then sold at the farmgate.

Has the drought affected them much?

Yes, they have been badly affected by the drought, they have been growing the tomatoes in bags – they have produced a smaller crop but sweeter and every three years they replace the strawberry plants – that will happen this year as it was far too dry for the plants to survive last year.

They are open all year?

Yes, they are open all year and every day so you can visit them along Windsor Road at Vineyard.

Recipe: Mt Tomah Chicken – Lochiel House, Organic chicken from the Mt Tomah Organic Chicken Farm.

If your listeners haven't been able to download the map from the website they can call into the Visitor Centre at Clarendon (opposite the RAAF Base) and pick up a copy.

All details on the website at www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au

The River Drive: Penrith Valley Oranges – navel oranges, Strawberry Farm at Vineyard (local strawberries & corn), Tizzana Winery, Hawkesbury Estate (Seville oranges) and The Orange Spot, (**Navels, Mandarins, & Sevilles**) & M & N Butchery at Wilberforce, Pepe's Ducks at South Windsor, Tanglin Lodge Alpacas at Tennyson. Then cross the River - Basha's Orchard (advanced trees), Galston Strawberries, Berry Good Farms, and Nati Roses, Geranium Cottage, The Bay Road Gallery & Charltons Creek Studio Gallery at Arcadia, Kenthurst Fish Farm, Butterfly Café all at the Hills & Hornsby end of the trail.

Along the **Mountain Drive -** Enniskillen Orchard (**Macadamias, pecans**, honey, zola tomatoes, mandarins), Blue Mountains Natural Spring Water at Grose Vale, Heavenly Belle Café at Kurrajong Heights, Tutti Fruitti (hot soup, oranges & mandarins), The Local Harvest, Bell's Line of Road, at Bilpin;

All the information on the Farm Gate Trail will be on the website or from Hawkesbury Valley Tourism Office at Clarendon on **4588 5895**, where along with the Farm Gate map, your listeners can pick up the notes of today's roundup. Or **visit our website go to** www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au

Best Days to Drive the Trail

Friday or Saturday are the recommended days for self-drive tours of the Farm Gate Trail or, if you prefer not to drive, take a guided tour, all the details are on the back of the map.

Vegetables on the Trail

Tomatoes, lettuce, beetroot and rhubarb, sweet potato, leek, green capsicums, cauliflower, broccoli, zucchini, cabbage (savoy & plain), silverbeet, bok choy, Lebanese & gherkin cucumbers; parsnips, butternut, jap & Qld blue pumpkins, both red and white radishes, potatoes, flat and swiss brown mushrooms

Fruit on the Trail

Mandarins – Imperials, Susumi – Enniskillen, Penrith Valley Oranges, Orange Spot
Apples - Granny smiths, pink lady, Lady William
Navel Oranges – Penrith Valley Oranges – Hawkesbury Estate
Seville Oranges – Hawkesbury Estate and The Orange Spot, Enniskillen Orchard
Winter Pajeros Strawberries – fresh and frozen – Strawberry Farm, Vineyard; Galston S'berries
Pears – Packham, Burbosk – Orange Spot, Enniskillen Orchard
Pecan nuts & Macadamias - Enniskillen Orchard

Other Produce – Food & Wine

Wine, port including white port, aleatico; Verjus; Goat cheese & yoghurt; baked crisp breads including lavosh, honey, apple juice, free range eggs, ice cream with real fruit, fruit rollups with fruit fresh from the orchard. Jams, pickles and sauces and the range from the native bush tucker foods. Peking ducks, also sausages, breast fillet, Maryland & whole ducks; abattoir and butcher – large range of beef, pork and lamb, goat, venison and ostrich. Spring Water and Silver Perch.

Other Produce – Fibre & Flora

Koi and Goldfish, silver perch, field roses, pelargoniums and geraniums, alpacas & alpaca products such as jumpers, scarves etc. Open gardens and galleries with pottery, paintings and bowls and platters.
