

FARM GATE TRAIL ROUND UP 27/8/05

Simon Marnie 702 ABC Sydney

“Weekends with Simon Marnie”

interview with Liz Stephens 02 4567 7804

Today’s feature farmer is Jo or Ted Basha of Basha Produce, South Maroota. (conference call?) His Phone No is 4575 0226

Salutations

What’s in season on the Farmgate Trail Liz?

Oranges and mandarins are at their peak now, lots of crisp chinese vegies and broccoli for your stir fries. Lebanese cucumbers, spinach and the freshest cauliflowers and cabbages are available right now, straight off the farm. And don’t forget to pick up some delicious Willowbrae goats cheese along the way. It’s an absolute treat.

For flower lovers, geraniums of all varieties and wonderful roses can be found along the trail and we’re looking forward to next month when the waratahs will be in bloom.

Simon: What’s happening on the Farmgate trail this weekend Liz?

Today Simon, I thought we’d explore the North River Run, this route starts in Windsor and eventually leads to Wiseman’s Ferry and St Albans.

On the Farmgate website, hawkesburyharvest.com.au, we’ve mapped out four different routes for visitors within the Farmgate Trail each route takes about 4hrs.

The North river Run includes two very good wineries that I’m sure visitors will enjoy.

Simon- Sound good, where do we start?

Well first you’ll need to find your way to Windsor, no more than an hour from the CBD, from there, follow the map to Wilberforce road and your first port of call on the farmgate map is the “Orange Spot.” There you can stock up on lots of lovely juicy oranges.

Next on the trail is a wholesale /retail butcher in King rd Wilberforce where they sell delicious, local, hormone free pork and they have some great lamb buys at the moment. M&A’s also have an on site abattoir, so you can be sure that the meat will be fresh.

It’s essential that you bring an esky for your meat purchases because there are still lots of places to visit on the North River Run.

Simon: Where to now Liz?

Next stop is the Hawkesbury Vegetable Farm, this is a wonderful experience for the whole family. It’s good for the kids to see where their vegies really come from.

You can go for a walk through the farm with the grower and Vicki will freshly hand pick your vegies for you during your walk. Can't get fresher than that!

Vicki and her family grow all kinds of lettuces including all the gourmet varieties, cabbages, cauliflower, silverbeet and many other vegetables including the Dicon radishes, Vicki tells me that these are great in stir fries or in salads and she is happy to advise if you aren't sure how some of her vegetables should be served.

Don't forget the fresh eggs while you're there.

Now it's time to head to Tizzana Winery in Ebenezer. They have a lovely red blend called Clarissa, a range of fortified wines, vintage and white ports.

Also available very shortly, are two new reds. They just need to be labelled. One is a shiraz using grapes from Orange in NSW, the other is a petit verdot which is a French Bordeaux variety. There's something to look forward to!

You can't stop yet though, there's more to see and taste on the North River Run.

You must visit Basha Produce before you head to the next winery. Jo and Ted have a fantastic range of advanced hedging available, so if you need hedging this is a must. This is a good time to be planting hedging too. The boys also grow all kinds of stonefruit as well but of course this won't be ready until late November.

Simon: OK tell me more.

Yes Simon, our next stop is the Talai Estate, just nearby in Sth Maroota, you can drive through the vineyards to the cellar door and enjoy their free wine tasting.

Talai produce a lovely range of both red and white wines, you can stop here for a coffee and snack as well. David and Eleanor will make you most welcome. Also, in their cellar you can view some very rare fossil footprints.

Next we head on to Wiseman's Ferry.

Here you have a choice. You can turn right before the river and visit Fords Farm or head over the river and on to St Albans.

At the farm you and the family can fill up as many containers as you like with mandarins, the prices are very good at moment as it's the tail end of the season. Sue Ford told me this week they are keen to clear the last of the fruit so they can get on with pruning and so forth. Fill up those buckets! I know my kids love mandarins in their school lunches!

If you head to St Albans instead you can visit the galleries and the historic hotel there, if it's warm the kids might even have a paddle in the creek.

There are many more places on the North River Run you can visit, it's all on the website.

Don't forget to go to www.hawkesburyharvest.com.au for a Farmgate map or

you can write to PO Box 447 Windsor NSW 2756 and we will send you one.

Over the next few weeks we will take you on a ride along the other itineraries within the Farm Gate Trail and thank you Simon.

Simon: Thanks Liz, anything else?

I just need to tell you about a couple of things coming up so you can plan your Spring excursions.

The 36th Orange Blossom Festival in the Hills district gets underway on the Friday 2nd of September and goes for a couple of weeks right through through till the 19th of September.

The festival includes the Kellyville/Rouse Hill Fair, the Twilight Street Parade and the “Art of Bonsai” exhibition or you can check out the St Albans and Wisemans ferry artists, lots planned for Orange Blossom, their website is at www.baulkhamhills.nsw.gov.au or phone Baulkham Hills council for a programme of events.

Last but not least

The Hawkesbury Community Expo is being held on the 17th of September at the UWS campus in Richmond. This will include a sustainability fair and various environmental educational events. Everyone is welcome.

You’ll be able to buy produce, food and craft, there’ll be a band and a carnivale parade . The Crepe Myrtle Man and many other growers will be there too...702 are broadcasting from the Expo and I believe you’ll be there at dawn Simon.

Simon:

It’s going to be a fabulous day!

Simon: