

DINING OUT in and around ALBANY

The dining scene in Albany is constantly changing. Favourites come and go, new ones arrive. Established restaurants loose, or improve their mojo. Covid and the ensuing staffing shortages have taken their toll as have price increases. Dining out, as I am sure you know, is not a cheap option, even when it comes to beachside favourites such as fish and chips. All of this is further complicated when you arrive in an unfamiliar town and want to know where to go to get something good to eat.

Just for you I will endeavour to visit every eating outlet in and around Albany over the next little while - tough gig, I know! - I will write up my experience of them for you. As we try each establishment, I will add further detail.

Everyone is looking for something different, so I have devised a number of categories to help with your decision making. I have also grouped the restaurants, etc geographically. I hope you find this useful.

Carolyn

WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE.

If you head towards Middelton Beach, you will find a little cluster of shops and cafes. You will find them on Adelaide Terrace, corner of Marine Terrace, and on Flinders Parade, which runs along the beach.

Hooked On Fish and Chips

Hooked On specialises in local fish. The board inside tells you what is available on the day. There are tables and chairs for dine in options

T/A Dine-in BYO Local fish \$ Wheelchair accessible Street parking

RATS Tapas and Wine Bar



RATS, is so much nicer than the name suggests. It is actually an acronym of the original owners' names. RATS is a laid back, cosy little bar that is a real destination regardless of the weather (and the frosty demeanour of the manager). It is relatively small space and licensing requires that all patrons have a seat. If it is busy and there are no chairs, you will not be served. There is not the option of standing at the bar or the street bench to have a drink. It is a firm favourite with locals and gets busy, particularly late afternoon/early evening.

The wine list is predominantly made up of Great Southern wines. You can purchase wine by the glass and bottle. Beer on tap is from local breweries. There is a selection of bottled beers from other areas

Food options are touted as 'share plates' but the larger dishes are cooked and presented as a main course and not that easy to share. The smaller plates are easily shared. Serving sizes are moderate. The food is very good. The menu does not change too often, but what is on offer is interesting and delicious..

Because of it's compact size and limited seating, it is not well suited to large groups. The largest tables comfortably seat 6. They do not take bookings.



18 C Adelaide Terrace



98426331



\$12 ++



Thursday-Mon 10am - 9.30



the hallways are narrow and there is not a lot of space to move between tables, but the entrance is flat and there are no stairs.

Bay Merchants Cafe

This much loved local cafe has had a few changes of hands recently. It is still very popular in the mornings with the local fitness crew and cycle groups. Expect to wait a long time for your coffee if you go around breakfast time. They provide a breakfast and lunch menu. They were doing Burger Nights on Fridays. If they are, there's a board advertising the fact.

T/A dine in street parking \$ pavement tables

Three Anchors Pub and Cafe

One of, not too many venues that has a view of the water. The pub has a weird licensing law that requires customers to be seated and for staff to deliver drinks to the table. You cannot go to the bar, order a drink and take it back to your table yourself.. Weird, right? They offer breakfast, lunch and dinner every day. You can take your dog if you sit outside.

There is a cafe attached where you can purchase beach food; fish and chips, burgers, milkshakes, ice creams, etc.

A big attraction for families is the large children's playground right in front of the pub.

On Sundays there is usually live music.

Parking nearby. Disability parking in front. Bike racks. \$\$ Playground nearby
live music on Sundays

Hybla Bar and Restaurant.

Hybla was the name of the original family beach house which forms the bones of this attractive venue. There are beach views from here. If you are sitting outside, it can get very windy, so bring a jacket. Hybla seem to have been struggling with an identity crisis over the years. It is currently a 'tavern', which I think is related to their licensing laws - why can't WA govt. just simplify these crazy laws?? You can pop in for a drink, lunch or dinner. It is best to book.

Easy parking across the road. Bike racks out the front. Dogs welcome outside.

There are stairs into the venue. I don't know if there is disability access. Corridors to the toilets are narrow.

Parking across the road Dogs allowed at outside tables \$\$\$ bike racks

Paddock and Plate

Paddock and Plate is a fish and chip shop and so much more. They do excellent gluten free fish and chips. They also offer a range of other fast and in quick, food options such as po-boys, tacos, crayfish burgers (keep an eye out for the advertising sign). The serves are generous and the tastes are great.

T/A and dine-in limited parking out front and street parking BYO
disability accessible

Further Afield

Monty's Leap

Monty's Leap is about 30 minutes out of town, close enough to make an easy lunch destination, far enough out of town to feel as if you have gone on an 'outing'. Monty's used to be Montgomery's Winery until the restaurant and winery became separate identities. The considerable range of Montgomery's wines, Monty's Leap as they are now labeled, are available for tasting and to accompany your meal either by the glass or



bottle. The food is creatively and expertly cooked. A seasonal 'Chef's Menu' is offered. It's an all or nothing option for your table. If there is a group of you, it may make choices easier. The menu showcases local produce. The restaurant occupies an elevated position and offers beautiful views over vines and pasture. The Kalgan river is at the bottom of the hill. Theoretically, you could paddle up the river and walk up for a coffee and cake. There is a small playground and plenty of space for kids to run around, but you will have to leave your table and be outside with your little ones. Monty's Leap is very popular and bookings are absolutely essential. Bookings can only be made on-line. Do note that bookings require a credit card and currently the charge for a no-show is \$40 per person! Despite there being a listed phone number, you will be lucky to have anyone answer it. That means, no ringing up on the day with a change of plans. It will be easier, and less costly, to try and find some friends to take your booking if you cannot.

🏠 45821 South Coast Highway, Kalgan, Western 📞 98464239 🍷 💰💰💰
🎉 👪 There is a small playground and space to run around outside the restaurant.
🕒 RESTAURANT Thursday to Sunday 11.30am – 4pm, cellar door 11.00-3.00 🅅
♿ there is a flat boardwalk leading from the carpark to the restaurant.

Make a day of it

These destinations are some distance out of Albany. Some are destinations in their own right, the reason for your outing. Others are places to get something to eat, but you could choose to combine another activity such as a walk, ride or swim while you are in the area.

Little Beach Store



For those who knew it, this was Nippers, at the Marron Farm. The building hasn't changed, but the menu has - and for the better. Almost everything is made in-house. The menu is not extensive, but it does offer a range of tasty dishes covering all the protein options, plus some yummy vege options. The menu is divided into 'sharing' and 'mains'. The sharing plates are best shared. By this I mean, the hero ingredient is cooked with fairly strong flavours which are delicious, but perhaps a bit much to eat a whole plateful. Having said that, I did polish off two share dishes, albeit with some help from my friends. I



think one shared plate between 2 or 3 would be perfect and then a main, or a few extra share plates. You can still get marron here. It is sliced in two, BBQ'd and served in the shell. Depends how you feel about wrangling your food, but where else will you get to try marron? (Those of you who don't know, marron are fresh water crayfish and only found in the south west of WA. It has sweet, firm flesh)

The sweet treats are amazing and more than enough reason to take the drive. If you don't go for lunch or breakfast, do go for a coffee and a morning-tea treat.

There is a small 'zoo' for want of a better word. There are cockies, donkey, rabbits etc which kids can pet and feed. There is a charge to enter.



304 Two Peoples Bay Road



98464239



Friday-Sunday 8.00-3.00 longer hours during school holidays



this is a rural space and there are no paved paths. It would be possible to park at the restaurant entrance. The toilets may be difficult to access as they're in a separate building and downhill from the restaurant. The toilet itself is large and accessible.

Nannarup Beach (surf beach, sheltered lagoon, great walking and swimming, river estuary, BBQ's), Two Peoples Bay (has a lovely BBQ area - watch out for sausage-stealing kookaburras - a sheltered swimming spot (although it can get a bit seaweedy) and. good for fishing, and Little Beach - a former 'Best Beach in Australia' title holder -are all nearby and worth visiting.

If you are a twitcher, Two Peoples Bay has the last remaining colony of the Noisy Scrub Birds. Good luck.

DENMARK WAY



Pepper and Salt

Pepper and Salt is part of, but separate to, Forest Hill Winery, about 5 km's west of Denmark. In our opinion, it is the best restaurant in the area. Silas, the head chef, is Sri Lankan and his cultural heritage is reflected in his sublime food. He consciously showcases the diversity of our high quality local ingredients. The food is proudly touted as local, sustainable and organic (where possible). On the menu you will often find marrow, local fish and steak as well as locally grown veggies. The menu changes with the seasons, so there is always a reason to return. Diners have the choice of a set two, or three course meal. The options in each course are few in number, but so expansive in taste, that decision making is not easy.

The wine list is understandably, dominated by Forest Hill wines, although there are a few other wineries represented. Wines are available by the glass and bottle.

The elevated portion affords relaxing green views of the property and vines. In winter there is often a big open fire and in summer the walls of glass are slid open to let the outside in.

All this gorgeousness does come at a price. Bookings are essential to ensure you have a table. Credit cards are required to make a booking.

The lovely restaurant is housed above the Forest Hill winery tasting room. This is a delightful space, all arching stone and comfy seating. Before your meal, you may want to head down to the vaulted cellar to 'try before you buy' as it were.



156 West Coast H'way



98483053



Thursday-Sunday lunch from 12. Friday - dinner from 6



Parking is a sealed pathway, slightly uphill to restaurant. To access the toilets it is necessary to exit the restaurant and go around the building.