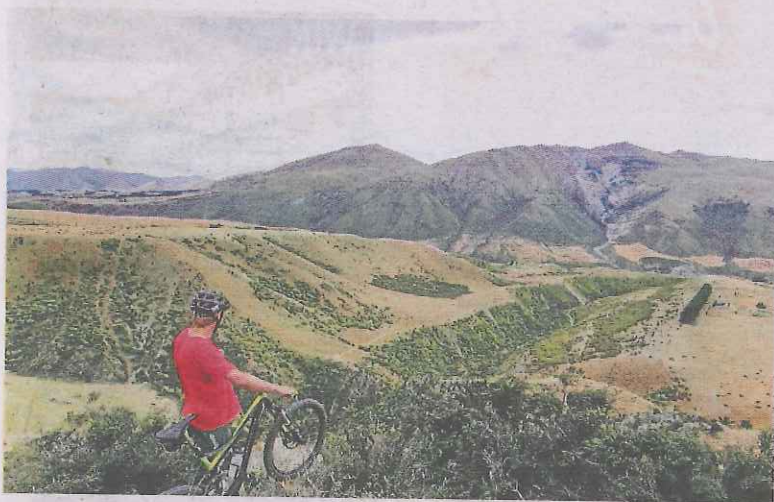


TRAVEL | INFODESK



Ready to ride: Gibbston Valley is set to become a mecca for mountainbikers.

Mountainbiking resort to open in Gibbston Valley

A year-round mountainbiking resort catering for beginner and intermediate riders will open this week on 400 hectares of land next to Queenstown's award-winning Gibbston Valley Winery. The Rabbit Ridge Bike Resort, which is located on Gibbston Valley Station rabbit-prone land, will feature 30 kilometres of tracks suitable for all levels of rider. A trail will also link the resort to Gibbston Valley Winery. The resort comes as part of a joint venture between the winery and local bike tour operator Around the Basin. Designed and developed by trail builder Ben Rafferty, the first tracks are almost complete and will provide a unique family-friendly resort with a base area

for relaxing between runs. Construction for the resort's accommodation, golf course, walking tracks and commercial hub will begin in 2014. Gibbston Valley Winery chief executive Greg Hunt said he was excited about the new project which had developed "very quickly" as a result of the explosion in popularity of mountainbiking in the region. "This will be the area's only year-round dedicated and serviced bike resort and will help put Queenstown on the map with biking enthusiasts everywhere," he said. "The views and setting are spectacular and make the bike ride special for this fact alone – it's a long way from civilisation." The resort opens the same week Skyline's gondola access to its downhill mountainbiking tracks close for winter. Visit gibbstonvalley.nz



Seafood festival: Tipped to be popular.

Port Chalmers Seafood Festival

The Port Chalmers Seafood Festival will this year take place on September 21. The event was first held in 2011 alongside Rugby World Cup celebrations and proved a huge success, attracting more than 5000 people. This year it is expected more than 7000 will enjoy the festival's mix of local seafood, brews and regional wines. Music will be provided by Don McGlashan and Lyttelton band The Eastern, with more names yet to be announced. There will also be a police Blue Light disco and a kids' fishing competition, as well as a children's fun zone. "The Port Chalmers Seafood Festival represents a synergy of local history and modern community," says



Hunter Valley: Enjoy a

Chanel Gardner, chair of Chalmers Festival Comm festival generates proce community ventures by day of experiences, of P of seafood and of the p here." The Taieri Gorge transport festival-goers f Dunedin Railway Station shuttle buses will run fo throughout the day. Alt visitors can travel on the boat. Tickets are on sale festival.portchalmers.co Harbour Fish, Dunedin.

Long lunch in the Hunter Valley

This year's Lovedale Lon celebrates its 20th anniv progressive dining-style place in the Hunter Valle Wales, on May 18-19, pro gourmet food, wine and entertainment. Crowne F Valley, which is a long-st of winery Sandalyn Wilde has developed a comme menu in honour of this y lunch. The hotel's execut Gavin Robertson has taik to be matched with Sanc Wilderness Estate's wines weekend of May 18-19, accommodation at Crow Hunter Valley is available per night for a deluxe ho \$596 per night for a two-and from \$728 per night bedroom villa, for stays o or more. These rates are 14-day advance purchase crownplazahuntervalley.

Teach in the UK protocol education

Upcoming information sessions and interviews

Meet our friendly NZ consultant, Claire, and find out how to have a great time teaching in England!

Hamilton – Weds 20 March
Wellington – Mon 22 April
Christchurch – Tues 23 April
Auckland – Mon 29 April

For more info, call:

0800 857 774

nz@protocol-education.co.nz
www.protocol-education.co.nz

Travelbug by trademe travelbug.co.nz

Pick of the Week
Stamford Plaza Auckland: In the heart of the CBD, the Stamford Plaza Auckland is a renowned 5-star hotel. Featuring 286 rooms and luxury suites, the hotel suits all travel needs. Four different restaurants offer unique dining experiences in all and the recreation centre allows for a complete workout or relaxation.

Deal of the week
James Cook Grand Chancellor Hotel: Book a stay during the school holidays and receive accommodation for a family of four, a family zoo pass and valet parking from just \$179. The hotel is in the heart of Lambton Quay, just a short walk from the Wellington Waterfront and Te Papa. **Travelbug is Trade Me's accommodation booking website, with NZ's widest range of accommodation options, with more than 150,000 international hotels.**