

ADELAIDE HILLS

by SHANE McNALLY

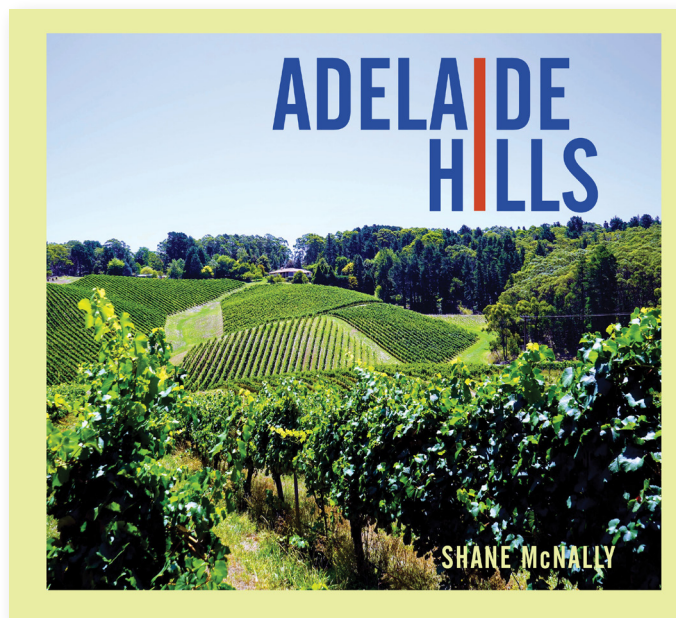
Around every bend, as the climate and the colour changes within a few short kilometres, the Adelaide Hills holds surprises even for those who have lived in the region most of their lives. For visitors, the experience is breathtaking as these low-lying hills go from rolling farmland and natural bushland to sweeping vineyards, cherry farms and apple orchards. Then every few minutes, there's a town that offers a history lesson, photo opportunity, coffee or tea break, wine tasting and world-class dining and accommodation.

The Adelaide Hills rise only 700 metres at the highest point. What they lack in height, though, they more than make up for in depth. They start just over five kilometres from the Adelaide CBD but take in more than 1000 square kilometres—making them ideal for a quick visit, a Devonshire tea, a drive to a local winery for lunch or an entire week lost in pristine valleys with access to busy country towns and tiny villages that have barely changed in more than 150 years.

From Hahndorf which seamlessly blends tourism and culture to the restaurants and art of Stirling, the thriving rural centre of Mount Barker and dozens of townships established in the mid 1800s, the Adelaide Hills has a built heritage and lifestyle that matches its natural beauty.

The rich history of the Adelaide Hills can be seen in every town and most of the roads that link them. Country cottages buried in thick woods and farmland are there for the observant traveller, so are stately mansions off the main road and even the odd ruin that's been kept in its original form for posterity.

The living heritage continues to evolve, with the Adelaide Hills reviving an almost lost winemaking history to become a thriving wine district boasting some of Australia's best and most popular wineries and around 50 cellar doors.



This book looks at what makes the Adelaide Hills an Australian treasure, with just enough words to inform and entertain without getting in the way of hundreds of images of the stunning landscape. It looks at the significant towns and the features that draw people to visit the Adelaide Hills—the wineries of course but also the walking trails, the conservation parks and a rich calendar of traditional, multicultural, artistic, sporting and culinary events that run throughout the four distinct seasons.

The author

Shane McNally has been a freelance journalist and staff writer for a wide range of national newspapers and magazines since having his first article published in *Racetrack Magazine* at age nineteen. He has worked as a speechwriter for State and Federal politicians and written three previous books—*Sport of Queens*, a history of women in Australian horse racing for Melbourne Books, as well as the novel *Anger Stays* and the poetry anthology *The Lie of Inspiration*. Born in Sydney, Shane has lived most of his adult life on the edge of the Adelaide Hills and writing this book has been a long-held passion project.

BIRDWOOD

Birdwood is located at the northern end of the Adelaide Hills, where the landscape has changed from the greenery of the higher rainfall regions to the drier terrain of the rolling pastures in what is a grain, dairy and sheep grazing region.

The town is best known for its legendary motor museum and the significant part it plays in the annual Bay to Birdwood Run and Classic. The two events run in alternative years for cars produced before 1959 and between 1956 and 1986 sees thousands of restored vintage and classic vehicles make their way from Glenelg on the Adelaide beachside through the suburbs and into the Hills every September. Every April, the town also hosts the Rock & Roll Rendezvous, featuring the best of 1950s, 60s and 70s fashion, cars and music. The Tops of the Torrens Art Gallery and Treasure on Torrens vintage store continue the town's nostalgia theme.

Established in 1848, Birdwood was originally known as Blumberg but, like several other Adelaide Hills towns, had a name change distancing itself from its German heritage during World War I. The hotel boasts the original town name. Birdwood has a population of 1300 and has significant primary and secondary schools serving the district.



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BIRDWOOD 25

EVENTS

From summer and winter wine festivals, to Oakbank's world-famous Easter Racing Carnival, to the time-honoured Bay to Birdwood vintage and classic car rally, town fairs, traditional celebrations and local markets, the Adelaide Hills has something on every month of the year. On top of the dedicated local events, the Adelaide Hills is also a major player in the annual Tour Down Under cycling event, and Stirling sets dates aside to feature shows and events from the Adelaide Fringe Festival.

JANUARY

- ✦ Crush Festival (wine festival throughout Adelaide Hills)
- ✦ Tour Down Under – Australia's biggest cycling event takes in a significant section of the Adelaide Hills, starting and ending various stages in locations such as Birdwood, Woodside, Paracombe, Inglewood and Stirling.
- ✦ Stirling Laneways market (4th Sunday of the month)

FEBRUARY

- ✦ All British Day (vehicle event) – Echunga
- ✦ Stirling Fringe
- ✦ Stirling Laneways market (4th Sunday of the month)

MARCH

- ✦ Mount Barker Show
- ✦ Power of the Past (historic vehicle rally) – Mount Barker
- ✦ Conquer the Summit (trail run) – Mount Barker
- ✦ Stirling Laneways market (4th Sunday of the month)

APRIL

- ✦ Beer & Bite Festival – Gumeracha
- ✦ Hymns & Classics – Hahndorf
- ✦ Oakbank Racing Carnival (March some years)
- ✦ Tasting Australia (various Hills locations)
- ✦ Meadows Easter Fair (varies depending on the fall of Easter)
- ✦ Rock & Roll Rendezvous – Birdwood
- ✦ Dirty Weekend (mountain bike challenge) – Cudlee Creek
- ✦ Stirling Laneways market (4th Sunday of the month)
- ✦ Medieval Fair (Gumeracha)



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EVENTS 187

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SIDEWOOD



SOMERLED



THE LANE VINEYARD



VINTELOPER

Adelaide Hills Wine:
Born 1840s
Reborn 1970s

sample spreads from *Adelaide Hills*

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