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The best of both worlds: Australia's Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa offers luxury in the midst of wilderness and Thanksgiving dinner Down Under.

PLAN NOW FOR A FOODIE THANKSGIVING

Australia's **Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa** (wolganvalley.com) is creating a seven-course Australian take on Thanksgiving with a farm-to-fork dinner inspired by American ingredients and cooking methods. But whenever possible, the resort sources all its food from within a 100-mile radius as part of its commitment to conservation, which is why turkey isn't on the menu. The package starts at \$810 per person per night and is good from November 19 to December 19. It includes

a three-night stay in a suite (sleeps up to four), three meals a day, on-site activities such as horseback riding, mountain biking, and wildlife safaris, and the seven-course Thanksgiving dinner. No cars are allowed on-property, so exploration of the 4,000-acre preserve (bordering the Blue Mountains between two of Australia's national parks; a three-hour drive from Sydney) is on foot, mountain bike, or golf cart.



CHEERS TO SAN FRANCISCO

The Fifth Annual **San Francisco Cocktail Week** (sfcocktailweek.com) takes place from September 19 to 25 with parties, classes, bar crawls, and culinary events devoted to the art of the cocktail. For instance, this year includes the Beaker & Flask party, which showcases the science and molecular mixology of cocktails; an East Bay Cocktail Showdown, where attendees vote on their favorite concoctions from local bartenders; and a Barbary Coast Bazaar with Prohibition-era novelties, games, costumes, and acrobatic performers. Individual tickets and VIP tickets to all events are available and include all drinks.

HOT TIP

BeFrugal.com has a "Fly or Drive Calculator" to help figure out the differences between transportation costs. The calculator considers factors such as distance, car make and model, time for check-in and security at the airport, and ground transportation costs. For example: When a traveler considers taking a mid-month (September) weekend trip from Westlake Village to San Francisco or Las Vegas, driving a 2011 Mercedes GLK 350 or flying from LAX, the site concludes that driving is cheaper in both instances by more than \$250.

BY MALLORY MCCREARY