

on the vine

Stock up on bubbly now

CHAMPAGNE.

It's not exactly cheap but, for the time being, it's more affordable than ever to stock the fridge with genuine French bubbly.

The last few vintages have seen ideal growing conditions in the universal home of Champagne in north-eastern France.

The irony, however, is that while conditions have been ideal for growing, there has never been a worse time for selling premium wines of any description.

Courtesy of the GFC, demand for champers has declined to the point that last year, many producers left half their crop to wither on the vines, just to try and keep prices at a rea-

sonable level.

Even the Brits, who account for one-in-four bottles of French bubbles exported each year, have slashed their consumption by 30% over the past year.

At present, bargain hunters can find iconic bubbly such as Moët for under \$50 a bottle and Veuve Clicquot for \$65.

Not cheap – but if you want to tuck a few bottles away for a special occasion, there's never been a better time.

Our wine reviewer Travis Schultz is managing partner of Schultz Toomey O'Brien Lawyers and a lover of fine food and wine.

Travis Schultz



Good karma

Chew with a view on beautiful Mooloolaba esplanade

LIKE nothing more than taking my visiting relatives out to one of the amazing restaurants on Mooloolaba Esplanade, whether for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

Last weekend, I took my family to Karma Waters Restaurant for lunch: a great choice.

We perused the menu, while sipping our wine and snacking on garlic bread.

All the dishes sounded delicious, which meant choosing what to have for lunch was challenging. But with a menu as incredible as Karma Waters, you can't go wrong with whatever you choose.

In the end, I was torn between two dishes: salt and pepper calamari salad with cherry tomatoes and Spanish onion roasted in balsamic oil, tossed in baby leaf with fresh basil; and from the specials board, grilled barramundi with coconut chilli herb butter.

The choice was too hard, so my sister and I shared them – the best decision.

What better place is there to have a meal?

The sun was shining and the ocean



YUM: Karma Waters' cajun spiced barramundi. Photo: Jason Dougherty

glistening. Absolutely breathtaking.

The staff members at Karma Waters Restaurant were lovely.

They were helpful when trying to order, gave you space when you needed it, and were at your side when they were required.

The esplanade attracts locals and visitors from everywhere, which makes it a prime spot to people-watch.

Karma Waters Restaurant is open seven days a week from 7.30am til late. It is fully licensed and BYO wine. Phone 5452 6722.

– KRISTY MUIR

dining guide

ontherange



Tranquil Park Resort

This Mountain hideaway has views across the landscape of the Glasshouse Mountains and out to the sea. An extensive menu includes the best steaks, seafood, traditional Irish and old English dishes. We cater for all, with a budget menu for lunch and dinner or choose from an a la carte menu. After your meal the lounge bar offers a cosy setting for a quiet drink with friends. Local & Imported Beers on tap. Open daily for lunch or dinner

483 Mountain View Road, Maleny
5494 2544 www.tranquilpark.com.au

palmwoods



Palmwoods Hotel

Experience the Legend.... For the best in steaks and live music Bistro lunch and dinner specials every day plus... Tuesdays "Wine Night" and Thursdays "Steak or Schnitzels" Free Live Entertainment – Bands Fri & Sat nights plus Sunday PM Featuring "Palmwoods has got the Blues" - 3 Blues acts 3rd Saturday of the month from 5.30pm. Courtesy bus available Thursday to Sunday

28-34 Main St Palmwoods
1300 PALMWOODS
www.palmwoodshotel.com.au

woombye



Restaurant Chez Claude

Authentic, traditional French restaurant. Local, seasonal homemade cuisine. Delicious & affordable. Open Lunch Wed to Sun & Dinner Tue to Sat. Lunch menu – 2 courses from \$18.90 Dinner menu – 3 courses \$38.50 / 2 courses \$29.90 Indoor & outdoor dining. Fully licensed.

4 Pinegrove Rd, Woombye 5442 1511
www.chezclauderestaurant.com.au

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Bridges Bistro

Welcome back Damien Bridges Bistro offers a relaxed and affordable experience. Bridges is an excellent option to dine locally A la Carte menu with great blackboard specials. Children Friendly. Lunch: Wed, Thurs, Fri Sat, Sunday 12 Noon to 2.00pm Dinner: Thurs, Fri, Saturday 5.30pm to 8.00pm. Booking Recommended

Yandina Bowls
30 Steggalls Road, Yandina 5446 7126

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the guide

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