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10 Things To Do Before You Turn 10

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT // The Brighton hut at Beach Huts Middleton; night exterior and outdoor dining at Atrium at Greenock Creek; the pretty Vineyard Cottage at Seppeltsfield; Birks River House at Goolwa; inside the converted church of Christabelle Cottage; heritage-listed Dumas House with its heritage-listed oak tree.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

BAROSSA & SURROUNDS

ATRIUM AT GREENOCK CREEK

There are worse ways to spend a summer evening than sitting on the verandah of your own private vineyard residence, listening to the rustling leaves of a nearby grove of 100-year-old eucalypts and sipping on a glass of cold, crisp white wine. Atrium at Greenock Creek, the newest venture of Jim and Helen Carreker of The Louise and its acclaimed Appellation restaurant, is located on the highest point overlooking the Western Barossa Valley and is surrounded by its own 42-acre estate. With a private chef on hand, a wine fridge bursting with the region's finest, an open-plan glass-fronted living and dining area, three en-suite bedrooms, an outdoor central atrium fringed by olive trees and 100 of the world's

best wineries within spitting distance, a stay at Atrium is – like a fine wine – something to savour and delight in.

[Details // Western Barossa Valley, SA. From \\$1540 per night until April 2010, then from \\$2200 per night. www.atriumresidence.com.au, \(08\) 8562 3714.](#)

CHRISTABELLE COTTAGE

Marriage proposals, weddings, perhaps even the odd conception (of the non-immaculate kind) . . . you name it, it's happened at Christabelle Cottage, a delightfully renovated circa 1849 church in the small town of Lyndoch in SA's Barossa Valley. And it's not hard to imagine why. The ironstone exterior and cornucopia of posies and fresas that line the garden paths make for a romantic weekend retreat of the highest order. One of the oldest buildings to be found in SA, it's designed to cater to total indulgence, with no lack of provisions in the gorgeous Baltic pine kitchen. Its elegant cathedral ceilings, open log fire and stone floors make the place neither "churchy" nor austere, while the sun-filled atrium and four-person spa bath lure guests back year after year. If you can find the strength to drag yourself away from the charms of Christabelle, the gourmet delights of the Barossa are at your disposal. We've found a small slice of heaven. Amen. [Details // King St, Lyndoch, SA. From \\$185 night. www.bellescapes.com, \(08\) 8524 4825.](#)

DUMAS HOUSE

Charles Dumas was something of a pioneer in the Mt Barker area in the Adelaide Hills. He founded the local *Mt Barker Courier* newspaper in the 1860s, which remains alive and well today, and in fact his son went on to become the legendary Sir Lloyd Dumas, MD of *The Advertiser*, AAP chairman, Australian Reuters director and many other illustrious positions. Their now heritage-listed home on Druids Ave was painstakingly restored and re-opened by Dayne Bartlett in 2006, and it now provides a warm and welcoming opportunity for visitors to relive the Dumas family's glory days. Historic touches and *Courier* memorabilia are

scattered throughout the three-bedroom home, which doesn't want for mod-cons either. But it's the lovely gardens that really capture your attention. In particular, the tremendous century-plus English Oak that dominates the backyard, which is also heritage-listed in its own right. Historic Hahndorf is ten minutes down the road, along with all the delights of the Adelaide Hills food and wine region. [Details // Druids Ave, Mt Barker, SA. From \\$245 per night. www.dumashouse.com, 0417 814 815.](#)

SEPPELTSLFIELD VINEYARD COTTAGE

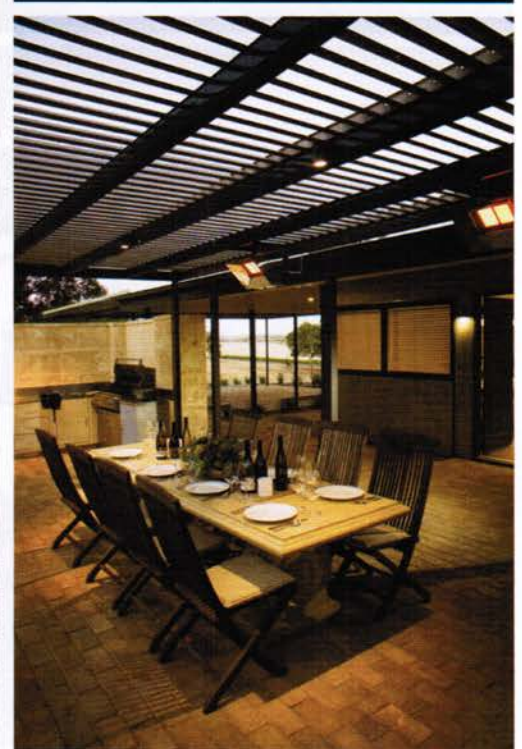
When Prussian settlers Christian and Louise Hemmerling came to SA in search of a better quality of life, they found it on the fertile land of Greenock Creek in the Barossa Valley. One of their eight children and her new husband lived in a cottage nearby, where they raised five children of their own, and where the husband worked at the nearby Seppelt Winery as a Cellarman. Four generations later, Seppeltsfield Vineyard Cottage still stands and, although its simple stone structure and mud and wood-beamed ceilings are clues to its history, the current owners have turned it into a gorgeous boutique holiday home for two. The cottage is these days a far cry from what its earlier hard-working inhabitants would have known, but the views, the peace and quiet and the fresh country air are timeless. [Details // Greenock, SA. From \\$490 per couple, per night. www.seppeltsfieldvineyardcottage.com.au, \(08\) 8563 4059.](#)

COASTAL

BEACH HUTS MIDDLETON

Load the car with buckets, spades and sunhats: you're off to visit the Beach Huts in Middleton for the quintessential seaside experience. Sandwiched halfway between Victor Harbor and Goolwa on the Fleurieu Peninsula, this too-cute-for-words outfit consists of 12 spacious, self-contained and beautifully decorated beach huts, sleeping between two and five, all en-suite, and some with outdoor spa. Named after 12

If you can find the strength to drag yourself away from the charms of Christabelle Cottage, the gourmet delights of the Barossa are at your disposal.





famous Australian beaches, each hut has a seaside theme but with differing décor; the individual flourishes (driftwood furnishings, pot plants, chequered tablecloths and wall hangings) are exquisite. Brekkie provisions are supplied daily and some huts have a fully equipped kitchen, but if you tire of cooking then the award-winning Blue Restaurant is just 50m away, where a drink on the deck is the perfect way to watch the sun go down. [Details // Charles St, Middleton, SA. From \\$125 per night. www.beachhuts.com.au, \(08\) 8554 3933.](#)

BIRKS RIVER HOUSE

In 1910 a wealthy businessman named Napier Birks came across a leafy spot on the banks of the Murray near Goolwa, and set about building a home, a boathouse and a private marina, which he would modestly

name Birks Harbour. In the years after Napier's death, the three properties succumbed to subdivision and disrepair, but have since been reunited, restored and refurbished. Now the trio of two holiday homes and a working marina are once more as attractive a river precinct as you could hope to find on the whole of the Murray. In 2009, Birks' original home was converted into two luxurious self-contained retreats and renamed Birks River House. The Garden Retreat sleeps four and has French doors overlooking the grounds, while the smaller Riverview Retreat is on a mezzanine level with a balcony overlooking the Murray. Both are open-plan and spacious, decorated with original artwork, and share a terraced pool and relaxation deck. [Details // Liverpool Rd, Goolwa, SA. From \\$250 per night. www.birksharbour.com.au, \(08\) 8555 0338.](#)

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP // Deep Creek Retreat on SA's Fleurieu Peninsula; the Summer House in Port Elliot; inside Splash Luxury Beachfront Retreat in Robe; backyard pool and the nautical interior of Birks River House in Goolwa.

DEEP CREEK RETREAT

This is a holiday home for which the absence of plasma screens, iPod docks, gourmet kitchens and spa baths is the selling point. Deep Creek Retreat on SA's Fleurieu Peninsula is built on sustainable principles and is completely solar-powered. A place to switch off the mobile and the laptop and to savour the simple life for a week or two. With a comfortable but sparsely styled interior, sheets of glass for walls, a view out over valley meadows, orchards and olive groves, and surrounded by a walled country garden, this abode makes honest use of the word "retreat". Forget having to race the other vacationers to bag the best spot on the beach; the only other guest you'll be crossing swords with is Mother Nature, and maybe the odd kangaroo. Deep Creek Conservation Park, Cape Jervis and the ferry terminal for Kangaroo Island are all nearby. [Details // Three Bridges Rd, Deep Creek, SA. From \\$175 per night. www.takeabreak.com.au](#)

SPLASH LUXURY BEACHFRONT RETREAT

When ex-journalist and Sydneysider Rayna Hooper decided to move to the small fishing port of Robe on SA's Limestone Coast and start up her own property business, she was certainly doing Australia's population of holidaymakers a huge favour. The result – Robe Lifestyle Properties – is a selection of chic beachside, lakeside, harbourside and town house holiday outfits, all simply but immaculately decorated, all designed to compliment the laid back coastal flavour of the area, and – let's face it – all worthy contenders for our 100 Great Australian Holiday Homes. The three-bedroom Splash Luxury Beachfront Retreat is just one fine example of many; light and white, wooden and wicker furnishings, window shutters, smooth tiles, oversized beds, an open fire and a seafront deck overlooking the white sand. Where's the catch? We can't find it. [Details // Victoria St, Robe, SA. From \\$310 per night. www.robelifestyle.com.au, 1300 760 629.](#)

THE SUMMER HOUSE

This chic three-bedroom property in Port Elliot wouldn't be out of place in the Hamptons, Long Island's playground for



America's rich and famous. The interior decor is monotone and modish, a calm oasis of neutral colours, crisp white linens, sleek black plasmas, sparkling silver appliances and cool marble work surfaces. In summer there's a vast spotted gum deck for entertainment, plus several nearby surf beaches, bike trails and coastal walks with stunning views of the Encounter Coast. During the colder months, guests have the whole of the historic Port Elliot area to explore, with its picturesque Horseshoe Bay waterfront and every kind of dining establishment on hand, from bakeries to gourmet restaurants. Or, if you're feeling less adventurous, there's always the option to just sink into one of the designer sofas in front of the remote-operated fireplace and catch up on all those movies you haven't seen from the house's extensive DVD library.

[Details // Charlotte St, Port Elliot, SA.](#)
[From \\$100 per person, per night.](#)
www.pebe.com.au, (08) 8363 4510.

