Sip, sip, hooray! Wineries, breweries and distilleries

Now that the kids are back at school and the cool weather has us rugged up, make the most of the beautiful Bellarine and Surf Coast this winter – check out some of the region's finest breweries, wineries and distilleries.

Noodledoof Brewing and Distilling Co – Koroit

You won't find many noodles at Noodledoof, what you will find is some seriously good brews. This craft brewery and distillery is found in a refurbished motor garage in the little village of Koroit. There's something for every taste here, whether you're a beer connoisseur or gin junkie. Noodledoof's gins are a collaboration with the local Aboriginal corporation Worn Gundidj and they hero Indigenous botanicals such as correa alba, lemon myrtle and mountain pepper. The beers change seasonally, so there's always something new to discover. They've also got a stacked menu of hearty comfort food to soak up all those drinks.

On Friday nights in August, Noodledoof is holding its weekly trivia events. Teams of up to 10 people are welcome to try to win beer and merchandise, but only seven tables are available, so bookings are essential.

Details: www.noodledoof.com.

Otways Distillery – Forrest

High in the hinterlands, this micro distillery is doing brilliant things with gin. These organic spirits showcase the flavours of The Otways, with locally sourced and foraged ingredients. The crew don't stop at gin. They also whip up small batch vodka, limoncello, blood orangecello and a grappa-style moonshine. The Otways Distillery spirit and ready to drink range is available at the Forrest General Store.

Details: www.otwaysdistillery.com.au.

Make the most of the local wineries, breweries and distilleries this winter. (iStock) Inset: Otways Distillery produce small batch spirits such as gins, vodkas, limoncello and grappa-style moonshine. (Supplied)

Suffoir Winery, Brewery and Distillery – MacArthur

All the good things in life have collided to create this one-stop bevvy shop in MacArthur. This working farm is home to a family-owned and run boutique micro-winery, brewery, cidery, distillery and cellar door. All their drops are produced on-site in small quantities, so every visit can be different. It's a must-visit when heading to nearby Budj Bim National Park. Open Thursday to Sunday. Details: www.suffoirwines.com.au.

Locally sourced Aussie ingredients transform into Greek and Mediterranean flavors at 1915. (Supplied)

Venture out, be seen at 1915

This winter, there's no better place to be than beneath the iconic North Geelong smokestack, within a century-old red-brick boiler house at Federal Mills. An electric atmosphere and powerful local history have been reignited by chef Andy Symeonakis of Kingsleys Steak and Crab House, Hellenic Republic and the Lorne Hotel.

Andy and the team at 1915 serve up top-notch, locally-sourced modern Australian fare that reflects a Greek heritage combined with Mediterranean flavours.

The venue name, '1915', celebrates the year in which the Federal Woollen Mills was first opened as the largest manufacturer in the region.

The soaring two-storey conversion of a heritage-listed boiler house is a sight to behold, with original exposed brick, industrial features and an impressively high vaulted ceiling.

An iconic window façade is the centrepiece for the split-level space with a ground floor, mezzanine and adjoining roof deck. You'll find a cocktail bar on each level, mixing in-demand signature concoctions, such as Powerhouse Spritz, or the more decadent White Chocolate Passionfruit Martini – these are not to be missed!

1915 is perfect for intimate dinners, long table celebrations, cocktail catch-ups, and everything in between. The venue also has the capability to host up to 550 of your nearest and dearest for birthdays, weddings, or special celebrations of any size. With over 400 free car parks on site, the 1915 team looks forward to your next visit.

1915 is located at PH2, Federal Mills, 33 Mackey Street, North Geelong. The venue is open for lunch and dinner, seven days per week. Bookings are recommended and can be made via www.1915.com.au or 0499 33 1915.