LA PÉTANQUE LIVING IS BACK

Just a ten-minute drive down the road from their restaurant in Main Ridge, Judy and Philippe are re opening La Pétanque Living in Flinders.

The French Style boutique is moving to another cottage with furniture, home wares, gifts, books, stationary, wearable art, jewellery & skincare. The furniture & home wares are mostly French provincial style.

You will find French perforated writing and note pads by Rhodia, a selection of interesting French greeting cards and V.I.P. handbag inserts from Tintamara of Paris. The V.I.P. is a product that Judy believes every 'handbag loving' woman should not be without, and the hard to find, fabric enclosed woven French designed shopping baskets are also returning. Australian textile designer, Zoe Wall's silk and felted merino wool scarves are back, for those who missed out last year. Figurines from Paris, replicas of originals shown in the Louvre museum, will also be gracing the shelves.

Australian modern design company Fink and Co. is well represented with their stunning coloured water jugs, platters, sushi dishes, wine coolers and trays. Catering for their male shoppers with Lexon, Paris designed gifts for men and also their L'Occitane skincare range includes an extensive selection of men's products.

Judy's passion for interesting shape and design is reflected in the French, Italian and Brazilian designer jewellery she has chosen. " I am always on the lookout for new, quirky gift ideas and I only buy objects that I would buy for myself and love."

If you have been to the Main Ridge restaurant you will notice that most of what you see in the restaurant you can buy in the boutique. The Villeroy & Boch plates, the Luigi Bormioli glasses, the Spanish glass plates, the hurricane lamps and votive holders are all sold in the cottage.

"The availability of the Flinders cottage has suddenly been brought forward, so with very little time, we are endeavouring to be open in some form for the Easter long weekend. It will be a little like the restaurant, which is also a work in progress. We are looking forward to the completion of the new restaurant extension this year, which will open the restaurant up to a beautiful view of the vineyard and olive groves and a new open-air deck. The interior of the boutique will also change with time."

" We have always loved Flinders and are thrilled to be part of this community."

La Pétanque Living, 39 Cook St, Flinders. Ph. 0417 320 361 Opening hours TBA but will be OPEN WEEKENDS.

FIRST FAMILY OF GLASS

As the contemplative ethers of autumn and winter fill the air with a welcome break from summer's exuberant activity this seasonal respite is arguably one of the best times for a laidback and highly educational visit to one of the Peninsula's prized treasures - **RED HILL'S GORDON STUDIO GLASSBLOWERS**.

The glassworks studio is the brainchild of wife and husband team Eileen Gordon and Grant Donaldson, who belong to Australia's illustrious "first family of glass", Eileen's parents Rish and Alasdair Gordon being the acclaimed international copper wheel engravers, an exacting technique now considered a dying art, and her brother Kevin enjoys a world-wide reputation for his contemporary glass engraving.

Objet d'art pieces by members of the whole family, and other very select glass artists, are beautifully displayed in an exhibition showroom on the mezzanine above, and overlooking, the working glass studio which fires below.

Autumn/winter presents a time when the production of new and challenging works are in progress, as the cooler weather offers the ideal climate for the artists to make experimental artworks.

It is well worth your while to make a family day journey and spend fascinating time watching the glassisans (glass artisans) tame the beast who burns 24 hours a day in the firebox – all from the safety of the mezzanine gallery. All your questions can be answered on the spot, and one is free to discuss a special customized artwork that one might desire to develop collaboratively with the studio experts. Over recent years many charming and unique garden sculptures have been developed this way for their happy clients.

The glass gallery carries a remarkably varied collection of glassworks, from small perfume bottles and bowls, to large sculptural display pieces to set your imagination leaping into reality! The translucency of glass, and the gorgeous colours available, lend magic to winter's candlelight and cosy atmospheres – art glass comes to life as the spell of bursts of winter sunlight strikes its crystalline surface, or smoulders vibrantly under the romantic hue of soft artful lighting.

-Michael Berry

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