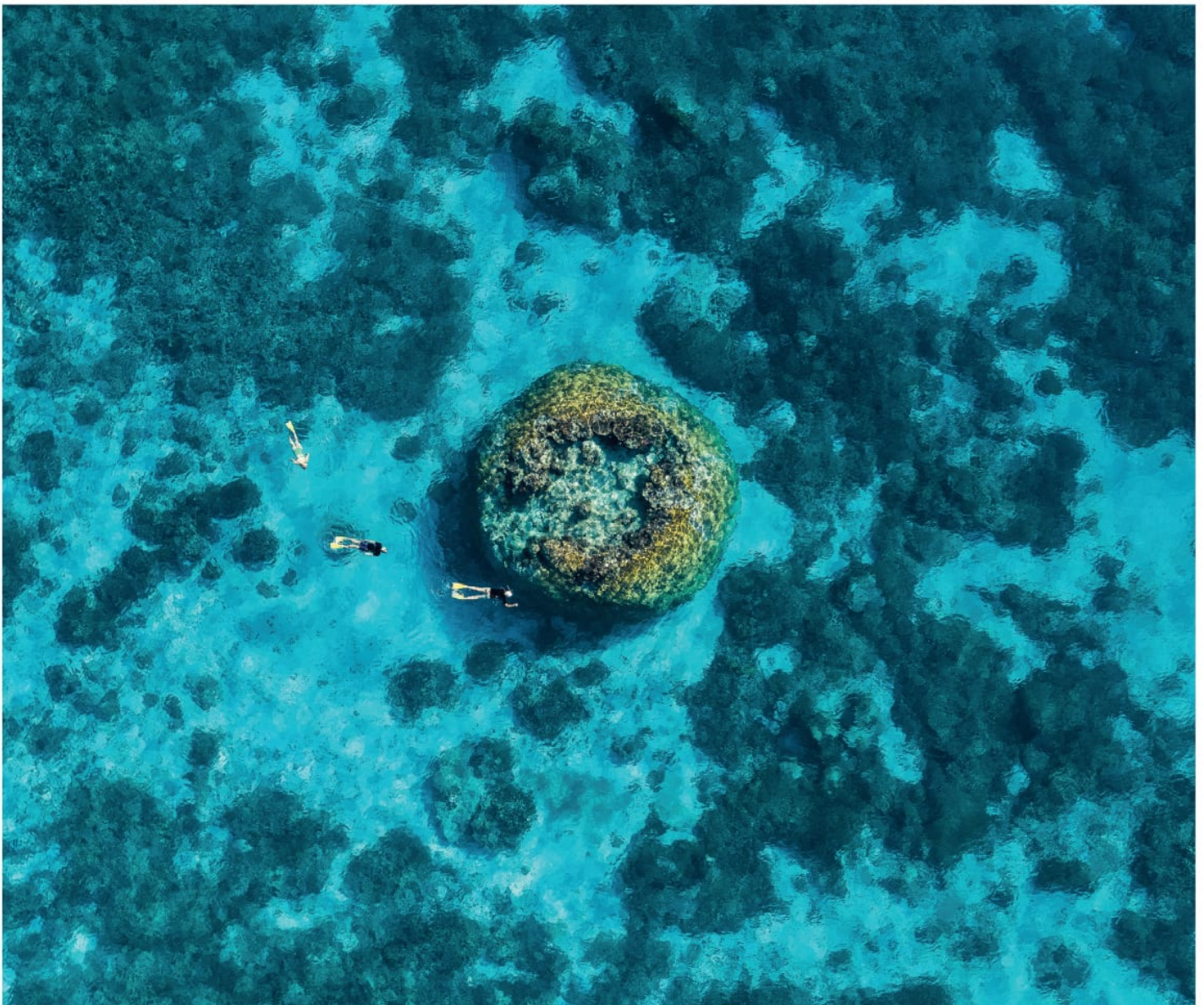


SPIRIT OF AUSTRALIA

QANTAS

THE 21 **BES** TRAVEL EXPERIENCES OF 2021



WILSON ISLAND, QLD

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WINE WEEKEND

THE
BEST
N°19



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Barossa Valley

Acclaimed, yes. But rest on its laurels? Not a chance. This historic region continues to entice with clever new approaches to an age-old industry, writes Alexis Buxton-Collins.

The wine has been flowing in the Barossa Valley, just an hour's drive north-east of Adelaide, for almost 180 years. But tradition shares the floor with innovation in Australia's most hallowed wine region as seventh-generation growers and winemakers introduce new ideas. Spend a weekend exploring the latest additions, including luxury accommodation in a French-style farmhouse and a vineyard where the soil is as important as the types of grapes produced.





Stay

Drive down an avenue of manicured plane trees past century-old grenache vines and you'll discover a slice of southern France in the middle of the valley floor at Rowland Flat. Modelled on a classic Provençal farmhouse, **Le Mas** (lemasbarossa.com.au), a boutique homestead of four suites, strikes an elegant and understated balance.

French armoires, silk curtains and objets d'art decorate each room and an airy conservatory houses the guests-only restaurant, The Orangerie. Take in the evening breeze outside with a bottle from a wine list that

leans heavily on the Barossa but leaves room for champagne, too. Then savour hearty traditional fare such as moules-frites, escargots and coq au vin prepared by matriarch Marie-France, who makes liberal use of a well-tended vegetable patch.

Relax in the shade of the large gums lining the Para River or take a dip in the heated mineral pool tucked behind the small onsite vineyard. And when it's time to explore further afield, grab one of the property's teal e-bikes and visit some of the nearby wineries or have the owners take you for a spin in their restored Citroën 2CV.

