

MAEVE O'MEARA, FOOD PRESENTER, AUTHOR AND DIRECTOR OF GOURMET FOOD SAFARIS

FAVOURITE EDIBLE ESCAPE - Central Otago region, New Zealand

WHY GO - This region has it all – the air is crisp as apples, the locals are all seriously lovely and the food and wine is superb.

I'm a big fan of the incredible flavour and refinement of the pinot noir wines from this region. I like Carrick Wines (carrick.co.nz) and the wonderful Wild Earth set on a rushing mountain river. I like to try the wines matched with a platter of local produce smoked in the ingenious barrel smoker developed by the owner (wildearthwines.co.nz).

I also head to the Chop Shop in Arrowtown for local produce used really well, and chef James Stapley's cooking at Bistro Gentil in Wanaka overlooking the lake is incredible (bistrogentil.co.nz).

DON'T MISS Ginger crunch at Vudu cafe and Larder in Queenstown is a groovy place with great coffee and all sorts of comfy nanna biscuits. They are superb (vudu.co.nz).

ESSENTIALS centralotagonz.com



Wild Earth, Central Otago Region, New Zealand

See gourmetsafaris.com.au