

Celebrity escape

Next week

More celebrities share their favourite Australian places



The true-blue experience

Make like a star and nominate your favourite Australian holiday spot that's like no other, writes **Angela Saurine**

THERE'S nothing like a word-of-mouth recommendation when it comes to choosing a holiday.

Tourism Australia had this in mind when they asked 80 high-profile Australians to share their best domestic holiday tales with the world.

But it's not just celebrities who can be Friends of Australia – you, too, can show off your favourite holiday spots by uploading a photo to the new website www.nothinglikeaustralia.com and writing 25 words about the destination, starting with “There's nothing like...”

The best entries for each state will receive a \$5000 holiday, and the overall winner receives a \$20,000 holiday.

Peter Evans: Kangaroo Island, South Australia

IF YOU are into foodie experiences, as Peter Evans is, Kangaroo Island has a plethora of options.

The *My Kitchen Rules* judge only recently discovered the island, off the coast of South Australia, and had an amazing time.

“If you love food, then there is a lot of wonderful things to experience, such as the Southsea Abalone Farm, Will's Rare Breeds Farm tours, wonderful honey from the bee farms, spectacular fishing and lobsters, as well as the famous



Kangaroo Island sheep milk farm for amazing haloumi and other cheeses,” Evans says.

“If you go there, you must stay at Nick Hannaford's Lifetime Private

Retreat to experience all of the above and stay in one of his guesthouses on the beach.”

The celebrity chef also loves Faraway Bay in Western Australia's Kimberley, where he is hosting fishing and bush-cooking classes in October.

Louise Sauvage: Great Ocean Road, Victoria



PARALYMPIAN Louise Sauvage has made the mammoth drive from the west coast to the east coast a couple of

times, and always takes the Great Ocean Road.

She says seeing the Apostles and stopping in towns such as Lorne, Apollo Bay and Torquay is a must-do Australian experience.

“It's a great drive,” Sauvage says. “I drive with one arm and have one arm on the accelerator and the brake, so it gives you a good workout turning and driving along. There's so many quirky little places you can stay.”

Another of Sauvage's favourites is Phillip Island, which is best known for its sunset fairy penguin parade.

“When they're nesting you can see inside the nesting boxes and see the baby penguins,” she says.



Steve Liebmann: Noosa, Queensland

TELEVISION and radio broadcaster Steve Liebmann and his wife used to go to Honolulu in Hawaii for their holidays. Eventually they realised there was no point spending nine hours on a plane when they could get a similar atmosphere and environment just a short flight away.

They have since stayed in Noosa every year for the past decade, which Liebmann says is a great place to go to relax, read and eat. The couple always try to stay on the main shopping and dining strip, Hastings St.



JUST BEACHY: The view from Lifetime Private Retreat on Kangaroo Island (top) and Season, right on the beach at Noosa (above).

“We like the people and the wide variety of food from all the restaurants there,” Liebmann says. “One of our favourites is Season, which is right in the centre of Hastings St so you can sit and look straight out to the water.”

John Williamson: Alice Springs, Northern Territory

WHEN it comes to a true-blue holiday, John Williamson looks no further than the Ooraminna cattle station, near Alice Springs in the Northern Territory. The country crooner has stayed there several times and

loves to sit around a camp fire and cook a barbecue.

“They have a few cottages there and a little village that was built for a movie set,” Williamson says.

“When I go out there I have my own little camp. I like to smoke chops or sausages and cook them slowly so they get that smoky flavour.”

Williamson wrote a song called *Three Sons* about relatives of the Hayes family, who have run the station for generations.

“If you spend a couple of days there, you can go walking to this amazing old bush down the creek,” he says.

“It's just so colourful. It's great for photographs. I went around taking photos at sunset.”

