

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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**Flinders Hotel on Victoria's beautiful Mornington Peninsula**  
**Charm, style and an eventful history since 1889**

The Mornington Peninsula's Flinders Hotel has been famous for many things since it was built in 1889. There was the mysterious fire that burned the original property to the ground in 1926. There were the local characters who used to ride their horses right into the pub.

Then there was the celebrated beach party in the 1980s where the dance floor collapsed because of the weight of trucked-in sand, and left revellers waist high in sand and water from the cellar. There was also Eric, the much-loved local fisherman who dropped in for just one beer every morning for 70 years, and whose nickname is now immortalised in the hotel's own 'Eccas' beer.

And if there's one clue to the success of this iconic hotel that has become 'a village within a village', it's the respect and passion the family owners have for the history of this property and the quaint fishing village of Flinders.

**Three generations of hotel patrons**

The village has many third generation residents, and the hotel itself has entered its third 'generation', with the rebuilt property of 1929 now sensitively and carefully extended into a multi-award winning complex. The hotel's essence as the heart of the village was front-of-mind as new bar, dining and meeting facilities were created, 40 boutique hotel rooms were added in landscaped gardens and the new Georgie Bass Café and Cookery opened just across the road.

Flinders Hotel is now being discovered by visitors from around the globe who love its historic charm, its gentle wit and casual sophistication.

It offers the very best of all worlds to visitors who want to stay in a quaint village that's within walking distance of the beach (5 minutes), play a round of golf at Victoria's oldest golf club perched atop nearby cliffs, and explore inland where wineries, horse riding, national parks, walks, farm gates, mazes and grand gardens are just a 10 minute drive away.

Flinders Hotel features:

**The Deck Bar and Bistro**

Dubbed 'The Deck' by the locals, it's a new, expansive and relaxed space which flows effortlessly from indoors to outdoors. Sensational food and attentive service make it Flinders' most popular spot for a quiet drink, lunch or dinner.

**Quarters**

40 very generously-sized guest rooms, with equally generous bathrooms, set just behind the hotel in a landscaped retreat. (One of the hotel owners loves cruising, so wanted 'top deck' rooms that were larger than standard hotel rooms). The relaxed and supremely comfortable style is inspired by the Peninsula's coastline, with every little detail considered right down to the owners' favourite brand of Abode sheets and Aveda toiletries.

## **Georgie Bass Café and Cookery**

The café with its fresh regional and wholesome food focus, plenty of outdoor dining spaces, gardens featuring lush boxes of herbs and vegetables, and a new cooking school equipped with top of the line Miele appliances have made Georgie Bass the talk of the town. George Bass, Matthew Flinders' fellow explorer and best mate, would surely applaud this bold adventure into new culinary realms. It's open seven days a week for breakfast, lunch and snacks.

## **Fine dining**

The kitchen team at Terminus, the former fine dining room at the Flinders Hotel, scored four chefs' hats awards in four years. They're still doing totally magical things with food, but now they're creating fabulous wine dinners and specially tailored private dinners and events for conferences, birthdays, weddings and other celebrations. Aided and abetted by Director of Wine, Raul Moreno Yague from Spain, Terminus is about to evolve into a new dining experience...so watch this delicious space.

## **Peninsula**

Book the Peninsula conference facilities at Flinders Hotel, and you'll never, ever overhear the meeting next door. Because there won't be one. While this light-filled space divides into three, including breakout rooms, only one event is ever accepted at the one time even if there are only a dozen delegates.

Peninsula brings together the four elements which are absolutely essential to a successful meeting: fully soundproofed and state of the art meeting rooms, the highest quality menus created by a team which has won four chefs' hats awards, beautifully comfortable accommodation and a huge range of activities for delegates. Think of everything from cooking lessons to winery tours on horseback to golf on Victoria's most historic course, and you get the conference picture.

Peninsula is available for meetings of up to 80 people theatre or cabaret style, and sit-down private dinners of up to 120.

## **Keep discovering**

Explorers Matthew Flinders and George Bass made major discoveries around Australia, including the stretch of water named Bass Strait. The Flinders Hotel celebrates their adventurous spirits and the local history by keeping memories alive throughout the property.

For example, George Bass was a ship's surgeon and botanist as well as an explorer. Botanic motifs figure heavily throughout the hotel, on the Hermes-inspired scarves worn by staff, on menus and artworks. Snippets of history and amusing stories about Flinders and the hotel are told on menus and in room compendiums. The Flinders Hotel foyer is also an historic photo gallery, with images of the hotel over the years, Flinders and the surrounding areas.

Guests who arrive at the Flinders Hotel for the first time are rewarded with the discovery of a charming little village and a hotel which continues to surprise, from its dining experiences to the relaxed ambience of its accommodation, and Georgie Bass's fresh new take on home grown, house made and local produce such as smoked yoghurt, heritage tomatoes and locally foraged wild garlic.

## **An historical snapshot of Flinders**

Located on Western Port Bay near the south western tip of the Mornington Peninsula, the village of Flinders was named after the intrepid explorer, Matthew Flinders, who with fellow explorer, ship's surgeon and botanist George Bass, sailed from Sydney in 1798 to prove that ocean divided mainland Australia and Tasmania. Bass Strait was then named in honour of George. By naming its new café and cookery 'Georgie Bass', the Flinders Hotel has brought these two great seafaring mates together again.

After the original Flinders Hotel was burned down in 1927, a more fire-resistant red brick hotel was constructed on the site in 1929. It had nine accommodation rooms upstairs, and its bistro, bar and ladies' lounge continued to provide the community heartbeat of Flinders.

A family with local property interests bought the hotel in 2008 and, with a passion for the hotel, the region and its history, created a 'wrap around' renovation of the second generation building. The hotel's essence as a meeting point for the village will always be respected and treasured.

## **Location and attractions**

Flinders has long been a quiet little fishing village (local mussels are still sold from its pier) and has a resident population of about 850. The village has slowly become more sophisticated without losing its natural charm, and now features excellent cafes, antique shops, art galleries, boutiques, a general store selling local produce and wines, and specialty stores such as an historic bakery and artisan chocolate shop.

Flinders also has a foot in the beautiful Mornington Peninsula countryside and farmlands which sweep down right to the village edge. It really is the centre of the southern Mornington Peninsula's universe, with myriad land and water-based activities.

Flinders beach and pier are just a 5-minute walk from the hotel, and beautiful swimming and surf beaches are an easy drive away. National parks provide quiet, contemplative walking time, while kilometres of cycling tracks and trails let you pump up the exercise level.

Also close by is horse riding around wineries, along bush tracks and on an ocean beach. The golf course atop the cliffs is Victoria's oldest – and a badly hit ball may sail straight into the ocean below. Vineyards and cellar doors, farmgates, produce stores, grand gardens, mazes, art galleries, antique barns, markets and a dozen other golf courses are within easy reach.

And it's only a 15 minute drive cross country to reach the Port Phillip Bay coastline and attractions such as natural hot springs.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

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