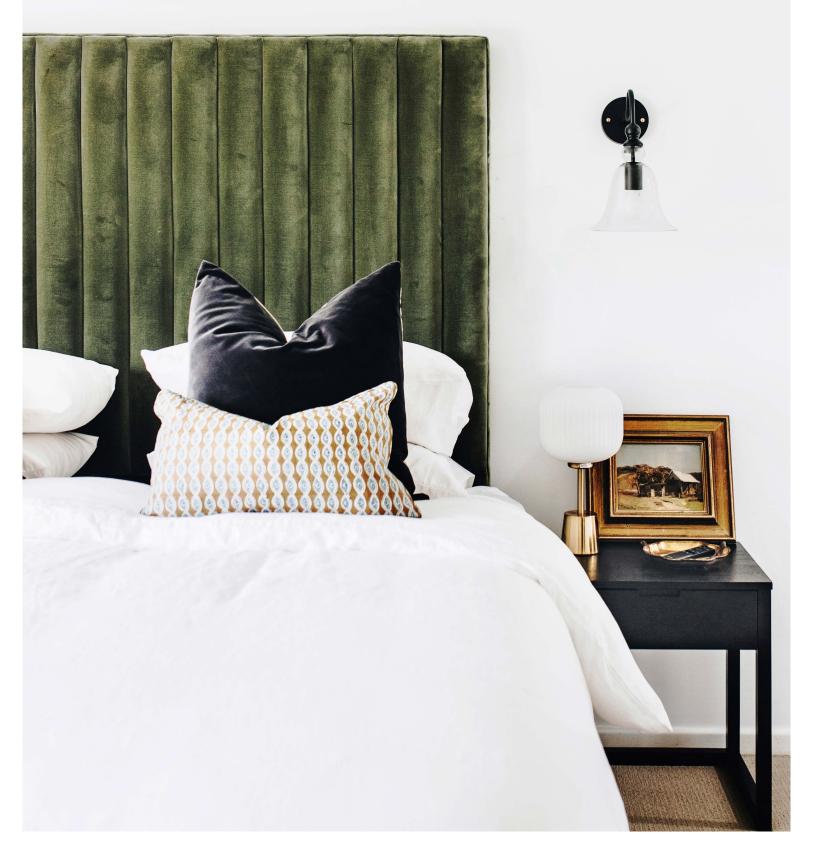




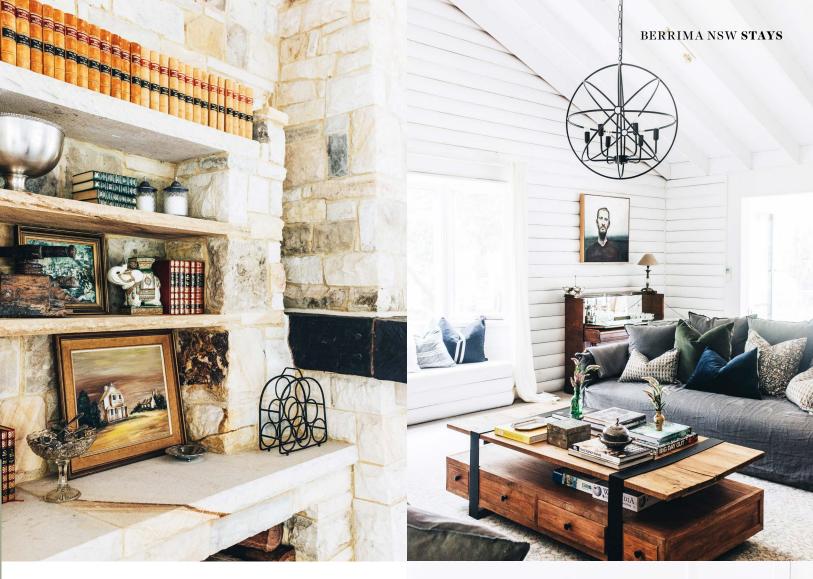
## THE GREAT ESCAPE

THINKING OF GETTING AWAY THIS CHRISTMAS? HEAD TO COROMANDEL HOMESTEAD BERRIMA. WITH TWO BEAUTIFUL HOMES TO STAY IN, IT'LL BE A CELEBRATION TO REMEMBER.

WORDS KYLIE IMESON & LISA EASEY PHOTOGRAPHY ABBIE MELLÉ







AS YOU DRIVE THROUGH THE GATES and down the drive lined with flowers and lush shrubs to Coromandel Homestead Berrima, you find yourself exhaling. This is the perfect place for large families or groups seeking a relaxing countryside escape.

Located outside Berrima in the NSW Southern Highlands, the one-hectare property is a passion project for owners Catherine De Giorgio and Iain Melhuish, who purchased Coromandel Homestead two years ago and have renovated the two residences on site that were built in the 1980s.

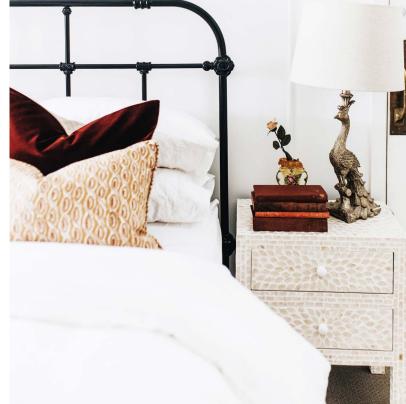
"We have several projects in the pipeline, including a glasshouse and a big vegie garden," says Catherine.

The Lodge, the larger of the two dwellings, is a weatherboard abode that accommodates up to eight guests, with generous communal living areas. The lounge room – also known as the Coromandel Great Room – is centred around a vast sandstone fireplace, while the dining hall overlooking the lawn and gardens beyond is just made for entertaining, hosting up to 14 people around the table – perfect for Christmas lunch.

Vintage and antique treasures create a sense of history throughout the Lodge. "I wanted to fill the home with personal pieces for a few reasons: because I love old things, as a nod to the older style of the property, and to be as sustainable as possible," says Catherine. "Both homes also have original artworks – many are by Olsen Gallery artist Janis Clarke, my talented brother-in-law."

The Lodge has four bedrooms in various configurations – the master one with a king, the other a queen, the next >

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with two king singles, and finally a king single and trundle – and all the beds are topped with quality linens. I stayed in the master suite and loved waking up and looking across the lawn to the pond with ducks and other birds flitting about.

For even more space, Coromandel Cottage is a short stroll from the Lodge, but remains private with its own driveway and entrance. The timber A-frame cottage, which sleeps four people, was built as the smaller accompaniment to the Lodge, but boasts the same gorgeous features, such as a fully equipped kitchen and living area, plus an outdoor claw-foot bath for a leisurely soak amid the greenery. You can book both homes, which works well for big groups and families that want to spread out. I'd thoroughly recommend it for a Christmas get-together.

The hero feature of Coromandel Homestead – named after the ship that transported original owner Billy's ancestors to Australia – is its sprawling gardens.

Persimmons, pears, crabapples, cherry blossoms,

Japanese maples, romantic old roses and huge conifers provide beauty and shade across the landscaped grounds. You'll also find a clay tennis court, fittingly named Coromandel Tennis Club, for some friendly competition.

For a change of scene, explore the town's antique stores, art galleries and gift shops. Book at Eschalot, Berrima's lauded restaurant, for a superb meal and visit Bendooley Estate to sample the region's cool-climate wines.

Time to plan that big family getaway. Cf.
Book your stay at coromandelhomesteadberrima.com.au

