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102 Victoria

Ross Farm

[STORY BY] Pat Nourse

34 Its lines are clean but it's warm to the touch. It's restrained and modern, without any hint of privation, yet offers space to breathe, stretch and replenish. Ross Farm (airbnb.com.au) finds that smooth groove between the aesthetic and the ascetic.

The old dairy outside Meeniyan, a one-pub town in Gippsland just over two hours drive south-east of Melbourne, was bought by the Moore family in 2000. Daughter

Andrea, an interior designer, set about transforming the disused buildings into boutique self-catered accommodation options. The Cabin sleeps two, the Barn four in two bedrooms and the Dairy six across three bedrooms. Though they share 2 hectares (and a chicken coop and kitchen garden), careful design keeps the three spaces discrete and sight-lines private.

Kitted out with coffee machines and dishwashers, wi-fi and TVs, Ross Farm is by no means monastic but there's something deeply calming about a place that might lead you to reach for a book rather than

a screen or strike up a conversation instead of picking up your phone.

There's plenty to do nearby – a walk in the bush, a drive to the beach, a coffee in town – but there's also plenty of detail to savour and sink into at the farm. The contrast of fine woolly fleeces on leather lounges, the heart-lifting scents of fresh linen and raw timber. And if padding past the fire to the Japanese-style soaking tub feels as if you're somewhere between an onsen and a sauna, the roar of kookaburras in the gum trees locates you right here, right now, in the Australian countryside.



Lachlan Moore