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Airport**

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Media release

Hunter Valley wines land at Newcastle Airport

Thursday, 31 May 2018

Newcastle Airport is strengthening its commitment to support 'local' by stocking 100% Hunter Valley wines across all licensed food and beverage outlets.

Visitors to the Airport will be able to savour an extensive array of award-winning wines from Australia's oldest wine region.

Hand-selected and sourced locally, the new Hunter Valley wines includes tipples from Audrey Wilkinson, Margan Wines, Peter Drayton Wines and Tyrrell's Wines.

"We are delighted to be championing so many heroes of the Hunter at our Airport retailers. We welcome these wine iconic brands to the growing list of quality local products available to eat, drink and enjoy at the Airport," says Newcastle Airport CEO Dr. Peter Cock.

"Our region produces some of the best products in the world and we are proud to provide a platform for suppliers to showcase their produce to the large number of national and international visitors travelling through the gateway to the Greater Hunter," Peter said.

Commenting on the news, Hunter Valley Wines & Tourism Association General Manager, Jo Thomas said, "This is a very exciting opportunity for Hunter Valley producers to showcase their premium products to domestic and international visitors. The wine and tourism industries celebrate the commitment by Newcastle Airport in continuing to support local business and promote Australia's premier wine and food destination."

Other local gourmet and artisan product lines currently available at Newcastle Airport include Snows Artisan Bakery, Pukara Estate, Hunter Valley Cookies, Murray's Craft Brewing Co, Simply Stirred, Rocky Road House, Hill and River, Chocfusions, One Rusty Jack, Fluerette and products by renowned artist Trevor Dickinson.

Rob Rutter, Chief Operating Officer for Cater Care Retail, who operate the food and beverage outlets across the Airport, says it is impressive to collaborate with a progressive Airport that is so committed to supporting local and we are excited to help craft an experience for people travelling that encompasses the strength and passion of the region.

"We want to create a visitor experience that encapsulates the personality of the Greater Hunter Region – memorable, unique and diverse, a place people want to come back to again and again. We want to encourage our 1.28 million passengers each year to explore and support our region's food, wine and tourism experiences," added Peter.

The Hunter Valley wine selection will be available from Friday 1 June in all food and beverage outlets across the Airport.

Ends.

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Notes for the Editor:

Newcastle Airport <https://www.newcastleairport.com.au/>

Newcastle Airport Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/ntlairport/>

Newcastle Airport Twitter Feed: <https://twitter.com/NTLairport>

Newcastle Airport Master Plan: <https://www.newcastleairport.com.au/corporate/about/masterplan>

About Newcastle Airport

- > Newcastle Airport is New South Wales' second busiest airport.
- > Serviced by Jetstar, Virgin Australia, QantasLink, Regional Express, and FlyPelican to eight direct destinations and onward to more than 65 world-wide destinations with just one stop.
- > In 2017, Newcastle Airport had a record number of passengers pass through the terminal - 1,276,463 passengers.
- > The record throughput is a result of 25-month consecutive year-on-year monthly passenger growth recorded up until December 2017.
- > A record-breaking 4,823 passengers travelled through Newcastle Airport on Thursday 24 November (the day before Newcastle Supercars). The same weekend (Thurs-Mon), saw more than 21,000 through the Airport.
- > In February 2018, Newcastle Airport welcomed its 17 millionth passenger through the terminal since 1995. 2018 will see the 18 millionth passenger.
- > Newcastle Airport is the gateway to Australia's largest regional economy, with more than \$43 billion annual output and 48,500 businesses.
- > A significant economic driver, Newcastle Airport contributes more than \$1.1 billion to the state's economy each year. Of this, \$300 million is direct to the visitor economy, supporting 3,300 jobs.
- > Newcastle Airport is internationally ready, the international arrivals and departures fit-out completed in August 2017.
- > In its 70th anniversary year, Newcastle Airport continues to work with its airline partners to increase the number of flights to our current destinations, to add direct flights to even more destinations, and to work tirelessly to secure an international destination.
- > The more people that choose to fly from Newcastle Airport will provide evidence to the airlines that the demand truly exists and that our region deserves more.
- > On 22 March 2018, Newcastle Airport released its 60-year Master Plan which includes a 20-year blueprint for growth, projections and business development of the Airport.
- > On the same day, a new direct jet service commenced to Adelaide operated by FlyPelican. Adelaide represents the first new major city route since the introduction of Gold Coast in 2004.
- > 30 minutes north of Newcastle, Newcastle Airport is located adjacent to RAAF Base Williamstown on land leased from Department of Defence.
- > Newcastle Airport Pty Ltd is jointly owned by Newcastle City Council and Port Stephens Council and is governed by an independent, skills-based Board of Directors.