

## Discover Magazine May 2012

## Eating on the Edge

Foraging for wild herbs and plants around the Blue Mountains to create a holistic nature-based food experience, is the ethos of award-winning Darley's Restaurant at Lilianfels.

Fresh from the fields, the produce and the finesse of an experienced kitchen has created an acclaimed cool climate menu.

The essence of this dynamic cuisine is based on culinary dedication to the seasons explored through authentic regional and modern cuisine, incorporating flavours and textures from around the world.

Highlights of the current menu include: delicately poached marron with fresh-from-the-garden snap peas, pickled baby vegetables, micro herbs and flowers; or a broth of quail breast cooked in masterstock and teamed with greenlip abalone, eggplant and hairy melon, topped with a soft crunch of snow fungus.

A holder of the Sydney Morning Herald's 1 Chef Hat ranking, Darley's is also famous for its historic setting. Built as a residence in 1889 by NSW's sixth Chief Justice, Sir Frederick Darley, the opulent space has fireplaces, ornate fabrics, period artwork and private dining rooms. Another iconic residence next door, houses the spectacular Echoes Restaurant. Constructed in 1990 as the mountain retreat for the famous Australian author, Thomas Keneally, the eclectic building with boundless views of the Jamison Valley features a fine dining experience of international standard and style.

Although offering contrasting menus, like Darley's, this prestigious restaurant has an enviable wine list with a menu that also explores new epicurean territory while honouring the natural flavours and produce from the region.

The all-occasion menu features the popular Farmhouse platter (\$59 for two); macadamia and herb crusted rack of lamb, red braise and Vietnamese mint jus; and pan roasted Barramundi, creamy Savoy cabbage, smoked salmon and roast onion soubise.

Both Echoes and Lilianfels are the closest five-star resorts to the Three Sisters, the only 5-star international branded hotels in the Blue Mountains, and have the best views of the Jamison Valley.

Darley's is open for dinner from Monday to Saturday. Echoes Restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner seven days a week.

For Echoes Restaurant reservations, call 4782 1966, and Darley's on 4780 1200.