

Food cruise ready to sail

TAYLAR AMONINI

A culinary voyage will dock in the South West next month, blending the flavours and scenery of the region in a one-of-a-kind food cruise.

Launching in January, the Taste of The Bays food cruise is a seven-course dinner experience on a 60ft pleasure boat cruising the coastline of Geographe Bay, from Dunsborough to Bunker Bay.

The half-day sunset cruise is being brought to the region by South West Cruises, which aims to celebrate the food of the region it tours.

Crafted on board, the degustation menu aims to reflect the flavours of the South West, and each course will be paired with Margaret River's Howard Park Wines, local boutique beers, spirits and non-alcoholic drinks.

For cruise managing director Myrianthe Riddy, the tourism venture was born out of passion for good food and even better experiences, which grew exponentially once COVID-19 cut off the primary overseas clientele in 2020.

"The idea of having a whole boating experience came out of wanting to give people a wonderful experience, whether they're in the water or not," she said.

"Obviously all our international guests disappeared come 2020, which was our main demographic, but we used that as a basis to reconfigure our product in the domestic market and actually do things better in a more sustainable way.

"We wanted to focus on high-



Staff from SW Cruises successful Broome tour season. Picture: Supplied

end, low-volume tours because it's the quality of the experience that's important to us rather than the money side of things.

"It's evolved into this product where my aim is making our guests feel like they're having a dinner party at my house . . . and our guests are looked after as if they're friends."

Beginning in Mandurah, South West Cruises has expanded all the way to Broome and Rottnest Island and will now set up base in Ms Riddy's home town of

Dunsborough. While the Broome cruises feature pearl meat, Matso's beer and massive barramundi, the South West menu will boast Albany rock oysters, South West blue manna crab, Manjimup marron, Southern Forests black truffle, Cowaramup olives, and more.

From an exclusive setting on the water, the cruise will take attendees past enviable locations such as Old Dunsborough, Curtis Bay, Castle Rock, Meelup Beach,

Point Picquet, Eagle Bay and Bunker Bay. While anchored in a pristine bay, guests can choose to swim, snorkel or relax on float mats, or simply unwind on board surrounded by a 360-degree palette of nature's contrasts.

Taste of the Bays will run from January to April.

Cruises will operate from Wednesday-Sunday for groups of up to 22 people.

For more information and booking inquiries, visit southwestcruises.com.au.



SW Cruises will join the Capes in January 2022.