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You could visit four or five wineries a day in the Yarra Valley and still not be done in a week. While this might be a fantastic proposition for some, what if you could dodge all that tedious driving and have the best of the valley in one place?

The Yarra Valley Food and Wine Festival on the weekend of April 1-2 is taking a different tack this year. For the first time, the event will be held at Rochford Wines. Stalls and food trucks

will be spread out on the lawn and top local chefs and *My Kitchen Rules* contestants will hold masterclasses.

Wine "streets" will showcase the area's varietals. There will also be live music and entertainment, with ABBA tribute phenomenon, Bjorn Again, performing on the Saturday night. Sunday, April 2, will be a family day with kids' activities.

To check out some of the festival exhibitors, we jumped in a new Ford Focus for a weekend tour of tasting and previews.

Originally there was talk of taking a SUV, but I'm glad we had our zippy, nippy little hatchback.

Using the satellite navigation system to find our way along the valley's back roads might well have saved our marriage. The instructions were clear and precise and we didn't even need a teen to help us out. The rear-parking camera was also welcome in some of the tight winery car parks. ●

JAN FISHER

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WHAT'S ON

Yarra Valley Food & Wine Festival, Rochford Wines, 878-880 Maroondah Highway, Coldstream. April 1 & 2

» Tickets start at \$25 for adults. Tasting cards for 10 wines are \$20.

» rochfordwines.com.au

» yarravalleywineandfoodfestival.com.au

Jan Fisher travelled courtesy of Yarra Valley Food & Wine Festival.