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Carawah Ridge Bed & Breakfast

WORDS JACQUI DURRANT

The name 'Carawah' is an indigenous word meaning 'where many birds sit down,' which is appropriate given the numbers of parrots, finches and honeyeaters that visit Carawah Ridge's six acres of meticulously planned gardens, with their numerous terraces, fountains and pergolas. Given its hillside location overlooking the river-flats and forests hills of the untouched Buffalo River Creek, Carawah Ridge's bed and breakfast guests don't mind taking advantage of the situation either.

Only seven kilometres from Myrtleford, Carawah Ridge has two fully self-contained apartments, both with private entrances, undercover parking, and decks overhung with foliage where the perching birds make such a cacophony that co-owner and garden lover Sam Reimann sometimes feels like telling them to 'just be quiet!'

The property ticks all the boxes for the ideal 4 ⚡ star alpine valleys getaway. The apartments are spacious and comfortable, each with individual cooking and BBQ facilities, beautifully appointed bathrooms and flat screen TVs (Carawah Ridge has a library of 250 DVD movies). There's always a chilled bottle of wine available in the fridge, and pantries are restocked with fresh breakfast supplies daily. Under-floor heating makes them especially cosy in the winter months. Guests also enjoy the sparkling saltwater pool, and further up the hill, a rustic cabin set among the chestnut trees.

The apartments are serviced daily, but owners Sam and German-born Manfred Reimann are keen to preserve the privacy of their guests, so they maintain a low-key presence. 'We want people to feel like the place is totally theirs – a home away from home,' says Sam. 'Attention to detail and providing the highest quality customer service possible is our aim. We both love to travel and we know exactly what we want and expect in luxury accommodation, so the Carawah Ridge apartments are equipped with every expectation of ours.'

Sam and Manfred have been at Carawah Ridge for 16 years, and while they chose the Buffalo Creek Valley for its peace and tranquility, they appreciate the opportunities that their bed and breakfast gives them to meet different people. 'Our guests are a rich and varied cross-section of people from the many cultures and backgrounds. We enjoy swapping travel stories and gardening tips with those who love the landscape of this property.'

Finally, Carawah Ridge has one other advantage especially hard to find in a luxury retreat: it is pooch-friendly, provided that it is a small-breed dog. 'This is unusual given the strict standards we have to maintain,' says Sam. 'However, if the dog is very clean and well-supervised – which they always are with people who treat their dogs like their own children – we rarely have a problem.'

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