

Food Destination: Empire's D'Lite



At their all-in-one general store, coffee bar and delicatessen in beautiful Empire Bay, **Genevieve** and **Duncan** are delighting locals and visitors with their passion for gourmet food.

Q. You've just celebrated your one-year anniversary. What inspired you to start Empire's D'Lite, your general store, deli and coffee bar in Empire Bay?

We moved from Sydney to Empire Bay in September 2016. We own an espresso bar in Sydney and always envisaged opening a shop on the Central Coast, so when the opportunity came to open one five minutes from home, we jumped at it.

We have over 30 years combined experience in the retail food industry and also love quality food, so we wanted to open our shop so we could share our passion with the local community.

Q. Do you feel you have been embraced by the Coast community?

We have been warmly embraced by the local community, and the 'community feel' in the shop is great. It's a meeting point for the immediate locals in the Bay, and is becoming a destination for those outside the area as well. The Central Coast is a great community, and we are so lucky to be a part of it.

Q. Have you seen a change on the Central Coast food scene recently?

Our customers are now becoming much more appreciative of quality, and there have been many times where we have had great conversations with them about our products. Above all, we are focusing on delivering quality products with a great customer experience that can only be found at Empire's D'Lite.

Q. What's your vision for Empire's D'Lite, and how are you making it a reality?

Our vision is to be one of the leading destinations on the Central Coast for quality food and coffee. We are making this a reality by ensuring that we source the best quality products available.

Our coffee is sourced from Black Drum Roasters, a boutique artisan roaster who we have had a relationship with for over 15 years, and who provide us with top quality, consistent coffee.

Our deli smallgoods selection is from a family-owned and operated business, Sunshine Meats, who we have had an association with since the early 1990s.

We are also building great relationships with local producers as we discover more great products. We pride ourselves on friendly and helpful service for all our customers, and believe these relationships will allow us to meet our vision.

Q. Are you working with any other local food producers?

We have been fortunate to source great local produce, such as Little Creek Cheese from Wyong, locally baked goods from Sugar High Creations, and jams and relishes from Jen's Jams.

Q. What tasty treat would you recommend we try from your deli?

There are too many to choose from! So we will have to pick two: Duncan's is the Duck Chorizo from Sunshine Meats, and Genevieve's is the Salted Caramel Brownie from Sugar High Creations - which has to be matched with a cappuccino, of course.



FIND OUT MORE

Location: 1/1 Sorrento Rd, Empire Bay

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