



I wandered off for the weekend and filled up on fine cuisine. Tempted? Walk this way!

Travel

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5 new foodie faves in MELBOURNE

Many of the best food spots in Melbourne are hidden behind bland doors down its darkened laneways, which makes discovering them even more delicious.

1 Breakfast

The Hotel Lindrum, at the eastern end of the CBD, was once a rich family's billiards hall and is perfectly placed for walking to nearly all the laneway hot spots. First on the list was Cumulus, just around the corner in Flinders Lane. Locals queue up here every morning for homemade crumpets, Bircher muesli, boiled eggs, jam among other things. Busy, buzzy and good for people-watching. At the other end of town, the Ginger and I loved Krimpers, a café in an old furniture warehouse, which is up what appears to be a deserted alley. We ate our scrumptious brekkie and drank carrot and ginger juice out of jam jars, sitting in what used to be the old lift. A new Melbourne classic.

2 Lunch

Hosier Lane is famous for its graffiti and the original Movida – a Spanish tapas bar that has spawned several offspring, including Movida Next Door. I'm

physically incapable of going to Melbourne and not stopping off here, so the Ginger and I – despite having had a big breakfast and a salted caramel macaron or two at the famous Brunetti Italian bakery in Brunswick – slipped in for an afternoon sherry and a cheeseboard, before heading back to the Lindrum for a nana nap. Well, we had been drinking sherry!

3 Drinks

The bar scene in Melbourne's CBD is so sizzling hot that at many places, you now have to book. For a drink. We found this out while queuing at Eau de Vie (which is up an alley opposite the Press Club, where *MasterChef Australia's* George Calombaris comes from). We had our martinis mixed, complete with dry ice, at the table when we eventually got one, so it was worth the wait – but next time I'll book, as I did at 1806 in Exhibition Street. The cocktail list in this shrine to old-world glam has drinks for every decade going right back to, you guessed it, 1806.

4 Dinner

Chiara is in the Docklands, west of the CBD, and is the new baby of *My Kitchen Rules'* Pete Evans. I didn't spy him, but we loved the fit-out, the

food (especially the cauliflower with hazelnuts and the slow-cooked lamb) and Rebecca, our Kiwi maître d', who's getting wed in Otematata in January. Supernormal back on Flinders Lane provided perfect modern Asian in a casual canteen setting. The prawn and chicken dumplings and duck pancakes are not to be missed. It's a great place to come to by yourself (I'm always looking for those) as it has a long bar for hungry loners.

5 More dinner

While no morsel that passed my lips went unloved, the stand-out for me on this foodie weekend was Prix Fixe, subtly signposted down yet another laneway. You pay \$79 online before you go, then take your chances on a four-course meal. Ours had a French theme and the sublimely good food included an upside-down French onion soup, duck two ways, a red wine poached egg and a Marie Antoinette-inspired dessert. The Ginger and I ate every crumb, assisted by a very nice Victorian chardonnay. It was all I could do to waddle to the Dita Von Teese-esque Miss Fox the next morning for a manicure, but then again, my fingernails were the only things that still fit their clothes.



Discerning locals rise, shine and head to Cumulus for a morning pick-me-up. Breakfast is served!



Must-do: Hobble the cobbles of Hosier and look up the marvellous Movida which lives down the lane.



A blissful manicure at the glam Miss Fox spa took my mind off eating for a full half-hour!

PICTURES: SARAH-KATE LYNCH, WWW.TOURISM.VIC.ORG.AU.