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ITALIAN NEW WAVE

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advertising feature



ITALIAN NEW WAVE

A restaurant renaissance is in full swing in the heart of Melbourne's Lygon Street – and there are plenty of fresh flavours on the menu

Carlton's rich heritage as Melbourne's meeting place for the Italian migrant community has a new chapter, with Lygon Street's latest restaurant and bar openings leading the charge. Pay a visit to Australia's original "Little Italy" to uncover a modern-day cultural melting pot of foodie experiences. Pack your appetite and jump on the route 1 tram to Lygon St from the CBD.

BEYOND BOLOGNESE

Tucked slightly away from the well-trodden trail of red-and-white chequered tablecloths lining Lygon Street's restaurant precinct, Carlton Wine Room dishes up a modern Australian menu in a relaxed setting, while Kazuki's masters French-Japanese fusion using seasonal produce.

Continue along Lygon Street into Brunswick East (on route 1 tram) to sample the tipples on offer at urban winery Noisy Ritual, then finish up the evening exploring Old Palm Liquor's 300-strong selection of natural wines over a South African-inspired meal straight off the grill.

TASTES LIKE TRADITION

Lygon Street might have expanded its menu somewhat, but Italian flavours still reign – and nowhere more than in the multi-level Mediterranean foodie playground King And Godfree.

One of Australia's first grocers has been reborn as a contemporary Italian marketplace, complete with continental deli, espresso bar, wine bar and bottle shop Agostino, and rooftop bar Johnny's Green Room. Start hungry at the bottom and then work your way up.

And because no culinary experience in Carlton is complete without artisanal Italian gelato, join the queues at Pidapipó for a scoop (or three) of classic flavours, such as fior di latte and ricotta and fig, plus seasonal specials churned fresh onsite every day.

NEW-FASHIONED HOSPITALITY

Searching for a place to rest your weary head after a day spent eating and drinking? Look no further than Zagame's House, a boutique hotel recently revamped with a chic new interior, luxurious amenities – and

RENAISSANCE NOTES

(from top) Carlton Wine Room champions modern Australian food; King And Godfree's shelves are stacked with continental delicacies; no stay at Zagame's House is complete without a cocktail or two at Lord Lygon.

where you can check out an impressive collection of contemporary art.

But before you pitch yourself onto one of the plush kingsize beds, make time for one last drink at the aptly named in-house bar, Lord Lygon, which offers a wide selection of Australian wines and spirits, plus seasonal charcuterie plates.

Start planning at visitmelbourne.com



PICTURES SUPPLIED BY CARLTON WINE ROOM, KING & GODFREE AND ZAGAME'S HOUSE.