



OCTOBER, 2019

## HOUSE OF COOL

Delicious, National



CLOCKWISE: quirky touches to the lobby offset the room's polished lines; a House Room features a king-sized bed; a modern, fully stocked mini bar.

# HOUSE OF COOL

Editor **Samantha Jones** feels right at home in Melbourne, revelling in some of the best creature comforts offered by a new boutique stay.

**LYING IN BED** with the crossword on a Sunday morning, A.A. Gill tomes lining the bookshelves and a cosy corner couch beckoning in the living room, I could perhaps convince myself I am at home in my own apartment. That is, if I hadn't just been delivered a barista-made flat white and steaming bowl of breakfast ramen. Ramen aside, the impossibly sleek interior of my Neon Suite at newly renovated Zagame's House in Melbourne's Carlton would no doubt have seen me crashing back to my senses before I could attempt that 15 across clue for the 100th time.

This home away from home I find myself in dominates an enviably located Lygon Street corner; the property has been in the Zagame family for 16 years, but the recent \$18 million renovation has breathed new life into every inch of the 97-room hotel. Moody blacks, deep blues and rich purples with gold accents tie together the lobby, and eye-catching art dons the walls.

It's here in the lobby where you'll find informal communal-dining breakfast spot 1851. Named after the year Carlton was founded, as well as the breakfast ramen with its spiced broth, egg noodles, shiitake and seven-minute egg, the morning crowd can enjoy hemp seed hotcakes or confit duck with kale and bearnaise, perhaps the best bit being it'll cost you not a cent more

to have all of the above delivered as room service. Come 10pm and running all the way to 6am, the Nite Bites menu has those post-cocktail cravings covered with toasties – truffle, camembert and Vegemite, harissa chicken, or wagyu meatballs are just three options.

Next door, schmick Lord Lygon is more of a dine-in affair, with a cheese and salumi counter plus larger plates for evening revellers. The wine bar doubles as a bottle shop and, once again proving Zagame's House just 'gets us', you can, of course, order a bottle or two to your room.

Back in the room, you'll find fully stocked wine racks with paper price tags (spanning a range of affordabilities) as well as a packed mini bar with cocktails from The Everleigh Bottling Co and the best espresso martini in a can I've ever tasted. There are also gummy bears and even a lovers' kit I'll let you imagine yourselves.

'Selfie mirrors' with adjustable lighting and Cowshed toiletries – including body wash you can match to your desired mood (Indulge; Relax; Awake) – heated towel racks and Muk hair straighteners elaborate on that home-away-from-home feel.

Zagame's House is indicative of a hotel operator that has put guests first at every stage of the process. It's a fantastic addition to Melbourne's hotel scene. ✂





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**CLOCKWISE:** grab a bite at 1851; a warming bowl of breakfast ramen (inset); sleek lines at the in-house gym; rich, moody hues in the lobby; a charcuterie board is the perfect partner for the wine on offer.

**ZAGAME'S HOUSE**

**VISIT**  
66 Lygon Street, Carlton, VIC 3053

**BOOKINGS**  
(03) 9084 7777  
zagameshouse.com.au

**FEATURES**  
The Everleigh Bottling Co cocktails; wine bar and bottle shop; great location; room types for different budgets

**BEST BIT**  
Room service menus

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