

DECK OF SECRETS

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Bennetts Lane Jazz Club 25 BENNETTS LN
MELBOURNE
9663 2856
MTWTFSS

Down a dead-end alley that it literally put on the map, *Bennetts Lane* is the jazz bar you always wanted to discover but thought existed only in cities such as Chicago and New York. For jazz enthusiasts and novices alike, the bar draws a diverse crowd and a plethora of talent both local and international, including playing host to its namesake jazz festival and the *Melbourne Jazz Festival*. Darkly lit it may be, but smoky it is not, with smoking permitted only in the courtyard between the two main rooms. Just remember to turn off your mobile phone or face the wrath of Madame Spank-A-Lot. **B.KATZ**

Melbourne Supper Club Bar



Melbourne Supper Club Bar LVL 1/161 SPRING ST
MELBOURNE
9654 6300
MTWTFSS

Whether it's a \$2,000 magnum of Krug you're after or a less sophisticated glass of plonk, *Melbourne Supper Club* caters for all night owls and lounge lovers. With big fat Chesterfields, lounge music and lighting that has you looking good even at 4am; this is a superb destination for conducting conversations deep into the night. Finger food is available at any time of day and can turn into quite a substantial meal when the orders stack up. Alternatively, you may choose to combine a meal at *The European* downstairs, owned by the same team, and head upstairs for drinks and cigars. **B.KATZ**

COOKIE



Cookie 252 SWANSTON ST
MELBOURNE
9663 7660
MTWTFSS

Considering its central inner-city location, *Cookie*—previously known as *Kookoo*—is one seriously large open space. A space where plastic doilies on tables coexist happily with Rousseau-like murals on walls. A cocktail bar, beer hall and Thai restaurant in one, the combination just seems to work on so many levels, and at any time of day groovers mix it up with students and suits alike. The food, inspired by Thai home-style cooking and street food, is delicious, so make sure you opt for sharing in order to sample as many dishes as you can. **B.KATZ**



Belgian Beer Café Bluestone 557 ST KILDA RD
MELBOURNE
9529 2899
MTWTFSS

Tucked away behind the trees in the grounds of the Royal Victorian Institute of the Blind, the *Belgian Beer Café Bluestone* serves authentic Belgian beer in an authentic Belgian style. The selection of tap and bottled beers includes Stella Artois, Abbey and Trappist ales, Witbier, and for something a little different flavoured beers such as the sour cherry Bellevue Creek. The bar is also known for its hearty Belgian food, in particular the mussels pots with fries and mayonnaise, and the Belgian waffles. On a lazy Sunday afternoon, why not meander down for an afternoon of live jazz. **B.KATZ**



Tony Starr's Kitten Club LVL 1/267 LT COLLINS ST
MELBOURNE
9650 2448
MTWTFSS

Yes, Tony Starr is real. (In case you were wondering.) This 50s and 60s inspired two-level bar is full of colour, texture and positive vibes. Whether it's the pink Love Lounge for a little romance, or the moodier Galaxy Lounge for live music Thursday to Saturday, *Tony Starr's Kitten Club* is a bar you can settle into for the evening. The evolving menu of modern Australian cuisine and sumptuous cocktails (the Feijoa Vodka is an essential) will keep you happy. If not, there's live cabaret or the piano-accompanied karaoke to try. Still want more? Then head downstairs to *Tony Starr's Smitten Kittens* lingerie shop... **B.KATZ**



Verge 1 FLINDERS LN
MELBOURNE
9639 9500
MTWTFSS

A bunker-like interior over three levels, with a scooped-out ceiling and low mood lighting blended stylishly with smooth contemporary, dance and jazz sounds, make *Verge* a very cool wine and dining destination. More than 35 wines are served by the glass and the cocktail—created by the barman who was voted numero duo in *National Bartender Magazine* for two years in a row—have their own following. Customer service is exceptional (if it's raining there's an umbrella waiting for you) and the restaurant on levels two and three is highly rated. **B.KATZ**