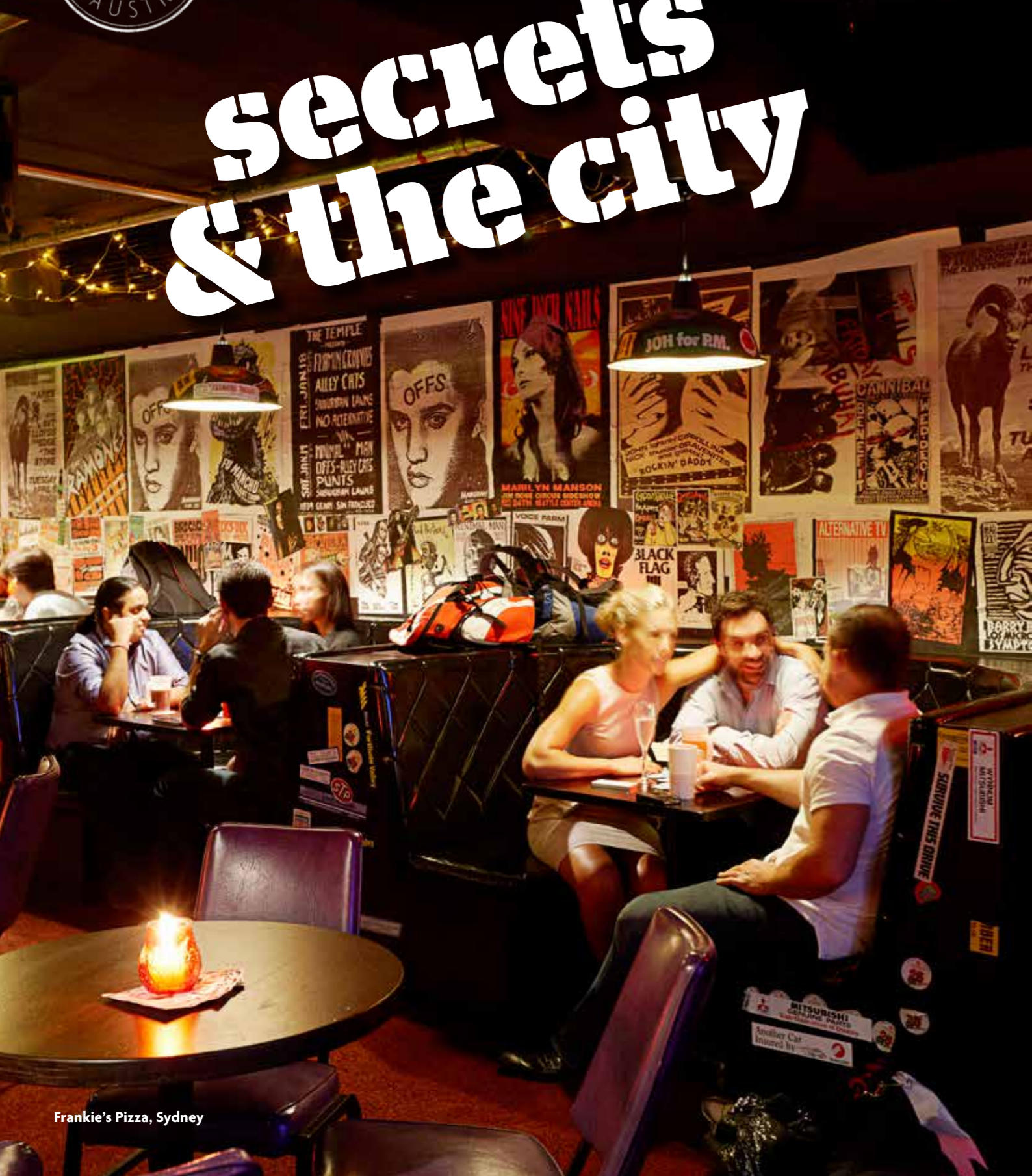


Secrets & the city



Frankie's Pizza, Sydney

Sydney's Opera House, Melbourne's laneways... every Australian capital has claims to tourist fame. Scratch the surface and you'll find a few surprises. Here, passionate locals share their insider haunts.

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Messina sundaes, Golden Age Cinema & Bar, Sydney

FRANKIE'S PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRIS CHEN/BAUERSYNDICATION.COM.AU; GOLDEN AGE: MAJA BASKA

SYDNEY TIME WARP

A handful of Sydney venues travel back in time with smart interiors, nostalgic menus, bygone soundtracks and hazy lighting.

Earl's Juke Joint (407 King Street, Newtown) is humbly housed within the old Betta Meats butcher on King Street. Inside it's like sitting somewhere in the 1920s Deep South – the bar stretches the length of the tavern, the walls are lined with posters of blues legends, the lights are down and there's a Ramos Gin Fizz on the menu.

At **The Barber Shop** (89 York Street, CBD, thisisthebarbershop.com), the authentic barber at the front offers a hot-towel shave, beard trim or clipper cut – and can hold down a solid conversation about whisky. The bar out the back, modelled on a classic English pub, has a definite taste for gin and serves brandy and Babycham.

Golden Age Cinema and Bar (80 Commonwealth Street, Surry Hills, ourgoldenage.com.au) incorporates the original screening room in the former Paramount Pictures building. Although the space has undergone a rigorous restoration, the cinema and bar look as though they have always been there. The program boasts classic, cult and new-release films, and the bar serves house-made snacks such as maple-bourbon pecans alongside cocktails such as 20th Century (Tanqueray gin, Lillet Blanc, crème de cacao and lemon juice).

Frankie's Pizza (50 Hunter Street, CBD, frankiespizzabytheslice.com) is the final stop in the time machine's journey. Open from 4pm-4am daily, it serves pizza slices all night long. The chequered floor, wooden booths and cheesy Italian decor in the pizza parlour are super-retro, and behind swinging saloon doors is a great big bar, >



The Barber Shop, Sydney



a row of pinball machines and the thumping sound of old-time rock 'n' roll. There are Italian wines aplenty, craft beer is a surprise and frozen margaritas are unavoidable.

HAYLEY MORGAN

HOBERT DIEMENS & DARK ARTS

The picturesque riverside city of Hobart is cheerful and exuberant. It has inspired fashion collections, fermented beverages and countless works of art, fiction and film, but do you really *know* Hobart? To really know someone, it is said, you must know them at their worst. Hobart's historical "Diemens" are masked by a modern facade, but with a little probing, the city's complex identity is exposed.

To discover Hobart's dark history, spend a rollicking afternoon on an **Old Hobart Pub Tour** (hobarthistorictours.com.au) complete with food, beverages and tales of drunken mayhem, smugglers, brothels and shady business deals. End the day with more historical insights and storytelling on a guided **ghost tour** (ghosttoursofhobart.com.au). Other attractions include the **Arthur Circus** cottages (Battery Point), the **Penitentiary Chapel** at the Old Hobart Gaol (Campbell Street, penitentiarychapel.com), and **Louisa's Walk** (livehistoryhobart.com.au), a "strolling theatre" that includes the

Hobart, **Narryna Heritage Museum** (open Tue-Sun, 103 Hampden Road, Battery Point, narryna.com.au) and the **Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery** (open daily, Dunn Place, Hobart, tmag.tas.gov.au), where exhibitions explore the Aboriginal and colonial history of Van Diemen's Land, and its arts and crafts. Don't miss the **Battery Point Sculpture Trail** (Salamanca Place to Marieville Esplanade, hobartcity.com.au) and a ferry to **MONA** (open Wed-Mon, mona.net.au) followed by a meal at the gallery's **The Source** restaurant.

With appetite whetted, hire a car and immerse yourself in the island's dark history by exploring the **Tasmanian Convict Trail** (discovertasmania.com) through the Coal River Valley, **Eaglehawk Neck** (eaglehawkneck.com), the site of an attempted convict escape, and **Port Arthur** (portarthur.org.au). **CALISTA ANDERSON-LEITCH**

PERTH BURIED TREASURES

Perth is basking in mining-boom cred, but there are things below the surface even more exciting than minerals.

A half-hour drive east from Perth's city centre is the humbly pretty **John Forrest National Park** (dpaw.wa.gov.au), home to the **Swan View Tunnel** commissioned in 1893 by Western Australia's ➤



A Baker,
NewActon
Pavilion,
Canberra

called Mining Tax) peeking out into the light from Perth's famously industrious and community-minded underground music scene. Owner Mike O'Hanlon is an ideas man, mixing altruism and an entrepreneurial spirit, and always up for a chat about his projects, such as electric car-sharing networks and other ways to get the city ready for its post-mining future. **AMBER FRESH**

CANBERRA DINNER & A MOVIE

It's a classic date combination and the Australian capital serves up both food and films exceptionally well. Plus, a rash of new restaurant openings around the capital provides the perfect setting for some Margaret-and-David-style analysis post-film.

The **NewActon precinct** (Marcus Clarke Street, newacton.com.au) deserves a little time from any visitor. The main building, Nishi, an impressive feat of architecture and sustainable design, houses the **Palace Electric Cinema** (2 Phillip Law Street, 02 6222 4900). The theatre pays homage to Canberra's beloved former Electric Shadows Cinema in both its name and quality programming. After a movie, head to the newly opened **A Baker** (NewActon Pavilion, Unit 2, abaker.com.au), the handsome offering that covers everything from a bakery to a dining room and intimate bar.

Behind the impressive Art Deco facade of the **National Film and Sound Archive** (McCoy Circuit, Acton, nfsa.gov.au) is not only the institution committed to the archiving and preservation of our celluloid history, it also runs the in-house Arc cinema, which screens a range of art-house and foreign films. Swing around to the other side of Civic to Braddon's new joint, **Eightysix** (9 Elouera Street, 02 6161 8686, eat-86.com). Loud and likeable, it's the place to voice controversial film critiques.

Meanwhile, another national institution is home to a (not-so) secret society. The Reel McCoy Film Group (reelmccoy.org.au) gathers regularly at the **National Library theatre** (Parkes Place, Parkes) for screenings with like-minded souls. From here, it's a short drive to Kingston and supper at the American-influenced restaurant named after a soul song, **Me & Mrs Jones** (26 Giles Street, 02 6162 3355, mmjones.com.au). **CLEO BRAITHWAITE**

BRISBANE GALLERY HOPPING

There's more than one way to see a city, and they say art and culture tell the true story of a town, so galleries are a must. The riverside **Queensland Art Gallery** and **Gallery of Modern Art** (open daily, Stanley Place, South Bank, qagoma.qld.gov.au) are not the only >

Nishi building, NewActon
precinct, Canberra



PHOTOGRAPHY: SCOTT HAWKINS

A RASH OF NEW RESTAURANTS AROUND CANBERRA PROVIDES PERFECT SETTINGS FOR SOME POST-FILM ANALYSIS

engineer-in-chief Charles Yelverton O'Connor, whose achievements also included Fremantle Harbour and the Perth-Kalgoorlie pipeline that supplied water for the gold rush. Wander along the **Railway Heritage Trail** past the Hovea Falls and through the 340m tunnel (note: there will be ghost stories).

Back through Perth and into the suburbs is another treasure known only to those who've spent time panning for gold. On a Friday evening, grab a bottle of wine from the international selection at **La-Vigna** (302 Walcott Street, Menora), and head for the **Jazz Cellar** (Friday nights only, corner Scarborough Beach Road and Buxton Street, Mount Hawthorn). The entrance to the small basement venue is hidden in an old telephone booth behind a Salvation Army shop, and the first 100 guests swap \$20 for an empty wine glass and a night of energetic standards by the Corner House Jazz Band.

To catch some more music, **The Bird** (181 William Street, Northbridge, williamstreetbird.com) is one of the city's best small bar/venue combinations. Punters can get a glimpse of bands (there's one



Brisbane's Institute of Modern Art: *The Path Of Luck* (above) and *Zoomzoom V* (right), both by Judy Millar

places to catch exhibitions that are both thought-provoking and pleasing to the eye.

Milani Gallery (open Tue-Sat, 54 Logan Road, Woolloongabba, milanigallery.com.au) presents strong conceptual works by a stable of excellent artists, from casual nudist Stuart Ringholt (who has conducted nude tours in galleries including the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney) to the outspoken Indigenous artist Richard Bell.

If you're looking to see more experimental art works, the artist-run **Boxcopy** (open Thu-Sat, 282 Petrie Terrace, Brisbane, boxcopy.org) often displays works by Brisbane-based and national artists in mediums of video, sculpture and painting.

From Boxcopy, you can catch the train to Fortitude Valley's **Ryan Renshaw Gallery** (open Wed-Sat, 137 Warry Street, ryanrenshaw.com.au), which hosts exhibitions by reputable artists from around the country and supplements high-end pieces with more experimental works displayed in the front window. Then it's a 10-minute walk to the **Institute of Modern Art** (open Tue-Sat, 420 Brunswick Street, ima.org.au), which often has a lecture, performance or screening at its Thursday late opening.

Top it all off with pizza at **Alfredo's Pizzeria** (39 Alfred Street, Fortitude Valley, 07 3251 6555).

SARAH WERKMEISTER

MELBOURNE FOUR SEASONS

A trip to Melbourne may evoke images of black clothing, graffiti-coated laneways and temperamental weather – all of which is accurate, but is barely half the story. The city's "four seasons in one day" climate lends itself to plenty of off-kilter attractions.



The beaches may pale next to the interstate competition, but what Melbourne lacks in golden sand, it makes up for with waterside curiosities when the heat's on. A stone's throw from the Westgate Bridge lies **Westgate Park** (Todd Road, Port Melbourne, parkweb.vic.gov.au), whose lake turned an extreme shade of hot pink last summer due to a rare chemical reaction between algae and salt. During Melbourne's more spring-like moments it makes for an otherworldly picnic spot.

Better yet is the more refined **Fairfield Boathouse** (Fairfield Park Drive, 03 9486 1501, fairfieldboathouse.com), an old-time teahouse where boats to paddle down the gum-lined Yarra River can be rented.

PATH OF LUCK PHOTOGRAPHY: COURTESY MILLAR STUDIO; ZOOMZOOM: COURTESY SULLIVAN + STRUMPF; IMA: COURTESY IMA



Clockwise from left: gelato at Spring Street Grocer; Boney, Melbourne; Institute of Modern Art foyer, Brisbane



treat. Along with fine sandwiches and drinks, the deli makes the city's best gelato. Flavour favours the bold: try the cardamom or salted caramel and chilli, then head to the newly minted **Boney** (68 Little Collins Street,

Melbourne, boney.net.au) for a martini and some jalapeño doughnuts to cleanse the palate, and escape the rain.

CHRIS HARRIGAN

ADELAIDE SMALL-BAR CRAWL

From secretive lamp-lit taverns referencing a colonial past to small bars and eateries that could be direct grafts from New York or Barcelona, recent additions to the culinary and swilling fabric of the city mightn't be very big, but they manage to blend a bit of old and other into an enticing and heady mix. The best part is they can all be visited on foot – on a personal small-bar walking tour.

Both a Basque term for spring and a beautiful bar on Leigh Street in the CBD, **Udaberri** (No.11-13, udaberri.com.au) has been the biggest catalyst in Adelaide's small-bar scene. This rustic Spanish *pintxos* and wine bar was one of the first in a long line of small city bars and, despite opening more than a year ago, still attracts both suits and casuals in droves.

Walk around the corner and a keen eye yields the understated lamp-lit refinement that is **Clever Little Tailor** (19 Peel Street, cleverlittletailor.com.au) – "understated" because the decor defies fashion or affectation, despite the impeccably dapper gents pouring drinks. It's the kind of place frequented by hipsters and business folk in equal measure, all here for the fine whisky and delicious bar snacks – and the incredible 1920s-inspired hanging lanterns. ➤

DARWIN'S OLDEST MARKET DOESN'T NEED TO RELY ON ITS LOOKS



Rapid Creek Sunday Market (clockwise from left): cutting watermelon, exotic sweets, stalls piled with Asian greens



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Cantina Sociale (108 Sturt Street, cantinasociale.com.au) is a 15-minute stroll away, the perfect distance to settle a belly full of tapas and make space for some specialist wines. Inspired by cellar doors in European towns, what makes this wine bar a bit different is a non-commitment to producers, awards or packaging and a wholehearted focus on one simple thing: the wine.

To round off the tour, a little slice of New York in **Burger Theory** (10 Union Street, burgertheory.com) is about 2km away, in the north-east corner of the city. Born as a food truck that achieved cult status and recently launched as a fully-fledged venue, Burger Theory's recipe has withstood many an attempted theft. It's the best burger in the world, and that's not the booze talking. **DANIEL GLADYS**

DARWIN EXOTIC FLAVOURS

A city that is equally unique and remote is bound to have some distinctive experiences. In Darwin, they can be found in suburban shopping malls, outback farms or even out at sea.

High-end restaurants all over Australia have been embracing pearl meat as a delicacy. This by-product of pearl farming (it sits in a neat slice inside the shell of the *Pinctada maxima* oyster) tastes like a cross between abalone and scallop. Where better to try it than aboard historic pearling lugger **Anniki** (Australian Harbour Cruises, Cullen Bay Marina, australianharbourcruises.com.au) drinking sparkling wine and hearing stories of pearling days in the Torres Strait? For those who prefer to keep their feet on *terra firma*, many local restaurants serve it as a *ceviche*, while at **Pee Wee's** (Alec Fong

Lim Drive, East Point, 08 8981 6868, peewees.com.au) it graces the NT seafood *assiette* in sashimi form.

It may not have the dazzling sunset or beach backdrop of the Mindil Beach Markets, but **Rapid Creek Sunday Market** (weekly 6.30am-1.30pm, 48 Trower Road, Millner) is Darwin's oldest and is so alive with atmosphere it doesn't need to rely on its looks. Piles of Asian greens, bitter gourds, galangal, exotic sweets and spectacular red, edible torch ginger flowers will reward those with access to a kitchen. Otherwise, enjoy a hot noodle soup breakfast while soaking up the sights and smells.

Resourceful locals are making use of the Riverine water buffalo that thrive in the Top End, using the buffalo milk to make cheese, yoghurt and ice-cream. **Beatrice Buffalo** (beatricebuffalo.com.au) makes a range of products, including mozzarella, ricotta and a buffalo beer cheese. **Crazy Acres** (70 Reedbeds Road, Berry Springs, crazyacres.com.au) makes ice-cream with local flavours, including vanilla made with creamy buffalo milk. **CLEO BRAITHWAITE**

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