

A U S T R A L I A N

GOURMET

TRAVELLER

2009
AUSTRALIAN
RESTAURANT
GUIDE



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Best bars

July 2008 saw the state's Liquor Act reformed with a view to encouraging more diverse and grown-up nightlife, and as we went to print, a flurry of openings saw things looking promising. Newcomers include **Time to Vino** (66 Stanley St, Darlinghurst, 02 9380 4252), a wine bar owned by sommelier Clint Hillery, Bondi's **Rum Diaries** (288 Bondi Rd, Bondi, 02 9300 0440), tapas bar **Cru 54** (see page 40) and **Millevini** (397 Crown St, Surry Hills, 02 9357 3366), a wine-focused operation from the Pizza e Birra crew. At the opposite end of the scale, there's **Ivy** (320-330 George St, Sydney, 02 9240 3000), the multi-storey, multimillion-dollar, multi-function new playpad from the people who brought you Establishment. Opt for the Ivy Lounge if you're after a serious drink. The other big news in drinks-land is **The Beresford** (354 Bourke St, Darlinghurst, 02 9357 1111), a glam pub makeover due to be completed as we went to print. Other havens of the well-made cocktail include **The Victoria Room** (Level 1, 235 Victoria St, Darlinghurst, 02 9357 4488), **Zeta Bar** (Level 4, Hilton Sydney, 488 George St, Sydney, 02 9265 6070), the basement bars at **Rambutan** (page 55) and **Foveaux** (page 43),

Hugo's Lounge (33 Bayswater Rd, Kings Cross, 02 9357 4411) and **Hemmesphere** (Level 4, 252 George St, Sydney, 02 9240 3040), while **The Bayswater Brasserie** (32 Bayswater Rd, Kings Cross, 02 9357 2177) and **Lotus** (page 49) exist on another plane of bar excellence again. If your taste runs more to albariños than Aviations, make your way with confidence to wine bars such as **Aperitif** (page 30), **De Vine** (32 Market St, Sydney, 02 9262 6906), **Bentley** (page 33), **Vini** (page 61), **Bambini Wine Room** (page 32), **Verandah** (page 61), the bar at **Glass** (page 44), **Delicado** (134 Blues Point Rd, McMahons Point, 02 9955 9399), and the **GPO Cheese and Wine Room** (Lower ground floor, 1 Martin Pl, Sydney, 02 9229 7701), and **Gazebo Wine Garden** (2 Elizabeth Bay Rd, Elizabeth Bay, 02 9357 5333). For a taste of pure Sydney, it's hard to go past the ceaseless buzz and Thai tang of **Longrain** (not least for its excellent bar plate; page 48), the inside-the-Opera House thrill of the bar at **Guillaume at Bennelong** (have the crab sandwiches; page 45), or the incredible vantage over Bondi Beach offered by the bar at **Icebergs** (page 45), not to mention the Negronis.