

Arts, design and architecture

Renowned for its rich cultural roots, and historically and currently significant as a stomping ground for university and literati artistes, the Lygon Street Precinct is home to La Mama theatre, the modern space of Piazza Italia as well as theatres, cinemas, libraries, book stores, galleries and wonderful architecture.

To experience Carlton like one of the lucky locals, follow their lead and see an art-house flick at the Nova Cinema, buy a book at Readings bookstore and sample the superb coffee and cake at buzzing Brunetti's.

Piazza Italia on Lygon Street is the latest addition to Melbourne's famous Italian precinct, which opened early 2006. The piazza is a redevelopment of the northern end of Argyle Square with new gardens, traditional Italian porphyry stone paving, and a giant 45m² solar clock.



Piazza Italia is designed to encourage people to meet and linger and there are plenty of places to sit, relax, enjoy the sun or the shade, and watch the passing parade. The design is an enduring reminder of the wonderful influence of Italian culture and the Italian community has had on Melbourne and the thriving Melbourne-Milan Sister City relationship.

A couple of blocks away from Lygon Street are the stately Carlton Gardens with two landmark buildings, the modern Melbourne Museum and the World Heritage listed Royal Exhibition Building.

Speaking of architecture, Carlton's beautiful Victorian terraces are among the city's best and Trades Hall is a national treasure and a symbol of the aspirations of the Australian people.

Of course, arts lovers will want to visit the historical La Mama Theatre - a local institution on Faraday Street, where some of Australia's great writers and actors gained their experience and skills. Neighboring CO AS IT is a community organisation for Italians and Australians of Italian descent with a dedicated Italian resource centre offering Italian language classes for adults and children.



Retail

Pretty and leafy Lygon Street is sensational for strolling...and shopping! Browse the food stores and boutiques selling everything from freshly ground coffee to imported Italian shoes.

Lygon Street is home to well known women's and men's clothing stores selling the latest European and Australian fashions as well as unique fashion boutiques. Why not drop into Via Montenapoleone for European inspired fashion or Black Orange for fashion locally designed and Alberto Piazza and La Bottega are all about shoes! Lygon Street is not just about food and fashion but also home wares, toys, jewellery and music and book stores.

Just around the corner on Elgin Street, MAKE Designed Objects is a contemporary design store devoted to promoting the best in design from Australia and abroad and Cellini Carlton showcases an immaculate range of jewellery; with the majority having been individually designed and crafted in the Cellini Carlton 'on-site' studio on Faraday Street.

There is plenty on offer in and around Lygon Street for the serious shopper.

How to get there

Tram:

- Numbers 1 or 8 heading north from Swanston Street

Bus:

- Numbers 20, 201, 203 or 207 from Melbourne Central.
Travelling time: 15 minutes

The **Melbourne City Tourist Shuttle** is a great way to visit Lygon Street and see Melbourne's attractions and it's free. Hop on and hop off the bus at any of the stops at key city destinations including: Melbourne Museum and Carlton Gardens; Lygon Street; Queen Victoria Market; Melbourne Aquarium; Immigration Museum; Southbank; the Shrine of Remembrance and Chinatown. The shuttle runs between 9.30am and 4.30pm daily.

For more information:

- visit www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/whatson
- visit the Melbourne Visitor Centre at Federation Square, located on the corner of Swanston and Flinders Streets
- visit the Melbourne Visitor Booth in the Bourke Street Mall
- call City of Melbourne on (03) 9658 9658

Lygon Street

Italian heart of the city



The Lygon Street Precinct in Carlton is the historic heartland of Melbourne's Italian community and one of the great food precincts of Melbourne.



In the early 1900s many Italians settled in Carlton and over the years have made Lygon Street their own. As a cultural enclave, Lygon Street is the place where the city's famous café culture was born.

It was here in the 1950s that one of the street's Italian-owned cafés imported Melbourne's first espresso machine, and the city has never looked back.

Lygon Street's offer is broad with an abundance of dining and international cuisine establishments, European flavoured shopping and cultural aspects such as the Piazza Italia and the Italians' favourite pastime, *the passeggiata*.

Bars and dining

Italian restaurants spill on to the footpaths and bantering with the black-tied waiters is part of the daily life.

The street's double-storey Victorian terraces are crammed with endless cafés and restaurants serving steaming bowls of pasta, espresso and cassata to tantalise the taste buds. There's linguini to savour and torte to devour. And it's fantastic any time of year.

Spend lazy days and romantic nights enjoying the hospitality of Lygon Street. While predominantly Italian, the dining is a broad mix of seafood, Mediterranean and Asian inspired cuisines, from light snacks in open-air surroundings to sumptuous meals in excellently appointed formal dining areas.

The old favourites like Tiamo and University Café for casual dining, Brunetti for dessert and Jimmy Watson's Bar for a drink, are institutions of the area and are as warm and welcoming as they are tasty.

While strolling, buy a gelati - the choice of flavours is mind-blowing!



Events

Lygon Street is home to a vast array of events reflecting the diversity of the precinct and is a gathering place for Azzuri fans cheering on Italy competing in the soccer World Cup or F1 Grand Prix fans when Ferrari wins. Nearby Café Corretto and Café Cavallino on Lygon Street are fine examples of businesses showcasing impressive Ferrari memorabilia.

The development of Argyle Square, known as Piazza Italia, is Lygon Street's new culture and events hub. This space has staged live sites for sporting events and has been home to community celebrations.

Throughout the year, Piazza Italia is activated with events and celebrations which unite the community and add to the fun and colour of the precinct.

See www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/whatson for up-to-date details on events happening in Melbourne.



Details correct at the time of printing May 2011. This map is to be used only as a guide.

