

The bars to haunt

Paco's Tacos

Level 1, 500 Bourke Street, Melbourne

Tucked between the Supreme Court and the looming NAB building is Paco's Tacos. Now Paco's is not new, in fact this casual offering by Movida chef Frank Camorra has been around for a few years. But in the depths of winter it is time to highlight this Mexican haunt in the centre of the CBD. Paco's emulates that Mexican cantina feel with brightly coloured communal tables and a menu that includes meals and bar snacks. Favourites include the pork crackling with salsa and the exceptionally crunchy corn chips with roasted tomato and capsicum salsa. But it is when you bite into expertly crafted tacos filled with perhaps pulled pork, pickled cabbage and carrot salad with peanut mole sauce, or crumbed calamari, lettuce, pico de gallo and herb mayo that you remember somewhere on the other side of the world the sun is beating down and the water is cool and inviting. To help with the fantasy, don't forget to order sangria or a Moritz beer.

Romeo Lane

1 Crossley Street, Melbourne

Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo? Well, he may be hiding in Romeo Lane, a little bar now taking up the space formerly occupied by Von Haus. Romeo Lane opened in late 2014 and takes its name not from Shakespeare but from Crossley Street's red light past. This bar is a snug setting for intimate drinks with a small group of friends or better yet, with someone you cherish. The cocktail list

Check out these two excellent spots in the CBD, ideal for meeting with friends or a romantic rendezvous.



has recently changed and includes some fabulous finds such as the Emerald Fizz. The Emerald Fizz is a saucy combination of calvados, Cointreau, lemon, absinthe and soda served in old fashioned glassware with its own crystal coaster – no cardboard squares here. Romeo Lane also offers a small but considered collection of Australian and European wines. So next time you are looking for that perfect pre-dinner drink or late night nightcap with your beloved just think Romeo Lane.

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