

The bars to haunt

In each edition of this year's *YLJ*, the co-chairs of the YLS Social Committee, Tim Gough and Vivek Anand, will bring you reviews of cafes, bars and restaurants in and around the legal precinct of Melbourne's CBD.

This edition they review some of the lesser-known specialty bars around town where young lawyers may like to enjoy a drink over the coming winter months.



Murmur Bar

Murmur Bar

17 Warburton Lane, Melbourne
(off Little Bourke Street, near Hardware Lane)
www.murmur.com.au

Hidden down a laneway and up a narrow set of stairs lives Murmur Bar, an old-school speakeasy style bar with comfy couches, wooden floors and high ceilings.

Murmur's greatest attraction is its enormous selection of imported and local craft beers. The gentlemen behind the bar are clearly passionate about their beer and will happily make recommendations, talk to you about flavour profiles, and sort out a tasting selection for you on the spot if you're keen to sample exotic and quirky brews. They can also give you the inside word on which of their couches are the comfiest, if you ask nicely enough.

Murmur is a fairly small bar and can get a bit crowded on Fridays. If beer tasting is your thing, it's best to visit on a Wednesday or Thursday, when it's quieter and the bartenders have more opportunity to spend a bit of time with you. You might even get to try one of their experimental cocktails free.

Whisky & Alement

270 Russell Street, Melbourne (opposite QV)
www.whiskyandale.com.au

It may be up the "wrong end" of town for much of the profession, but this whisky bar is well worth the walk.

Whisky & Alement boasts a massive selection of whiskies from around the world. They also do matching beer and whisky combinations. The staff behind the bar are absolute whisky connoisseurs and are happy to guide the uninitiated and those more seasoned whisky drinkers alike.

There are of course a selection of gins and cocktails to suit alternate tastes. They also host whisky tasting nights, usually on the first Thursday of each month, and if you book a tasting for four or more they'll include a tasty charcuterie plate.

While it may be small, Whisky & Alement is a perfect spot for an after work tipple.

Eau De Vie

1 Malthouse Lane (off Flinders Lane)
www.eaudevie.com.au/Melbourne/

This hidden gem is on a typical Melbourne laneway behind a set of innocuous doors that you are sure to miss if the object of your expedition is something other than visiting this gem.

The doors lead to "an intimate, dimly lit, jazz infused speakeasy created for the discerning bon vivant". The grandeur of the small space, attentive service, fine crockery and the "encyclopaedia of cocktails" is sure to impress even those who consider themselves to be well-travelled and classy with a refined palate.

EDV has been consistently rated one of the best cocktail bars in Melbourne – an ideal choice if you are out on a night of gallantry, passion, romance or perhaps just a quiet catch-up. But be sure to visit EDV at least once before that special night to avoid being in an embarrassing situation where you cannot find the doors that lead to this beautiful venue. ■

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