

The \$45 million redevelopment of Grand Hyatt Melbourne is now open

Melbourne, December 2008... After 15 months in the making, the \$45 million redevelopment of Grand Hyatt Melbourne is now complete. Melbourne's new centre of luxury includes spectacular new upper and lower lobbies, the opening of Collins Kitchen, the new restaurant, and new bar, RU-CO. This is all accessible via the new driveway on Russell Street and the new hotel entrance on Collins Street. To complete the transformation, a new luxury retail precinct on Collins Street includes flagship stores from Bulgari, Paspaley Pearls and Emporio Armani.

The residence, the exclusive new events area, will open in early 2009. Grand Hyatt Melbourne is pleased to announce that a guest room refurbishment program will commence in April 2009. This full refurbishment includes new carpets, furniture and bathroom fixtures and will have minimal impact on guests.

The renovation's design has been completed by a team of leading Australian architects and interior designers including Bar Studio, Billard Leece and Graphos Architects. The redevelopment of the site brings to life one of the city's intimate laneways, Beany Lane, giving access to RU-CO, the hotel's upper lobby and the Collins Street retail precinct.

Upper and Lower Lobbies

A custom-made glass bead light curtains created by leading lighting designer, David Singer, welcomes guests on arrival. Australian timbers, custom designed carpet and furniture, marble and welcoming lighting feature prominently in the hotel's new lobby. This truly grand lobby features a staircase made from stone and a larger, more spacious lounge area with increased seating and capacity for guests.

Lobby ambassadors dressed in stylish new uniforms by Melbourne designers, Genae, use new communication technology for new levels of service for guests.

Collins Kitchen

The open kitchen of Collins Kitchen serves multiple food concepts, including Deli, Sushi, Crustacean Bar, Grill, Wok, Woodfire Oven and Patisserie. The priority at Collins Kitchen is offering simple, authentic food using the finest local and organic produce. Guests are able to interact with chefs for a dynamic dining experience.

Collins Kitchen offers a la carte menus for breakfast, lunch, dinner and all day dining. A buffet is available for breakfast and Sunday brunch. The extensive wine list draws from the 2700 premium bottle wine room. Collins Kitchen seats 180 guests, with a variety of dining areas including banquette seating overlooking Russell Street, a private dining room for 14 guests and a chef's table for 10 guests, as well as a lounge area and bistro bar. Collins Kitchen is open daily from 6am to 10.30pm.

RU-CO

RU-CO is Melbourne's new meeting point, at the intersection of Russell and Collins Street. With modern design and dramatic sculpture artworks by Bruce Armstrong, RU-CO features a courtyard and an exclusive private area for 18 guests. RU-CO offers an extensive list of signature martinis, margaritas and classic cocktails, as well as an impressive list of single malt whiskey and cognac. The wine list draws from the 2700 premium bottle wine room. RU-CO is open daily from 5pm till late.

the residence

the residence will be a spectacular event venue unlike any other function space in Australia. Based on a private mansion concept, guests will be welcomed into the residence as if they were entering a good friend's home. *the residence* combines an impressive collection of individually-styled rooms including a home style, functional kitchen with commercial capability where guests can interact with the chefs preparing the food. The impressive garden courtyard with mature trees opens onto a stunning verandah over-looking Collins Street.

Guests will enjoy innovative and contemporary cuisine and personalised, dedicated service. *the residence* will accommodate groups from 14 people up to 450 standing guests. This new events area will be versatile, flexible and ideal for exclusive meetings, launches, cocktail receptions, intimate weddings, black-tie functions and sophisticated celebrations. The addition of *the residence* will complement the hotel's current remarkable banquet facilities and cement Grand Hyatt Melbourne's position as Australia's premier M.I.C.E. hotel. *the residence* will open early 2009.

To view the journey of Grand Hyatt Melbourne's redevelopment, log onto the General Manager's blog at <http://davidmansfield.typepad.com/thesiteoffice/>. For more information please contact Danielle van der Griend, Marketing Communications Manager, 61 3 9653 4666, danielle.vandergriend@hyatt.com.

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