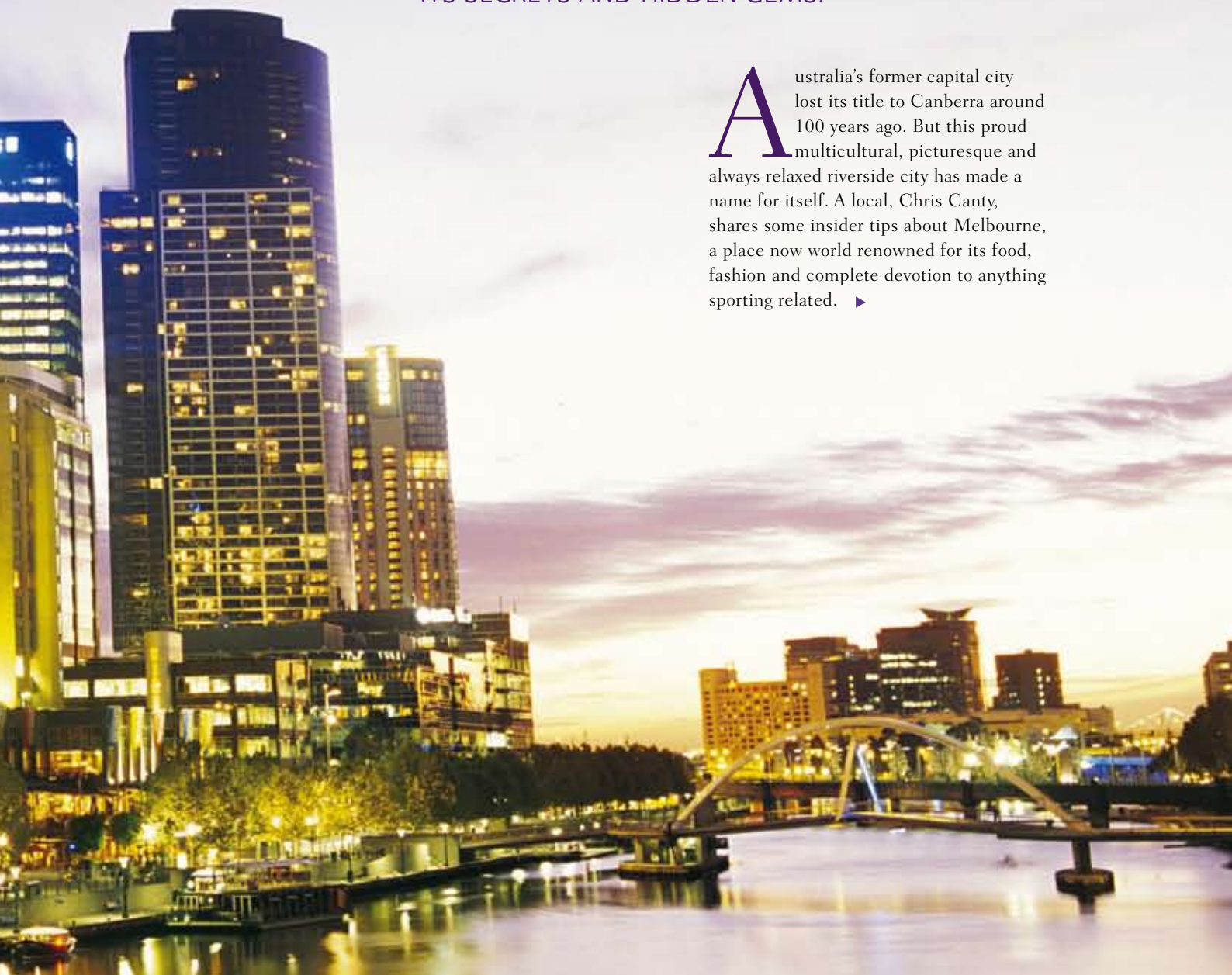




A LITTLE LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

THIS ISSUE, CHRIS CANTY TAKES YOU THROUGH MELBOURNE'S BACK STREETS IN A BID TO DISCOVER ITS SECRETS AND HIDDEN GEMS.

Australia's former capital city lost its title to Canberra around 100 years ago. But this proud multicultural, picturesque and always relaxed riverside city has made a name for itself. A local, Chris Canty, shares some insider tips about Melbourne, a place now world renowned for its food, fashion and complete devotion to anything sporting related. ►





Melbourne Cricket Ground



Eureka Tower



Great Ocean Road

SPEND A DAY WINDING YOUR WAY ALONG THE CLIFFS OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST SCENIC ROADS TOWARDS THE TWELVE APOSTLES.

MUST SEE ATTRACTIONS

Below are a few highlights to get you started, but remember Melbourne is all about discovery. So be sure to walk through the city's alleyways and inner suburbs because you never know what you'll find.

EUREKA TOWER RIVERSIDE QUAY, SOUTHBANK

There is no better way to see what Melbourne has to offer than from the 88th floor of tallest residential building in the world. For the brave, try 'the edge', a glass cube which slowly protrudes three metres out from the tower over the city. www.eurekatower.com.au.

MELBOURNE CRICKET GROUND EAST MELBOURNE

Join over 80,000 spectators as AFL teams strive for a place in the September finals. Also take some time and visit the newly opened National Sports Museum showcasing an unrivalled array of historic memorabilia from Australia's sporting heroes. Visit www.nsm.org.au and www.mcg.org.au for more info.

THE GREAT OCEAN ROAD

Spend a day winding your way along the cliffs of one of the world's most scenic roads towards the Twelve Apostles. Stop for fish and chips in the seaside towns of Lorne or Anglesea along the way. ►



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Maha Bar and Grill



**IF YOU DARE TRY THE
'BOGAN BURGER' FOR
\$16, WHICH WEIGHS
A WHOPPING 2.7KG.**

BEST MEALS IN TOWN

Australia's culinary capital has a myriad of cuisines due to its multicultural past. Stroll through the suburbs of Carlton (Italian food), Collingwood (Greek and Spanish), Footscray (African) and Abbotsford (Vietnamese) to get a real taste of Melbourne. Below are two favourites, old and new.

MAHA BAR AND GRILL 21 BOND STREET, CITY

Hard to find and even harder to leave. Opened this year, Maha has gained a reputation as an exciting new approach to Middle Eastern dining, blending exotic spices with culinary precision. Their lunch special, two courses for \$35, is excellent value for money. Bookings advised. Call 03 9629 5900 or visit www.mahabg.com.au.

THE NAPIER HOTEL 210 NAPIER STREET, FITZROY

The quintessential Melbourne corner pub is an icon for those that seek deliciously huge portions of old-school pub grub. If you dare, try the 'bogan burger' for \$16, which weighs a whopping 2.7kg. Add a fireplace, heated beer garden and talkative locals, and you've discovered the essence of Melbourne. Call 03 9419 4240 for more information.

COOL DRINKING HAUNTS

Melbourne has an array of hidden bars down CBD alleys (just walk down Little Collins Street or Flinders Lane) and old-school corner pubs in the inner suburbs of Fitzroy, Richmond, Collingwood and Carlton.

SISTER BELLA SNIDERS LANE, CITY

Hidden amongst the city laneways, those that can find Sister Bella are rewarded with a casual, bohemian style bar that has no pretensions. A favourite student haunt where business attire is rarely seen, join the others in the know, and sit on the comfy couches sipping a mulled wine. A real gem that is open late.

LAMBS GO BAR 135 GREEVES STREET, FITZROY

Who would have thought that one of Melbourne's best bars would be located in a tiny bluestone cottage in the backstreets of Fitzroy? With over 100 brands of beer on offer, you'll find the small yet comfy interior full of people trying labels from across the globe. ►

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NIGHTLIFE

Melbourne's nightlife is incredibly diverse and offers something every night of the week. From musical productions in one of the city's great theatres to live music, the choices are endless. Below are two favourites.

BENNETT'S LANE JAZZ CLUB **25 BENNETT'S LANE, CITY**

This is another hidden-alleyway venue, which plays host to some of the best jazz musicians in the world. If you weren't a jazz lover already, you will after a night at this club. Nightly shows start at 8.30pm but get in early for a table seat. Call 03 9663 2856 or visit www.bennettslane.com.

THE ESPLANADE HOTEL **11 UPPER ESPLANADE, ST KILDA**

Arguably Australia's greatest rock pub. If you like it cheap, loud and raw, head to this St Kilda institution and see some of the best live music around. Come early to sit by the windows that look over the bay and grab a bite to eat from their much loved kitchen. For more information call 03 95340211 or visit www.espy.com.au.

SHOPPING AND ART

The CBD alleyways are full of boutique designers and unique galleries that can dazzle a visitor for days. For those in search of a bargain, head to the inner suburbs of Richmond and Collingwood and go straight to the warehouses.

JASON GRECH **12 HOWEY PLACE, CITY**

Jason Grech is one of Melbourne's new young brigade of women's clothing designers who is winning awards with his inventive and distinctive range of beautiful creations. A favourite label with celebrities and always a popular spring collection. Call 03 9662 4055 or take a look at www.jasongrech.com.

BUS GALLERY **117 LITTLE LONSDALE STREET, CITY**

An exciting artist-run initiative that showcases artists in residence and their creations along with various national and international exhibits. Call 03 9662 2442 or check the website, www.bus117.com.

There's always more to be found in Melbourne, no matter what you choose to do. Sit back, relax and soak up the atmosphere while you begin to feel like one of the locals in this vibrant city. ■

EVENTS (AUGUST – SEPTEMBER)

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

JULY 25 – AUGUST 10

Showcasing films from more than 50 countries. For more info phone 03 8660 4888 or visit www.melbournefilmfestival.com.au.

MELBOURNE WINTER MASTERPIECES: ART DECO 1910 – 1939 EXHIBITION **JUNE 28 – OCTOBER 5**

The exquisite Art Deco 1910 – 1939 exhibition comes to the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) direct from London's famous Victoria and Albert Museum. Visit www.ngv.vic.gov.au for further info.

THE MELBOURNE WRITERS' FESTIVAL **AUGUST 22 – 31**

One of Australia's leading literary event with more than 200 writers from Australia and around the world. Call 03 9645 9244 or visit www.mwf.com.au.

MOTOROLA MELBOURNE SPRING FASHION WEEK **SEPTEMBER 1 – 7**

Taking over the city this year, some highlights include: evening parades; daytime catwalk displays; VIP salon shows; exhibitions; and panel discussions. For details go to www.msfw.com.au.

THE ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW **18 – 28 SEPTEMBER**

Victoria's largest public event celebrates its 153rd year, bringing country and city together. For details call 03 9281 7444 or go to www.royalshow.com.au.

MELBOURNE FRINGE FESTIVAL **SEPTEMBER 24 – OCTOBER 12**

More than 230 acts in 100 venues across the city, that guaranteed to entertain. For details call 03 9660 9600 or go to www.melbournefringe.com.au.

