



hotel before heading out for a well-priced drink. On to Misty, a super cute bar in the famously fabulous graffiti-covered Hosier Lane near Federation Square where a friend, Tom, works. It's where you wait for a table after putting your name down at MoVida Next Door for arguably the best tapas in the city.

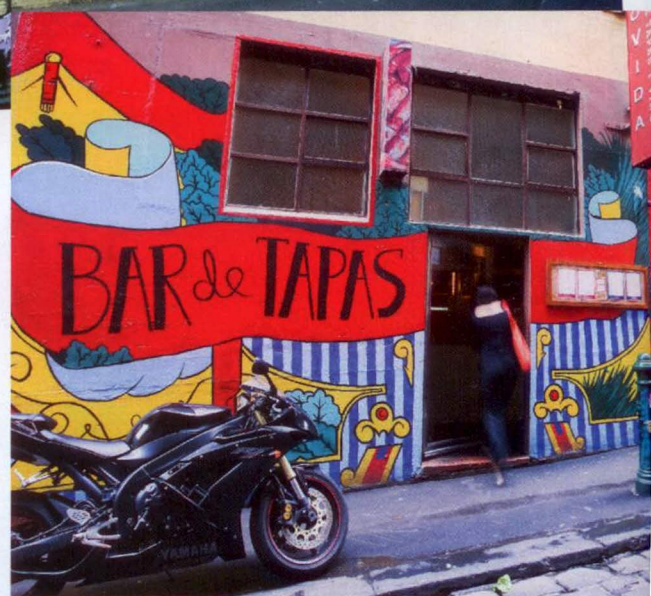
We move down the lane to the restaurant. It's all good (particularly the grilled yabbies and second order of jamon) until Tom suggests a sherry. After all, how many places actually have a sherry list? It's still all good, until I wake in the morning with a headache and just one shopping day to go. Thank the Albany for restorative fruit salad with fresh blackberries and just-so scrambled eggs.

There are (obviously) many, many places to shop in Melbourne, but in my opinion nothing beats Christine, the shoe-hat-handbag-jewellery holy grail, on Flinders Lane, at sale time.

We stay so long – playing dress-ups with Paucic Sweeney bags, Philip Treacy hats, new-season Lanvin and the flamboyant flower and honeycomb creations of Melbourne jeweller Adrian Lewis – that owner Christine Barro brings out refreshments (fizzy pink grapefruit juice) like they do in

private rooms in LA and every little store in Asia.

Quick lunch in Degraeves Street. Walk on. Is there a prettier row of shops than Little Cupcakes next to Smitten Kitten (fancy lingerie) next to Il Papiro (fine stationery)? Tram to hotel. Shower. Cab to St Kilda, humming on a balmy Friday night. We've snared a table at Di Stasio, a dining icon turning 21 this year, and settle in for a superb Italian meal under the attentive eye of



"Is there a prettier row of shops than Little Cupcakes next to Smitten Kitten next to Il Papiro?"

glamorous manager Mallory Wall and charming Nicola, the perfect waiter from Central Casting. Carpaccio. Lobster omelette. Pannacotta. Yum.

The weekend finishes with a bang: making like Grace Kelly in scarf and sunglasses on the way to the airport, ensconced in the white leather seats of a 70s Rolls-Royce Corniche. ■

www.movida.com.au

www.bloomfieldclassiccars.com.au

www.thealbany.com.au

www.distasio.com.au

Christine, 181 Flinders Lane,

03 9654 2011

Misty, 3-5 Hosier Lane, 03 9663 9202



Graffiti-covered Misty (top) on Hosier Lane is the place for a drink; don't miss out on eating at MoVida (above) or MoVida Next Door; indulge your sweet tooth at Little Cupcakes on Degraeves Street (left)