

FIVE OF THE BEST

SEX AND THE CITY IN MELBOURNE



The cocktail and bar: a Gimlet Grenade (\$17) at Seamstress, 113 Lonsdale St. Tel: 9663 6363

Keep up darling, cosmopolitans are so last season. Try a Gimlet Grenade while flirting with a potential Mr Big at Melbourne's hottest new bar, fashionably located up a flight of rickety stairs in an old terrace building. This gin-based red cocktail is a sophisticated take on a classic Gimlet, containing a dangerously delicious combination of Hendrick Gin, pomegranate syrup, lime juice and cucumber with a twist of mint. Just be sure to mind the Manolos on the way back down.

The shoe store: Miss Louise, 205 Collins St. Tel: 9654 7730

As Carrie once declared, it is every woman's right to "shoes". Forget paying the rent and follow her lead at this iconic shoe store

which has kept the feet of Melbourne's swankiest ladies in designer heels since 1964. Worth a visit even if your budget doesn't quite stretch to the latest season's strappy sandals.

The cupcake: Little Cupcakes, 7 Degraves St. Tel: 9077 0413

For the local equivalent of Manhattan's famous Magnolia Bakery, where Carrie and the gang stop by for their cupcake fix, head to this cute shop near Flinders Street Station. Little Cupcakes, run by husband and wife Nikki and Jamie Min, offers delicious cupcake concoctions including mint, coffee, strawberry and Belgian button chocolate. Good for the spirit, not so good for squeezing into that slinky couture dress.

The apartment block: Yve, St Kilda Road
With its voluptuous curves, glass-walled

bathrooms and Louis XIV reproduction chairs in the lobby, this apartment block screams "money" in a way that out-blings even Charlotte's luxurious Upper East Side divorce-prize apartment. Apart from famous neighbours — including the Hewitts, who paid \$8.3 million for two penthouses in 2006 — Yve also boasts 360-degree views.

The romantic restaurant: Vue de monde, 430 Little Collins St. Tel: 9691 3888.

There's no view over the skyscrapers, but as we're in Melbourne, not Manhattan, this is no real loss. This impossibly edgy fine diner offers the perfect setting for long lingering looks over a glass of pinot and a game of footsies under the pressed white tablecloth. Cash-strapped columnists who've blown their cash on shoes and a hot-date dress should let him get the bill.