

8. Collins Quarter

86a Collins Street, city, phone 9650 8500.
Open Mon-Thurs 7.30am-1am, Fri 7.30am-3am, Sat noon to 3am.

From the owner of Gin Palace and Madame Brussels comes this super-swanky venue with four bars including a plush upstairs champagne lounge (which is open from Tuesday to Saturday till late) and a gorgeous courtyard complete with a magnolia tree. You might find overpaid suits farewelling freshly redundant colleagues with a bottle or two of Pelorus, but you don't have to pay top dollar to enjoy the experience: wines by the glass start at a reasonable \$8. As it is our last stop for the evening, we settle on a dessert wine, a glass of bubbles (both \$8), and an assortment of ice-creams and sorbets for \$10.50. Savoury options on the Finger and Fork menu sound equally appealing, such as parmesan fried broccoli with aioli (\$10) and beer battered flake with sauce gribiche and lemon (\$15).

