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### **Geelong's evolving and exciting urban food and wine scene**

Over the past few years, Geelong's city has transformed into a catacomb of gastronomic offerings. The city has arrived and firmly planted the foundations of Victoria's second city for fabulous food and wine offerings.

You can't pass by Geelong's impressive food and wine scene without an ode to [Igني](#). It continues to offer outstanding food and service. Igني literally means 'from fire' in Latin and here at Aaron Turner's restaurant, tucked away in the backstreets of Geelong's CBD, there's no shortage of fire – both literal and metaphorical. Based around the charcoal grill, which, along with the imaginative flavour combinations and seasonal ingredients, provides much of the drama. There's no menu here, just the understated authority of chef's in control.

[The Continental](#) is an exciting new venue which opened its doors in November 2019 and has further transformed the happening Little Malop Street precinct. Owner-operator Chris Taranto was the first to start the trend in Little Malop back in the day, having opened Sempre in 1995. Chris left for the big city lights before settling back to his roots. The Continental adds another tantalising option for sophisticated foodies and a new atmospheric drinking spot. The European style food is available all night and there is an extensive French and Italian wine list.

The team behind some of Melbourne's most popular eateries (Higher Ground, Kettle Black, Top Paddock) – The Mulberry Group - moved into Eastern Beach in December 2019 to open The [Beach House](#) in a gorgeous 1930s heritage-listed building. Paying homage to the history of the space while bringing it into the modern day, the café sits proudly overlooking the beach promenade. The menu, created by Sandy Melgavis is a creative collection of classic dishes with a modern edge. The Beach House also houses a second level that is dedicated to functions, partnering with Melbourne's Pot and Pan to create special events.

The food coming from the kitchen of [Sumi](#) - Geelong's newest Asian barbecue restaurant is nothing short of mouth-watering. Co-owner Alex Pan offers punters a cheery welcome into the intimate 26 seat dining establishment. He describes the menu as inspired by Chinese, Thai, Hong Kong and Japanese cuisine. It has fast become renowned for creating flavoursome dishes that merge Asian culture with local produce. A dining experience not to be missed.

Also on Gheringhap Street, discover the brand new [Augustus Gelatery Geelong](#), opened November 2019. The artisan gelato is served by fabulously fun staff and is made on site daily. Enjoy favourite classics to something a little out of the ordinary. If you love ice cream, you'll love Augustus Gelatery!

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If you're hunting for ramen and sake stop in at [Sober Ramen](#). Serving a range of delicious and authentic ramen, including spicy ramen with three levels of heat and specials too! This petite street front eatery serves a range of Japanese snacks such as dumplings and edamame and natural wines which you can enjoy propped at the counter or looking out across bustling Little Malop Street.

For authentic Italian dishes, cosy [Osteria Fiorenza](#) is the place to go. Serving fresh house-made pasta and gnocchi, they offer the tastiest Italian cooking outside of Italy. The tiny restaurant celebrates simple yet flavor-filled dishes. Think fresh gnocchi, handmade pasta, tiramisu and great Italian wines.

The gorgeous [18<sup>th</sup> Amendment Bar](#) is a must visit. Find the award-winning cocktail bar hidden up a set of stairs. Step back in time to Chicago speakeasy 1920-1930s when during "Prohibition" it was illegal to consume, sell or bootleg alcohol. At the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment Bar they invite you to enjoy their concoction of prohibition elegance interlaced with modern innovation. Grab some "giggle water", make some "whoopee" and try not to get "zozzled"! Cocktails are their thing and they do them in style and waiters that know their craft.

Located on a prominent corner in bustling Little Malop Street, [Geelong Cellar Door](#) brings the best of the region's vineyards to town, showcasing a massive array of only local wines. GCD offers a one-stop shop for visitors to sample a selection of local drops that can be matched with charcuterie platters, enjoyed at the bar, overlooking the street or in the relaxed outdoor setting. Staff are welcoming and happy to share their knowledge.

[Westend Geelong](#) is a modern interpretation of an outstanding pub and dining room in the heart of Geelong on bustling Little Malop Street. The Westend marks a bold new chapter for the old Eureka Hotel. It has re-emerged as a stunning, natural light-filled space with a broad selection of beverages and hearty gastro pub fare.

Located in the heart of Geelong [Alma](#) is the product of exciting young chef, Jesse Hughes. The style is 'contemporary Australian with flavours of South America.' The idea is around share food, sourced as locally as possible. The restaurant is expansive with a chic finish and the staff are knowledgeable and passionate. The team bring an enticing flavour and finish to the burgeoning dining scene in Geelong.

[Bistrot Plume](#) sits in a residential precinct of suburban Belmont. An elegant and boutique French eatery run by accomplished hospitality veterans, Nathan and Kate Veach. The menu is French, as the names implies, and classic. The setting is intimate and stylish, personable and inviting and purveys a certain warmth. Enjoy classics such as twice baked cheese soufflé, confit duck, or steak frites.

IMAGES: Please find a suite of applicable images

<https://platform.crowdriff.com/m/s-607lu7Gxk4uJ5oLq>

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