



Knox Leader
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TRAVEL

GREAT FOOD ON YOUR DOORSTEP

DINE IN OR TRY OUT A QV MARKET COOKING CLASS

Shannon Nagyivan

A WEEKEND in Melbourne always promises to be action packed, but when I settled into my room at the newly renovated Jasper Hotel my desire to relax wrestled with my need to explore.

Located just around the corner from the Queen Victoria Market, the Jasper Hotel started life in the 1970s as a women's shelter run by the YWCA.

With a recent \$7 million upgrade it has become a plush hotel with a funky bar and restaurant that opens on to Elizabeth St.

While the hotel is in an ideal location to explore Melbourne and all it has to offer, there is also a strong case for cocooning yourself in comfort and not having to step foot on the street.

Try a meal downstairs at the Jasper Kitchen or a drink at JB's Bar, which serves tapas inspired by the Brazilian heritage of chef Bruno Lima.

Lima has created a tasty menu, featuring the freshest produce sourced from the neighbouring market.

The food fest continued

for me when I took part in the Fisher & Paykel Social Kitchen run on site at the Queen Victoria Market.

The pop-up kitchen is on site until May 2015, and offers communal cooking classes which end with a shared meal.

After donning our aprons we took a quick market tour to buy last minute ingredients from stall holders before going on to cook five dishes in 2½ hours.

At the end of the class we sat down together to enjoy the fruits of our labour, and as chef Keith Jackson pointed out, food is about sharing and coming together.

Shannon Nagyivan was a guest of the Jasper Hotel

CHECK IN

STAY: Jasper Hotel, 489 Elizabeth St, Melbourne. Special offer of \$139 a night runs until March 31, 2015. Visit jasperhotel.com.au

DO: Book a Fisher & Paykel Social Kitchen class at the Queen Victoria Market for \$135. Visit weteachme.com/thesocialkitchen



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The Jasper Hotel has been renovated, top, and is just around the corner from the Queen Victoria Market, above left, which is running the Fisher & Paykel Social Kitchen, above right.