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LA SCALA ON JERSEY

La Scala on Jersey certainly hits some high notes, no soprano necessary.

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LA SCALA ON JERSEY

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Where: Jersey Road (corner Melrose Lane), Woollahra

Opening Hours: Mon - Sat 6pm - late

Phone: (02) 9357 0815

Website: www.lascalaonjersey.com.au/

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La Scala on Jersey in Woollahra has been bringing 'tutti a tavola' — everyone to the table — for some time. And by everyone, we mean everyone; this is the kind of place where you can bring your first date or celebrate your grandma's 80th. And although La Scala on Jersey may be a fair distance from the world-renowned opera house of the same name in Milan, it's certainly on track to hit some high notes — no soprano necessary.

If you want to eat some of the best Italian dishes in Sydney, look no further than La Scala. That view straight down Oxford Street with the city skyline glowing behind is something special, yes, but your eyes won't leave the table once the food comes out. The composer — ah, executive chef sorry — is Massimo Mele, whose brilliant dishes are propelled from a childhood in Naples. The menu exhibits all the traditional favourites, as well as modern twists on the originals — and in true Italian feasting style, sharing is spurred here. So you best get your forks ready to get in quick, because it's all scumdidlyumptious.

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Antipasto specialties include marinated olives (\$8), spicy fried calamari with aioli, rocket and lemon (\$18) and semolina chips with truffle mayonnaise (\$12) — all of which will be devoured within minutes. Another dish that will be demolished in record time is the smashed zucchini and garlic dip with fried pizza pieces (\$8): table manners will go out the window when you start licking your fingers.

The bar is a big part of La Scala on Jersey — and with a new design and drinks menu finely tuned by accomplished barman Julian Serna, it's only a given that you'll need a Bling Bling (\$18) cocktail to go with your antipasti. Either that or a Salty Sea Dog. Comprising Pampero Seleccion rum, lime and housemade raspberry and ginger beer (\$17), it's a good way to settle in for the evening. The wine list is notable, too — staff are well-educated in order to offer pairing recommendations.

But let's get back to that food — it really is spectacular. Antipasti dishes may leave little room for the main round, but that's why sharing is caring: the gnocchi with pork and veal (\$27) is a rewarding dish that combines tender meat in a flavour-packed sauce. There's no floury gnocchi here. It's best to order a side dish of something fresh and light in order to cut through the richness of it — our pick would be the broccolini, sugar snaps and salted ricotta (\$8) or the witlof salad with candied walnuts (\$8). Those sweet little crunchy nuts could (surprisingly) be your undoing.

Needless to say, the dessert options at La Scala deserve an honourable tasting. Nutella and Italian doughnuts (\$12) are more perfect together than Brad and Angelina; moreover, the chocolate tart with salted caramel and honey walnut ice cream (\$12) should be illegal it's that delicious.

Can La Scala on Jersey get any better? Not only does the menu compete for sheer brilliance, but the efficient service is welcoming and friendly and non-intrusive. The wooden and rustic interior exudes a warm ambience that complements this shared dining experience and artwork on the walls give the space a fresh vibe. It certainly is living up to its operatic name and we'd like to give it a standing ovation.

By [Aimee Sics](#)

Rating: 8/10	Outdoor Seating: No	Wheelchair Access: Yes
Ideal Meal: Zucchini and garlic dip	Good For Groups: Yes	Takes Reservations: Yes
Price Range: 3/5	Delivery: No	
Cuisine: Italian		

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