



The Cross gets pretty

The Storrier Hotel's charming bar is a little gem within a little gem. By **Amy Cooper**.

It tickles me pink that just steps away from the drug-dealing, gritty epicentre of Kings Cross there sits an original Tim Storrier artwork worth more than a million dollars. *Point to Point (Evening Blaze)* adorns the lobby of The Storrier, a delightful four-storey boutique hotel themed around the artist's work, and provides a jaw-dropping entrance to the hotel's ground-floor restaurant and bar, Red Belly.

The bar, in a petite nook at the back of

the restaurant, transports you a world away from Kings Cross's ugly bits while paying homage to its prettier face with beautiful art deco interior touches such as the wall-mounted cascading glass lamps ("lovely, but a nightmare to clean," confesses a staffer) echoing the heritage of the building. For further beauty you can move with your drinks to the hotel's top floor terrace and gaze out over a panoramic cityscape. There haven't been views like this in the Cross since Top of



the Town's International Bar closed, and the sunsets are stunning.

The drinks selection has been compiled with care and the wine list includes Europeans, an Argentine Aconguila and a page of seven fine cellar favourites, each with a detailed and loving description. Quotes from famous drinkers (my favourite: Bogart's "I should never have switched from scotch to Martinis. The whole world is about three drinks behind") display a commendable respect for cocktail lore, and we loved a tangy mix of 42 Below Feijoa vodka, cucumber and Chi herbal mineral water called Falling Water. It's credited to Christian McCabe of the Matterhorn and we can forgive Cedric the bartender for not knowing that in this case the Matterhorn is a bar in New Zealand, not the mountain, because the cocktail is so well made and also because Cedric has a lovely smile. It's all pretty in this little corner of the Cross.

Red Belly Bar

Where: Storrier Hotel,
15 Springfield Avenue,
Potts Point
Tel: 8988 6999
Open: Daily 12pm to
midnight (restaurant open
from 8am)
Beer: From \$4.50
Wine: From \$8
Cocktails: From \$18
The vibe: Euro-chic,
boutique