

# The coffee guide... SYDNEY (2011 Edition)

## VELLA NERO

Shop 3/259 Clarence Street, Sydney, NSW



Tunnelling away from a narrow frontage, Vella Nero could be a basement bogof coffee-gear shop – were it not for the kitsch UN-blue stylings, along with the perky staff production-lining a La Marzocco. Given the half-dozen cafes I passed on the way here, the local competition must be fierce; and Vella Nero is far from keeping the peace. The opening assault is, the freshly roasted coffee. Then there's the volley of beans and grinds for sale (PNG, Sumatran, Brazilian... plunger, espresso, cappuccino...). The machinery comes next: stovetops, plungers and odd, ovoid urns making up the rear guard. And to fuel the troops, a long menu of everything you didn't have time to make at home.

My espresso – an Ethiopian – has a soft berry salvo, rounding on the palate as the acidity drops and a light, smoky cocoa develops. Lingering but not grippy, it's infused by a softly sweet aroma. With milk, in a mac, the sharpness darts through sublimely textured froth, and it's sophisticated stuff, gentle yet devastating — and we surrender.

### Phone

+612 9268 0755

### Trading Hours

mon – fri: 7am – 4pm

saturday & sunday closed

Cafe: 22/25

Coffee: 22/25

Vella Nero Coffee Couture



 **vella nero**  
COFFEE COUTURE