

Pro-invest Group Unveils *BESO* - the Newest Dining Destination in Melbourne's CBD

BESO opens next to Hotel Indigo Melbourne on Flinders, adding to the company's growing portfolio of restaurants and bars.

11 September, 2023: Pro-invest Group has revealed the final piece of its \$20million reinvention of 575 Flinders Lane. Following the recent opening of Hotel Indigo Melbourne on Flinders, the adjoining BESO restaurant and bar is now firing up the grill.

This Spanish taperia adds a dynamic flair to the city's iconic Flinders Lane precinct, with a streetside entrance for Melburnians heading to their local culinary hotspot, and hotel access for guests looking to experience the city's infamous culinary tapestry.

Helmed by **Head Chef Ana Cortes Garcia**, formerly of two-hatted Lee Ho Fook, the menu is full of contemporary twists on her favourite Spanish classics – all inspired by the flavour of flames. BESO, which translates as 'kiss', is a nod the custom-built parilla grill, where each dish is delicately 'kissed' by fire before being served.

"The menu at BESO is a fusion of the traditional and the contemporary. And when cooked over the parilla grill, the dishes invite you to reimagine the essence of Spanish cuisine," **says Ana**. An extensive beverage list has also been carefully curated with Victorian and Spanish wines, plus a line-up of Spanish vermut and signature cocktails.

BESO's launch adds to Pro-invest Group's growing portfolio of restaurant and bars, housed within the company's hotels and operating as stand-alone destinations.

With an expanding in-house Food & Beverage (F&B) team, the company is investing in both strategy and operations. The group is focused on developing a new wave of dining destinations including BESO, collaborating with leading chefs, and enhancing the dining experience across its hotels. This includes the hotels Pro-invest Group operates under the Kimpton, NEXT, Hotel Indigo, voco and Holiday Inn Express brands.

Pro-invest Group's **Regional Director of Food & Beverage, Jean-Baptiste Robert**, said "Food & drink is how we explore our surroundings, expand our thinking, and enjoy time with others. So, the restaurants and bars we bring to life are as core to travel as a great place to sleep.

"We're not about adding traditional cookie cutter hotel restaurants - our vision is to bring vibrant and creative dining experiences to life that happen to be within or near our hotels. Ones that will be sought after by locals, and on every hotel guest's dining itinerary when they stay,"

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Further restaurant and bar developments on are on the horizon for Pro-invest Group, including a new rooftop bar at the **Kimpton Margot Sydney** and <u>Luc-San</u>, a Japanese-French concept with chef Luke Mangan next door to the soon-to-open <u>Hotel Indigo Sydney Potts Point</u>.

Shantha de Silva, Chief Operating Officer of Pro-invest Group's hotel division said of the latest restaurant opening: "This is a showcase of our commitment to creating incredible dining experiences. Under Ana's stewardship and with the Pro-invest teams' backing, BESO is set to become a vibrant addition to Melbourne CBD's famed culinary scene."

Hospitality consultants, Blue Salt were appointed to devise and conceive BESO's concept, while Suede Interiors were commissioned to design BESO and create a warm and welcoming venue. Long leather banquettes, sweeping curved marble bar, a commissioned mural depicting the village of Frigiliana on the Costa del Sol and the theatre of open flame welcomes diners. A semi-private function room provides a more secluded option for larger groups and events.

More at www.beso.com.au and www.hotelindigo.com/melflinders

BESO 575 Flinders Lane, Melbourne

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About Pro-invest Group

Established in 2010, Pro-invest Group invests in hotels and commercial property assets on behalf of global institutional investors across Europe, Middle East and the APAC region.

Pro-invest Group manages c. AUD\$3 billion in assets under management through a combination of discretionary funds, joint ventures, and managed accounts. Pro-invest Group's integrated platform spans the asset lifecycle, from arranging funding through to developing, operating and asset managing individual assets as well as portfolios. Pro-invest Group assets include 31 hotels (approx. 6,000 rooms – open and pipeline) in Australia and New Zealand, in addition to commercial and mixed-use properties. Having established itself as a management platform in Australasia, the Pro-invest Group London office was established to focus on growth in the UK and Europe. Simultaneously Pro-invest Group are raising a third value-add fund of A\$500 million for opportunistic investment in Asia-Pacific.

Further information found here www.proinvestgroup.com