

It takes a village

New East Brunswick development attracts culinary stars

East Brunswick Village (EBV) is a newly created urban renewal project in Melbourne's popular northern suburb and it recently attracted some heavy culinary hitters.

Middle Eastern favourite Rumi has moved into EBV and brought with it its wine-bar sibling Rocket Society, named for the Lebanese Rocket Society that tried to join the space race in the 1960s. The small bar has old postcards of Beirut and a turntable takes pride of place on the bar; try the "arak and apple", with fresh apple juice combined with the aniseed-heavy spirit or grab a blackboard quick bite. Next

door is Rumi's new digs with old menu classics like the cheese cigars filled with halloumi, feta and kasseri or school prawns spiced with baharat and served with tahini.

Grab a beer at EBV's Bridge Road Brewers, the Melbourne home of the Beechworth craft brewer. Tap beers feature faves like Beechworth Pale Ale and more experimental offerings; the plate-sized pretzels are a must. You can also grab quality take-away wine and beer at a new Blackhearts & Sparrows outlet.

End the night at FOMO (Food + Movies), a cinema that offers far more than just popcorn. Get pizzas and burgers, themed movie sundaes or a glass of wine in huge seats with a table and device to order food from.

"These new retailers really round out the offering at EBV and give East Brunswick locals more reasons to visit and do all their shopping and entertaining in the one place," says Mario Lo Giudice, director of the project.



Ahead of the game

Sabi Sabi renames and starts work on brand-new lodge

Sabi Sabi Private Game Reserve has announced it will rebrand to Sabi Sabi Collection, as the family-owned private reserve in the Greater Kruger Park expands beyond its four lodges: Bush Lodge, Little Bush Camp, Selati Camp and Earth Lodge.

Jacques Smit, Marketing Director at Sabi Sabi Collection, told media in Australia that they were embarking on a bold new project.

Located at the convergence of four rivers, Sandringham, a 6,500-hectare former hunting reserve is being regenerated by Sabi Sabi. This mammoth task focuses on rehabilitation, rewilding and the introduction of Sabi Sabi as protectors and custodians of this land.

"We are excited to be entering a phase of exploration and growth with the aim of extending Sabi Sabi's conservation and community-led ethos and over 45 years of experience to other parts of Africa, starting with the inclusion of Sandringham Private Game Reserve," said Jacques.

Classic hits

New music-themed Neil Perry bar opens in Sydney's Double Bay

Neil and Samantha Perry have joined with Linden Pride and Nathalie Hudson (New York's Dante, number one World's Best Bar 2019) to create a bar and music venue in Double Bay.

Bobbie's is named after Linden's grandfather, DJ Bob Rogers who is credited with introducing Top 40 radio programming to local audiences on 2UE in 1958. The bar will focus heavily on martinis and other classics like highballs and negronis.

"We want Bobbie's to be a throwback to when my grandfather reigned the airwaves

during the golden age of rock'n'roll – a time of big ideas, three-martini lunches and larger-than-life personalities," says Linden. "Nathalie and I jumped at the chance to work alongside Neil and Sam again and create a world class cocktail bar in our hometown that captured the live music and swagger of Bobbie's generation."

Located in Double Bay's iconic Gaden House, Bobbie's sits under Neil's other new venue, Song Bird, embodying his love for Asian cuisine.

