

FOOD + WINE

NIGHT OWLS

Our late-night dining guide reveals Australia's
most **INDULGENT MIDNIGHT SNACKS**,
from luxurious toasties to T-bone steaks.

WORDS SARAH GAMBONI

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f you're looking for a post-theatre dinner or a bite to eat after the ballet, there's no need to let your dining standards slip just because it's after 11pm. When hunger strikes late at night, forgo the greasy fast-food burger and seek out one of these top eateries instead, serving everything from bar snacks to three-course meals into the small hours.

Midnight snacks in Sydney

In the heart of Sydney's legal district, basement-level Restaurant Hubert is a clubby, old-world space of rich timbers, ruby-red booths and live jazz tunes. Indulge in chef Dan Pepperell's sumptuous French fare until 1am Monday to Friday (midnight on Saturdays), such as silken duck liver parfait, whole roasted chicken and golden domes of fried gruyere.

Nearby in Chinatown, join the city's top chefs for a post-shift Cantonese feast at Golden Century, where wok-tossed lobsters and pipis in XO sauce are served until 4am.

In Darlinghurst, Bar Brosé has created the ultimate midnight snack with its "late-night sandwich", layering pineapple-glazed ham, spicy nduja sausage and Comté cheese. Get your fix until 12am midweek and 1.30am on weekends. For an Italian feast with an R&B soundtrack, hightail it to Big Poppa's, where you can order hefty T-bone steaks and hand-cut pastas until 2.30am. ➤



LATE-NIGHT BITES
Satisfy cravings at the likes of Melbourne's Eau de Vie or Sydney's Restaurant Hubert (below).



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OPEN 'TIL LATE

Baos and cocktails are a hit in Brisbane at Farrier Bar & Supper Club; Melbourne's Bar Ampere (above) is popular with the late-night crowd.



Late-night bites in Melbourne

Melbourne's laneways are filled with late-night haunts - you just have to know where to find them. Hidden behind a rusted metal door, Eau de Vie is a sleek speakeasy with dapper wait staff, bespoke martinis, and a bar menu that includes cheddar beignets and crisp pork belly. For an indulgent nightcap, team a wedge of cheese with a single-malt whisky.

For faultless bistro classics, climb the stairs to French Saloon, a Parisian-inspired dining room offering house-made charcuterie, caviar with blinis, and dry-aged steaks until 1.30am during the week.

When only a burger will do, skip the dreary drive-through options in favour of Bar Ampere, where you can order a knockout burger with gruyere, cornichons and spicy relish until 3am.

Even the humble kebab has been given a makeover in the hands of acclaimed chef Shane Delia. Pick up a restaurant-quality kebab from Biggie Smalls, open until 11pm Thursday to Saturday.

If you find yourself seeking sustenance closer to dawn, join the queue at Shujinko, serving restorative bowls of ramen (Japanese noodle soup) 24 hours a day.

After-dark delights in Brisbane

Fortitude Valley is the epicentre of after-hours dining in Brisbane. Slip into the stone-lined basement of Farrier Bar & Supper Club for pillowy duck buns, posh toasties and truffled fries, available until 2am seven days a week.

Just up the road, cosy European-inspired Gerard's Bar serves top-notch charcuterie, freshly shucked oysters and Spanish sherries until 12am midweek, 1am on weekends.

If you're still hungry after Gerard's calls last orders, take a 10-minute stroll to Heya, a lively diner serving booze-friendly Asian food until 3am. Standouts include the Japanese fried chicken, sticky pork ribs and the double-whammy of late-night delights: cheeseburger spring rolls. ➤

MIDNIGHT FEASTS

Melbourne cocktail bar Eau de Vie (below) can satisfy cocktail, whisky, wine or late-night cheese cravings.



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Posh toasties and pizza in Perth

Channelling the glamour of a 1950s cocktail lounge, subterranean Halford Bar is a lavish den of velour couches, flickering lamps and marble tables. From Thursday to Saturday, Halford has your carb cravings covered until 2am with posh crayfish toasties or a Cubano of pulled pork, ham, Swiss cheese and chilli aioli. If you need an energy boost, pep up with an espresso martini.

If your tastes run more to pizza and pints, wander to The Generous Squire nearby, where you can enjoy James Squire draft beers and woodfired pizzas until midnight on weekends.

Haute dogs in Adelaide

In Adelaide, Bread & Bone Wood Grill is the place to go for a haute hot dog. Order a smoky bratwurst with pickled daikon radish, coriander and chilli mayo, or the bacon-wrapped Vienna sausage with onion rings and cheese. You'll also find ribs, burgers and liqueur-spiked milkshakes, all served in a sleek, marble-lined space until late.

Bread & Bone restaurateur Simon Kardachi is set to further bolster the city's midnight dining scene with the opening of Shōbōshō, grilling Japanese yakitori skewers into the early hours.

Where to stay out late

SYDNEY

RESTAURANT HUBERT
15 Bligh St

GOLDEN CENTURY
393 Sussex St, Haymarket

BAR BROSE
231A Victoria St, Darlinghurst

BIG POPPA'S
96 Oxford St, Darlinghurst

MELBOURNE

EAU DE VIE
1 Malthouse Ln

FRENCH SALOON
First Floor, 380 Little Bourke St

BAR AMPERE
16 Russell Pl

BIGGIE SMALLS
86 Smith St, Collingwood

SHUJINKO
225 Russell St

BRISBANE

FARRIER BAR & SUPPER CLUB
164 Arthur St

GERARD'S BAR
13a/23 James St

HEYA
351 Brunswick St

PERTH

HALFORD BAR
cnr Hay St and Cathedral Ave

THE GENEROUS SQUIRE
Shafto Ln, 397 Murray St

ADELAIDE

BREAD & BONE WOOD GRILL
15 Peel St

SHŌBŌSHŌ
17 Leigh St

CANBERRA

MONSTER KITCHEN
Hotel Hotel, 25 Edinburgh Ave

NEW ZEALAND

DELICATESSEN
86 Federal St, Auckland

XUXU
Cnr Galway and Commerce sts, Britomart

MIDNIGHT ESPRESSO
178 Cuba St, Wellington

MATTERHORN
106 Cuba St, Wellington

INTO THE SMALL HOURS

Perth's Halford Bar (left) serves decadent crayfish toasties, while the menu at Bread & Bone Grill in Adelaide features haute hot dogs.



Designer dining in Canberra

Should the need for a yabby jaffle or cured kingfish strike our nation's leaders after a long day in the halls of Parliament, they can have their hunger sated at Monster Kitchen. If you miss the kitchen's last call at 1am, rest up in the hotel's boutique suites until the eatery reopens for breakfast at 6.30am.

Night owls in New Zealand

For late-night bites in Auckland, seek out Federal Delicatessen, top chef Al Brown's homage to the great Jewish delis of New York. On Friday and Saturday nights, refuel with grilled cheese and truffle sandwiches, matzo ball soup, and bottomless cups of coffee until 1am. At XuXu, get a midnight feast of dumplings and cocktails from Monday to Saturday. Midnight Espresso is the Wellington locals' go-to for burgers, pasta and bagels until 2am. Or, graze on oysters, steaks and cheese plates at chic restaurant-bar Matterhorn, open until 3am daily. <

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