



# Belgravia Wine Bar

At least one historic bank building in rural NSW has not been converted into a \$2 shop. Wine lovers everywhere breathe a sigh of relief.

Text: Cat Strom

The opening of the Belgravia at Union Bank Cellar Door and Wine Bar in Orange is a significant event for the region — one of the most exciting wine districts in Australia. The heritage-listed Union Bank is a noteworthy Orange landmark. It opened in 1858 as the town's first bank and, after an extensive restoration process, the complex of historic buildings and courtyards now houses a cellar, wine bar and retail outlet. Sydney-based design company Freeman Ryan was given the task of the whole-of-site development of this historically important corner-site in the Orange town centre.

"We aimed to design a clean, contemporary insertion into the historic building fabric allowing the simple proportions and volume of the building to have its own voice," explained designer Georgie Hawke. "The greatest challenge in the design was to accommodate the many functional requirements in such a small space: Cellar Door, Wine Bar, lunch venue and café, with flexibility for movies and functions. The space needed to cater for both locals and visitors, as a light lunch and wine tasting venue during the day, and a wine bar at night."

## Seller Door

The Cellar Door for Belgravia wines was the primary focus, with lots of wine racked and stacked to reinforce the point. The design elements within the space (bar, tasting table, café, product wall, storage, menu and wine list board) are simple and clean, and sit independent of the original structure.

The tables are custom-made by Canberra-based Designcraft, using recycled blackbutt with stainless steel legs. Designcraft also custom-made the banquette seating, with fabric from Woven Image. The stools and ottomans were sourced from James Richardson furniture in Sydney, while the courtyard furniture is from East India Trading.

The Bar, which has an Arketique Solid Surface and recycled timber façade, is a long focal element within the space, with the pendant lighting adding warmth. The massive blackboard wall menu integrates the display of Belgravia wines and allows for a flexible space to write tasting notes and educate the patrons about wine.

Freeman Ryan Design introduced rustic 'country' elements, hinting at the real context of grape growing, framed in a simple, understated way.

"We wanted to avoid the space becoming kitsch or clichéd, but at the same time needed to create a warm and inviting environment," added Georgie. "Elements of the vineyard are introduced and interpreted in the space. Old weathered fence-posts were applied in a grid to the face of the bar while a rich palette of grape and wine colours has been used. Recycled timber was introduced as the surface of the tasting table, but presented in a contemporary stainless steel frame." <<

» Belgravia at Union Bank: Sale Street, Orange NSW  
(02) 6361 4441 or [www.belgravia.com.au](http://www.belgravia.com.au)

» Freeman Ryan Design: (02) 9281 6488 or [www.frd.com.au](http://www.frd.com.au)

» Designcraft: (02) 6290 4900 or [www.designcraft.net.au](http://www.designcraft.net.au)

» East India Trading: (02) 9318 0135

» James Richardson: 1800 812 440 or [www.jamesrichardson.com.au](http://www.jamesrichardson.com.au)