STEAL THE STYLE:

EURO CHIC

INSPIRED BY SOUTHERN ITALY, MELBOURNE BISTRO VIA PORTA OOZES ELEGANCE AND REFINED STYLE

Words LAURA BARRY



Tucked away in Mont Albert in Melbourne's inner east is Via Porta, an Italian eatery and deli created by siblings Simon, Jonathan and Ryan Cosentino. Studio Esteta, co-directed by the trio's sister, Sarah Cosentino and Felicity Slattery, designed the interiors, which translate the family's Italian heritage into a soft, warm palette of timeless natural textures and luxe finishes. "The design is rich in detail but pared back and refined, exuding a contemporary elegance and sophistication that doesn't compete with the array of vibrant products that line the merchandise shelving," says Sarah.

Via Porta, 677 Whitehorse Road, Mont Albert, Vic, (03) 8256 4866; viaporta.com.au

PHOTOGRAPHY SEAN FENNESSY INTERIOR DESIGN STUDIO ESTETA



AUTHENTIC TOUCHES

A selection of vintage pieces, such as the white drawers and grape leaf dish, below, have been used to add authenticity to the cafe's design. "I like a mix of old and new pieces that tell a story," says Sarah. The Gubi Multi-Lite table lamp was chosen for its sleek and polished look, providing contrast to the earthy palette of the interior.



WARM WELCOME

"Timber has been used to add a sense of warmth and texture to the environment and to create a welcoming atmosphere for guests," says designer Sarah of the coffee bar, above. "A custom designed pendant light made locally by Daniel Giffin adds a halo effect to the bar, allowing the vaulted ceiling to remain unobstructed by lighting and services," she explains.



HISTORY LESSON

"A selection of Bentwood furniture pieces from Ton and Thonet complement the interior architecture and were historically used in European hospitality venues," says Sarah. Volker Haug 'Anton' wall lights tie in seamlessly with the aged brass and bronze trims that feature throughout the eatery.

CULTURE TRIP

The coffee bar, below, takes its style cues from traditional European espresso bars, with warm spotted gum timber battens, honey-gold marble and brass accents, explains Sarah. Muted green touches reference the olive tree groves of southern Italy.

