



**In face:** (facing page) Naomi Campbell shines in a floor-length Azzedine Alaïa stretch-lace dress and (far left) the supermodel signs autographs for young fans outside the MetropoL.

**In red:** (left) on the dinner guest list was designer Alannah Hill.

**Piping hot:** (below) the St Kilda railway station was transformed into a banquet hall for the five-course Italian meal.

**Introductions:** (bottom, left) Planning Minister John Thwaites and his two-year-old son pose for photographs.

**Familiar smile:** (bottom) former *Sale of the Century* host Nicky Buckley.

Pictures: IAN CURRIE

# metropoL

## St. Kilda

**W**ELLA Australia, *Elle* magazine and Alex Zotos staged a glamorous dinner in honor of supermodel Naomi Campbell.

Campbell was in Melbourne for the Wella Australian Designer Collections and to launch her signature perfume.

A railway platform might sound like an odd location to entertain Melbourne's fashion and social set, but the MetropoL development at the St Kilda railway station was transformed into a beautiful banquet hall for the evening.

Arriving at Platform 1, guests mingled in a dimly lit cocktail area, while they sipped martinis and nibbled on crostini.

When Campbell made her grand entrance, guests were ushered into a dining room lit by candlelight, complete with a giant blackboard menu.

Three long tables were brought to life with Japanese-inspired centrepieces — long perspex boxes filled with candle-wax beads and bunches of chives.

Campbell made a slight faux-pas in her short speech when she said how lovely it was to be in Sydney and the visiting Sydney contingent made sure they repeated it to Melburnians throughout the night.



Campbell was resplendent in a vintage floor-length Azzedine Alaïa stretch-lace dress and Manalo Blanik shoes — word is that she won't wear anything but Manalos.

Cesare Tabacco and Mauro Marcucci from Caffè e Cucina designed a special Italian banquet for the night. The food arrived piping hot, which was a tremendous effort considering the difficult conditions and the 150 guests, and was simple but delicious.

Campbell hardly left her seat but chatted happily to people who approached her and posed for photos with Planning Minister John Thwaites and his two-year-old son, who will have a great story to tell at kindergarten.

Hammersfeld, Michael Stronix, Alex Zotos.

**the decor**  
Japanese-inspired

**the drink**  
Finlandia vodka fashion martinis

**the menu**  
Five-course Italian banquet created by Caffè e Cucina  
crostini — little squares of toasted bread  
salted cod with capsicum and rocket  
parmesan cheese ice cream served with pesto  
eggplant puree with parsley, garlic, basil and olive oil  
Primo Piatto (first course)  
shallow-fried calamari with rocket and house dressing  
Secondo Piatto (second course)  
a choice of  
shell-shaped pasta with napoli sauce  
penne with vodka, chilli, tomato, a touch of cream and parmesan  
linguini with veal and pea ragu served with rocket salad  
Dolce (dessert)  
tiramisu  
fresh seasonal fruit

## the elements

**the event**  
Dinner in honor of Naomi Campbell

**the hosts**  
Wella managing director Andre Boyer and entrepreneur Andrew Rettig

**the guests**  
Supermodel Naomi Campbell, designers Nicole Zimmermann, Alannah Hill, Claire Dickson-Smith, Roy Christou and Bettina Liano, *Neighbours* actor Krista Vendy, Natalie Bloom, Jackie Fishman, Leonard

