



EUGENIUS

BREAKFAST ON YOUR DOORSTEP

If you ask Eugene Shafir why his cafe is named Eugeniuss, he'll unashamedly tell you it's because his name is Eugene and he's a genius. You could think this guy must be up himself, but don't take any of it too seriously. Eugene's just a laidback, friendly guy who's opened a cafe on the ground floor of his apartment so that he doesn't have to deal with traffic or busy streets to get his morning coffee.

Graffiti art on the side of the building leads the way to this tiny cafe off High Street. The first things you'll notice are the red, spider web-style chairs. Step inside and the out-there decor only gets better: incredible artworks dominate the walls and a multicoloured chandelier hangs from the ceiling. It's not surprising that Eugene's upstairs lodgings won a *Belle* magazine apartment of the year award, and Eugene is more than happy to give tours on request. Some items on display are even for sale on his website.

Of course, the well-stocked glass cabinet is the other main attraction. All food is prepared off site at Manna Cafe (see p. 031), which Eugene helped set up. Breakfast and sweet items are winners, including a moist carrot, walnut and date loaf. Lunch items are not quite as exciting, but include soups, piadinas* and quiches. The coffee is pretty good by Melbourne standards, and Eugene runs free barista classes on Saturday mornings. If coffee isn't your cup of tea, perhaps one of Eugene's own brand of Speciali-teas is. His blends (for sale at the cafe) include High Socie-tea and Sexuall-tea, and he runs free tea appreciation classes on Sunday mornings.

It's certainly a mixed bag here, but you've gotta admit that there's a certain amount of genius in being able to order room service from your own apartment any day of the week.

MELISSA KRAFCEK

> RISE & SHINE

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Open Mon-Sun 8am-4pm



See also
map 4 D2

'ENCYCLO' TRIVIA

* Piadinas are thin Italian flatbreads.