

CBD CENTRAL MELBURNIAN  
FIONA SWEETMAN  
HIDDEN SECRETS TOURS



Born and raised in Melbourne, Fiona Sweetman is director of city walking-tour company Hidden Secrets Tours. She loves Melbourne's small retail, hospitality and tourism businesses, and the intricate history of her hometown.

#### How do you define Melbourne style?

Creative, conservative and local. For me it's the bright-red boots I found at Peter Sheppard on Collins Street, and I love my Melbourne all-weather merino wrap from Alphaville – it's a big shawl but with short sleeves! I also have a diverse brooch collection – e.g.etal (see p. 014) and the Cat's Meow keep me entertained.

#### Where do you get a drink in this town?

I do like to find new places to drink ... but Cookie is a wonderful fall-back. I have also enjoyed some wonderful wines at Coda, which has one of Melbourne's top sommeliers. I also like social enterprise Shebeen, and

sitting at a sidewalk table at Golden Fields (see p. 174) in St Kilda.

#### Get out of town!

I get a breath of fresh air from minibreaks in the country. Castlemaine still has a creative heart, with local artisans and wide-open forest walks, great food and even a local coffee roaster. The drive is easy, and the train is even easier! But there's also that little moment just sitting on the grass in front of the State Library early on a weekend morning ... the view is wonderful and the silence of the city is a nice surprise.