

Food in Focus

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Delizie Di Casa

Where: Shop 2B, 780 Bourke Street, Redfern

Telephone: 02 9699 9413

Who went: Jane, Editor, and Victor, Sales Manager



Once you find this hidden little deli/café in the Moore Park Gardens complex, you'll wish you had one locally.

Delizie Di Casa wouldn't be so surprising in Adelaide or Melbourne, with its great produce, coffee and gentle Italian hospitality, but in Sydney such a quality café is hard to find.

Rows of colourful San Pellegrino mineral water, Chinotto and fruit nectars line the shelves, with great products like Sardinian crispbread, savoiardi biscuits and crostini to tempt you. The fridges are stocked with their homemade dips, fresh pasta and lasagna. But you don't notice them at first because the small-goods display is so appealing. Mortadella, prosciuttos, hams and salamis jostle for space, while the blackboards list panini combinations. Their bread comes from Saponi di Pane, bakers originally from Palermo in Sicily, who now bake their traditional Italian breads in Carramar. The paninis are spectacular, with a density, chew and flavour that goes beyond sourdough. We ate the mortadella, Veneto salami, eggplant, provolone, lettuce

and tomato panini, and the prosciutto crudo, provolone, semi-dried tomatoes and rocket. We shared them, and both were fantastic, the mortadella piled in layers, the provolone thick, and a reasonable number of rocket leaves that didn't dominate the practical eating of the panini.

The coffee is Ducale from Melbourne, and was a mild but delicious blend. The crema seemed dark, but there was no bitterness, and the temperature was just perfect. The offer of water was obviously second nature for the lovely Jo, and Daniel explained every aspect of the small-goods counter for us, with great knowledge and enthusiasm. They also make hampers and catering platters, and offer antipasto and cheese platters as well as paninis.

Delizie Di Casa is one of those places that do the best of something, which you discover and then crave, and you'll go out of your way for. Maybe it's a good thing it's a little hard to find.