

designer indulgence

MARTINE KROPKOWSKI GETS LOST IN PADDINGTON'S NEWEST PAMPER PARLOUR.



RECLINE IN the luxurious leather seat, breathe out a long, heavenly sigh and close your eyes.

Feel soft hands massage your scalp so that, if you could be bothered looking, you might actually see the stress evaporating out of it into thin air. Visualise water trickling down the waterfall-inspired Ozone Glass panel in front of you as your hair is washed, and hear the soft murmurs of the salon's multicultural staff, coloured with hints of exotic accents. All the while, the massage chair moves up and down your spine, kneading the tension away.

That's right, ladies (and gents) – heaven has arrived in Paddington. Suzina Melina has blessed Paddo with its presence and brought a world of blissful pampering with it.

According to Sue Spires, the woman behind the concept, the aim was to "make Suzina Melina the ideal place I would love to go if I wasn't a hairdresser or beauty therapist".

"I like nice things – beautiful, practical,

convenient and done well... the whole package." And the whole package is what's on offer, including a fabulous range of gifts, soaps, candles and more.

The beautiful aesthetics hit you as soon as you walk in the door of this quaint cottage. The salon's reception desk and colour-mixing hub boast luxury antique brown granite. An Ozone Glass hallway and the surrounding colours recall images of driftwood, trees and seashells, which combine to create an overwhelming sense of calm.

But Suzina Melina isn't just about interior design. The salon boasts all the usual suspects (waxing, facials and manicures) but also hair styling, cutting and colouring, spray-tanning and makeup. The range of treatments on offer mean you can have a pedicure done while waiting for your colour to process, or enjoy a facial while your nails set.

As if all of that isn't enough, Suzina Melina also has two private boudoir rooms for VIP

customers, brides and makeup tuition.

"It's not just for brides and school formals," Sue explains. "We encourage anyone who wants to feel fabulous for a night out on the town or before that perfect weekend away [to have treatments in the boudoir rooms]."

The intimate rooms house beautiful mirrors, tables and softly textured wallpaper and, being soundproofed, offer a perfect private hideaway where you can go in one person and come out another.

Sue also owns a salon at Ashgrove, which has been open for ten years. "Avenue 33 has grown so much that we don't have enough chairs to service our clients," Sue claims.

Asked who she caters for, Sue explains: "Everybody – from the busy professional who appreciates fine design and quality hair and beauty services to those who just want to enjoy some time away from home."

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