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SUMMER IS FINALLY UPON US and I for one am extremely glad. Despite the fact that my house doesn't have air-con (think: old house with paper-thin insulation that probably rotted away circa 1961, and the only time my skin feels cool is when I'm perched in my laundry-sink-turned-bath, dumping a tray of ice blocks into the water), I am a summer baby all the way. Why? Because in summer, I can wear dresses or t-shirts and shorts outdoors. At night. Without a hired team of lackeys aiming portable hair dryers at my arms and legs.

The ability to wear clothes that don't make me look like the Michelin Man means that alfresco dining is at the top of my agenda. Whether I'm burning the snags on the barbie while mates argue over who ate the last gourmet chicken shish kebab, or slipping on a slinky number and watching the warm breeze flicker the candlelight at a restaurant on the Swan River; enjoying fantastic food, great company and the summer breeze is where I plan to be for the next few months.

And with the diverse range of cafés and restaurants in Perth, how could I resist?

In this issue of *Menu Magazine*, we take a look at some of the best Perth has to offer – from fine dining and classic cocktails to family-friendly places and big hearty steaks. Beer and wine are also at the top of our agenda (aren't they always?) so we have a gander at the low-carb and gluten-free beers hitting the shelves lately, and also take time out to road test some beer and cheese combinations. Coffee is also hankering for top spot on our favourites list, so this time we've focused not on the coffee itself but the different milks that go in it (horse milk latte anyone?), and while we're at it, we have a squiz at the funky and unusual foods being served up around WA lately.

There's also books, CD, movies, awards, live music, products and more – so grab your issue of *Menu*, pour yourself a glass of wine (or maybe a goat's milk flat white), pick a sunny spot to relax, and see what Western Australia's wining and dining scene has to offer this summer.

Katy

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