
Etihad opens new premium lounge at Melbourne Airport

By **Melissa Silva** on May, 9 2016 | Airline & Terminal News



Etihad Airways has officially opened its new Premium Lounge at Melbourne Airport, offering guests a stylish, comfortable environment in which they can relax, re-energize, dine, work or be entertained pre-flight.



Featuring natural light — a result of the floor-to-ceiling glass — the new lounge offers expansive views of the runway. At more than 800 square meters with seating capacity for up to 133 guests, it is the airline's largest Premium Lounge outside Abu Dhabi.

The centrepiece of the new lounge is the intimate 26-seat dining area where guests can enjoy restaurant-style à la carte dining and an international buffet.

Every dish the kitchen prepares is made in-house. Professional chefs prepare each dish on site using the freshest, locally sourced seasonal produce. This includes bread — baked fresh twice daily — grissini breadsticks; dips such as hummus, baba ghanoush and muhammara; pickles; labneh; cookies; and even ice cream.

Cheeses, fruits and vegetables are sourced from Victorian suppliers and coffee from a Melbourne-based roaster.

Another prominent feature is the sculptural showcase bar. Here guests can enjoy a selection of refreshments with names like Flight Path Spritzer, Controlled Airspace, Winglet and Nacelle. Like the food on the lounge menu, these one-of-a-kind, bespoke beverages are all handmade by specially trained mixologists, using syrups and garnishes that are made in-house.

From an interior design perspective, the principles of style, space and serenity are complemented by ¹

Etihad Airways' distinctive 'Facets of Abu Dhabi' branding. With its geometric patterns and color palette inspired by the UAE landscape, it is a visual expression of 21st century Abu Dhabi modernism.

Custom furnishings by Boss offer lounge guests a choice of seating styles, each designed for maximum comfort while dining, working and relaxing.

With the commencement of A380 services from June 1st, guests in The Residence will enjoy the exclusivity of a private lounge, which is discreetly located adjacent to the main lounge entry. With custom-made arm chairs upholstered in Poltrona Frau Italian leather, plush soft furnishings, its own restroom and separate entry, The Residence Lounge embodies the luxury and personalized service that is synonymous with Etihad.

Other amenities in the main lounge include separate male and female restrooms with shower facilities and Scaramouche + Fandago products, dedicated male and female ablution and prayer rooms, a children's playroom and a luggage room.

High-speed Wi-Fi connectivity is complimentary and multi-zone electric and USB power outlets are conveniently located throughout the lounge.

"The new Premium Lounge at Melbourne Airport is in a class of its own – it is the airport lounge as it is commonly known, totally re-imagined," said Shane O'Hare, Etihad Airways' Senior Vice President Marketing. "Blending the best of a fine dining restaurant and a chic city cocktail bar, this lounge is a showcase of intelligent design and sophistication where guests will enjoy the highest levels of comfort and luxury, complemented by our world-class hospitality, culinary innovation and cutting-edge beverage technology. At the same time, it has a strong local feel with the freshest produce, cheeses and wines — sourced from growers, makers and suppliers throughout the state of Victoria — offering our guests a tantalizing taste of the state's renowned culinary culture."

O'Hare added that the opening of the new facility and the launch of Etihad's flagship A380 services on June 1st, will offer travelers on the Melbourne-Abu Dhabi route the airline's "most compelling guest experience proposition ever."

Guests in The Residence, First Apartments and Business Studios will be invited to visit the lounge pre-flight. Platinum, Gold and Silver members of Etihad Guest and eligible members of Etihad Airways Partners and partner airline loyalty programs will also be able to use the lounge when traveling in Economy Class. Guests must be booked on an Etihad Airways-operated flight on the same day.

Located in Terminal 2 adjacent to gate 10, the lounge will open approximately three hours prior to the departure of Etihad Airways twice daily Melbourne-Abu Dhabi flights.

The new facility adds to the airline's expanding portfolio of premium lounges in Sydney, Abu Dhabi, Dublin, Frankfurt, London Heathrow, Manchester, Paris, Washington DC and New York. A new First Class Lounge at Abu Dhabi International Airport and a new First and Business Class Lounge at Los Angeles will follow in the coming months.