



Vaniyé



THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Parnell



Italia Square



Rosie



Biskit

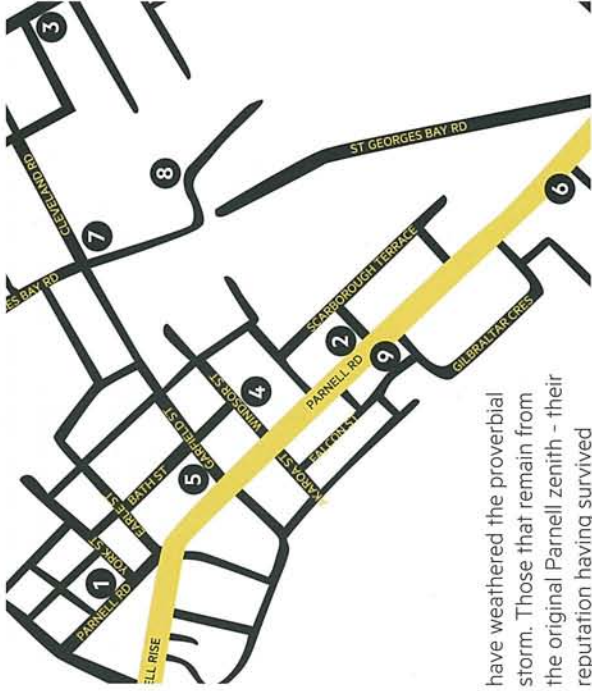
Those familiar with the comings and goings of the established central Auckland suburb of Parnell, will more than likely have tales to share of its hedonistic heyday. Back to the time when the suburb was a lively haven of gastronomic offerings and cosmopolitan nightlife, and long before it was succeeded by boroughs on the opposite side of the CBD. For many, the prospect of Parnell garners memories of nights spent at Metropole, or dining at Iguacu, and the duelling pianos that for so long sat perched atop the rise at The Ivory Lounge, grandly overseeing it all.

In recent times however, you could be forgiven for not venturing east for entertainment. The Rise - a barren landscape come nine o'clock - was to see local residents either venture further afar, or retire to the safety of their armchairs for the evening. Parnell had temporarily misplaced its pizzazz.

The times however are a changing. To look around Parnell at present, the vigour of its renaissance is palpable, undoubtedly spurred on by a new breed of institutions instilling a welcome sense of resurgence in the vicinity. The enthusiastic duo behind **46 &**

**York**<sup>1</sup> Dana Johnson and JP Schmidt, have done a tremendous job at establishing a local haunt that residents and visitors are proud of. **Biskit**<sup>2</sup>, and the celebrated all day eatery **Rosie**<sup>3</sup>, are doing their bit to stimulate the café scene, while revered French patisserie **Vaniyé**<sup>4</sup> remains busy producing their delightful sweet treats to great ovation. Furthermore, **Italia Square**<sup>5</sup> is delivering a multifaceted European eatery and delicatessen experience.

Some might say that the future success of the area lies safely in the hands of the exceptional stalwart establishments that



have weathered the proverbial storm. Those that remain from the original Parnell zenith - their reputation having survived on merit alone - will too take pleasure in the ensuing revival.

**Antoine's**<sup>6</sup> first opened its doors in 1973, and has been an ingrained institution in the lives of many. Their recent establishment of a 'nostalgia menu', enshrining many of their classic French European inspired dishes irrespective of how long they've been doing the rounds, is a testament to its old school popularity. Its more contemporary counterpart, yet still a long standing resident, **Cibo**<sup>7</sup>, this year rings in its twentieth in operation, holding on to its title as one of Auckland's best by virtue of its delicious fare and exceptional service. Not to mention long-standing constituent, **La Cigale**<sup>8</sup>, that to this day remains Auckland's most celebrated French marketplace.

With Parnell's bright new gastronomic horizons further alighted by Mark Wallbank's exciting new eatery **Woodpecker Hill**<sup>9</sup>, an Asian affair with a difference - destined to be a drawcard for those who reside on either side of the CBD, it would appear that Parnell is having itself a romantic new age renaissance.



16 & York



Woodpecker Hill