

The Bank on Collins NOW OPEN!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 15TH OCTOBER 2015

Melbourne hospitality industry husband-and-wife team, Stewart Koziara & Anna Carosa of Retail SAVVY Group, are proud to announce their 4th venue “The Bank on Collins” is NOW OPEN!

Their new venue is housed in the grand banking chamber & mezzanine level of the heritage-listed Bank of Australasia building on the corner of Collins & Queen Street in Melb CBD.

The venue’s blank canvas of the two story square pillars, marble floors & vintage chandeliers, used to serve as the Sebel Melbourne Hotel & Lobby bar. At the turn of the last century, 394 Collins St (corner Queen St) was home to “The Bank of Australasia”. Built in 1838 from New Zealand Omaru stone, with ornate metal balustrades, this opulent site is listed with the Australian Heritage Commission and the National Trust of Australia as a heritage site. This spectacular building played an integral part in Melbourne’s economy during the Gold Rush and the great depression, making this space a true Melbourne icon.

The name, “The Bank on Collins”, a play on words, is perfect for corporate gatherings, engagement parties and weddings. The floor plan is versatile enough to accommodate any style of event, catering for close to 600 people across both levels. Anna Carosa states “This is a spectacular building and we will bring it back to life and restore its former glory.”

Detailed features include a 17-meter bronze bar top, 18 copper beer taps, 3 gold wine taps, a private dining room to cater for 20-24 people, private cocktail area, 2nd champagne bar on the mezzanine level and ornate detailing throughout.

Furthermore, Anna states “The Bank on Collins will bring affordable luxury to the precinct and is in keeping with what we do best!” She also says “The concept will sit above our award winning Father’s Office concept in terms of style, sophistication and menu offering but the reader can be assured of outstanding value for money in another outstanding space”. Featuring \$20 Express Lunches including a schooner, \$7.50 house drinks, over 100 spirits and \$69 per person 3-course set menu including a cocktail.

The Retail SAVVY group operates Melbourne CBD venues including Father’s Office, Asian Beer Café & The Shaw Davey Slum in Carlton.

For further enquires, email jillian@retailsavvygroup.com or call (03) 9825 8900.

627 CHAPEL STREET, SOUTH YARRA VIC 3141

TELEPHONE: 03 9825 8900





ABOUT RETAIL SAVVY GROUP

Stewart Koziara and Anna Carosa are serial entrepreneurs. They have been in the retail game for collectively over 50 years. A husband and wife team, they are owners of the Retail Savvy Group, which currently owns and operate the following, with a fourth venue, The Bank, opening pre-Christmas:

Asian Beer Café - www.asianbeercafe.com.au

Father's Office - www.fathersoffice.com.au

The Shaw Davey Slum - www.theshawdaveyslum.com.au

The Bank on Collins – www.thebankoncollins.com.au

Serial Entrepreneur, **Anna Carosa**, is co-owner and co-founder of The Retail Savvy Group.

Anna has been in business for 20 years and has been at the forefront of young and entrepreneurial business leaders in Australia. Along the way, Anna has picked up a string of prestigious awards including being inducted into the Business Women's Hall of Fame, Young Hero's Award recipient, Young Australian of the Year finalist, Telstra Business Women's Award finalist in two categories and the Pearcey Foundation Award for Innovation & Pioneering Achievement. One of Anna's significant achievements was at age 20, when Anna and her brother Domenic raised AUD \$16.8 million to list their private internet company on the Australian Stock Exchange. Anna was the youngest woman in Australia to achieve this.

Most recently she has won a litany of industry, peer and business awards for the Retail Savvy Group.

Anna is Managing Director of The Retail Savvy Group and is the heart of soul of the business, acting as quality assurance together with Stewart and the rest of the senior management team.

Anna takes the creative lead on the concept and interior design of the venues, working with trades people and suppliers to bring her concepts to life. She also heads up the marketing and functions teams that operate from the South Yarra head office. Food was a big part of Anna's childhood; one of her fondest childhood memories was making her mother's secret pasta sauce for the family every Sunday. Her passions for food, flavours and family have given her the ingredients for success.

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With a long and extensive background in hospitality and retail, **Stewart Koziora** is the co-founder and co-operator of the Retail Savvy Group. He is also a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia.

As a participant in the retail and hospitality industries for over 25 years now, Stewart has extensive experience derived as an owner and CEO of some of Australia's leading and most innovative food concepts. Having been mentored by pioneers of the food retail industry in Australia, Stewart lends his industry experience in the provision of industry and research reports and concept reviews.

Further, Stewart has participated in numerous presentations on leadership, motivation and strategic planning for companies such as Bankers Trust, ABN Amro, William Blue Hospitality School, Ernst & Young and Mission Australia, among others. Stewart has also appeared in many business magazines including the cover of the Entrepreneur section of The Australian, the cover of the "Charter" magazine, has been a past Finalist of Ernst & Young's "Young Entrepreneur of the Year" in 2005 and most recently he and Anna have won industry, peer & business awards for the Retail Savvy Group.

He also founded a number of retail related companies including Performis, a retail training and performance improvement business and registered Training organisation, wagamama Australia, the celebrated pan Asian noodle bar concept from London, shopperLOGIC, an on-line mystery shopping research solution and Concep UK, an integrated marketing agency among others. All businesses were successfully sold out to management. Stewart specializes in concept development and roll out, leadership, evaluating franchisors & franchisees, effective communication, sweating assets, improving operating margins, commercial negotiations and motivation.

For more information, please visit www.retailsavvygroup.com

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